

Dovers Green School

September 2018 Newsletter

Dear Parents,

As an introduction to this newsletter, I would like to say that I am very aware that the September newsletter is normally very long with so much information to share. It is all such important information so, to keep this short and to keep your interest going until the end, I am going to be sending out important bulletins throughout September that will include vital information in supporting your children's' learning experiences at Dovers. So please keep a look out for these emails.



Welcome back to the new school year! I hope you have had a restful summer break and have enjoyed some quality family time together, and that you are now ready for the start of the Autumn term. The start of each new academic year is always very busy and we have many exciting things planned. We value any support that you can offer, whether it is accompanying children on school trips, helping in classrooms or attending and helping at our PTA events; your voluntary work is always greatly appreciate. I have a meeting for interested volunteers on Friday 21 September at 2.30 p.m. in the school hall. This is a chance to explain the role in more detail, give out relevant information and DBS checks which are statutory for regular volunteers. I look forward to seeing familiar and new faces there to find out more about this role.

A new academic year also provides opportunities to offer gentle reminders about school routines as below:

Communication



In any organisation **communication is key** and we take great care and a lot of time ensuring that every piece of information you receive is important and relevant to your child. School newsletters are circulated on the first working Friday of each month. Curriculum information is sent home at the beginning of each term for Year One and Two. Badgers and Ladybirds curriculum newsletters are sent out at least termly. An Events for Next Week reminder is sent home every Friday to keep you up to date with upcoming events and also includes the school menu for the following week. The outside notice boards, blackboards and the windows are also used to display information.



Our website is also a great source of information and will be used to notify you together with ParentMail of any emergency closures. Miss Perry and myself are working towards updating the website this term. We would eagerly welcome any parents who have with experience in this area.



Communication works both ways and the Parents Forum started last year was an excellent way of making improvements across the school. We have contacted the current parents on this committee but currently have vacancies for representatives from Blue Ladybirds, Red Ladybirds, Yellow Ladybirds, Foxes and Rabbits. We meet every half term and it gives an opportunity for parents to share thoughts and views about our school. The first meeting will be held on Monday 15 October at 9.00 a.m. in Beavers.

Our School Day

Our school day starts at 8.50 a.m. the whistle to line up is blown at 8.45 a.m. It is extremely important that children are here on time. A great deal of curriculum time is lost through children arriving at school late. Five minutes every day may not seem much, but over the course of an academic year that amounts to over sixteen hours in lost learning and teaching time!



Although we open the school gate at 8.30 a.m. and endeavour to ensure that there are members of staff on duty every day, with the best will in the world this is not always possible. The reason



we go outside before school is to welcome both children and parents and give parents the opportunity to chat to us if they want to. The playground is a very busy place at the beginning of the school day with many parents, children, prams and buggies, so if you do have to dash off before school officially starts, it is important that you ask another responsible adult if they would keep an eye on your child.

When the whistle goes at the beginning of the school day, could you please stand back to allow the children to get to their class line. As you will see there is a class motif on the playground so that it is clear where each class should line up.



During the early days in school, Ladybirds parents are invited to settle their child into class each day, but are asked to ensure that the line for the children is kept free of buggies and bodies so the children can walk in. The parents of children in Year's one and two are asked to encourage their child to come into school independently each morning. Remember that unless it is urgent, teachers have more time at the end of the school day to talk to parents.



We ask that Year two parents collect from the main playground, and not from the terrace unless in adverse weather conditions.

Absences

If your child is unwell please telephone the school as early as possible in the morning leaving a message on the designated absence line. Alternatively you can send an email to info@dovers-green.surrey.sch.uk. The school will require written confirmation from parents who have not contacted us to give the reason for their child's absence. For you information, the latest recommendations from the Health Protection Agency states that:



Children who have been unwell with diarrhoea or a vomiting illness should be kept off school for 48 hours from the last episode of diarrhoea or vomiting.

Holidays in Term Time

It is a legal requirement for children to attend school and at Dovers Green we place great importance on high attendance as it leads to high achievement. Government legislation states that it is illegal to take children out of school for holidays during term time unless there are exceptional circumstances. There is **no** entitlement to any leave of absence for a holiday during term time. Taking a holiday without authorisation can have an impact on a child's learning. The Local Authority may issue a fixed penalty fine where an unauthorised holiday has been taken. The fixed penalty fine is collected and kept by the Local Authority, not the school. Sadly, we do know that some parents tell us their child has been unwell when they have actually been on holiday. This gives the child mixed messages about being honest, a value which we teach children is very important.

Exceptional circumstances may include.....



- Where it is company/organisational policy for an employee to take leave at a specified time in the year and there is no opportunity for a family holiday in school holidays. This must be supported by documentary evidence from the organisation.
- Service personnel returning from/scheduled to embark upon a tour of duty abroad.
- Where a holiday is recommended as part of a parent or child's rehabilitation from a medical or emotional issue. Evidence must be provided, from qualified professionals, such as a doctor.

Applications for leave of absence for a holiday should always be made well in advance on the correct form obtainable from our School Office, or it can be downloaded from our school website and returned to myself.



Reading Books



It is important that children change their reading books regularly and you are very welcome to support them in this by coming into the classroom after school (parents of children starting in Ladybirds should be guided by the class teacher). The library will be up and running from Monday 24 September so please feel free to come and browse the library books with your child. Any books that are being brought back should be put on/in the book returns unit. Chosen books must be scanned out. Although the children in Key Stage 1 have been taught how to do this, some may have forgotten so there are instructions next to the library computer in order that you can give help if needed. All our library story books are marked with a green and yellow sticker to help the children remember which of their books belongs in the school library. Those story books without a green and yellow sticker are classroom library books.

Home School Link Worker (HSLW)



Mrs Cathy Kershaw is our Home School Link Worker. Cathy will be familiar to many of you as she works at our Children's Centre in the office. Her HSLW role is to further develop positive home school relationships, working closely with both families and the school to help ensure that every child has the opportunity to fulfil their potential. Cathy can be contacted on 01737 223621 or through the school office and is usually on the playground before school on a Thursday morning. A leaflet can be downloaded from our website.

Important Dates for your Diary:

Challenge Day..... Saturday 13 October..... 9.30 a.m. - 12.30 p.m.



We would love you to come along and meet the challenge with other parents, children, staff and governors on our Challenge Day. We will be tidying the grounds including our Forest School, which is our outdoor classroom where children can explore and find out about the natural environment. Forest School is an integral part of the curriculum at Dovers Green as it offers a holistic approach to learning and gives children opportunities to develop independence, confidence, build self-esteem, develop social interactions and work collaboratively together. Through a range of activities, the children use taught skills to problem solve and risk-take in a safe environment.

If you can make it, please bring along brooms, rakes, spades, forks, secateurs, wheelbarrows..... Light refreshments will be provided during the morning. Any help will be welcome so just stay as long as you want to. Children can come too!



INSET Closure

School will be closed for staff training on Monday 29 October.



Photographer

This year the school photographer will be in school on Friday 9 November. Siblings in school will have their photographs taken together as well as an individual photograph.

Dovers Green Children's Centre a message from Anna and the team

We hope you all had a great Summer break and are looking forward to all of those windy Autumn days kicking all those colourful leaves.

We were very busy with full Play & Learn sessions here. It was lovely to welcome you all despite the School being closed, and for joining us at our special Picnic 'n' Play event. Our new Autumn/Winter programme is out now. Look out for it in your child's book bag soon or you can find it on our website homepage.

Key dates: 29 October is the opening date for School applications via the Surrey CC website, don't miss the 15 January deadline - a paper application is also available by calling 0300 200 1004. 24 October is the go live date for anyone receiving Universal Credit in the Redhill area. If anyone wants assistance in applying, borrowing a laptop, setting up a bank account please do ask.

Bookings for our ever popular Parenting Puzzle course for the Autumn term are now closed. We still have some spaces on this excellent course for Monday evenings starting Jan 14th, 7:30-9:30pm. Bring the fun back into your family life, gain useful tips and tricks for a calmer environment and to tackle those troubling behaviours you may face. A donation of £20 is requested.

*** NEW ** Under 1's Nurturing Group is starting on Monday 17th September (10-11.30am), it runs on alternate weeks to the Drop In Clinic. You are welcome into our relaxed environment where you can share any concerns, simply get out of the house for a cuppa and a chat, meet other parents/carers and we'll be tapping into their sensory needs.*

We host the fantastic Baby Café every Wednesday during term time and run our regular Baby Massage sessions monthly, Child Physio talks on expected development milestones, Baby Signing for early communication and Chatters Matters for speech and language concerns. St John Ambulance run valuable First Aid talks at weekends and the Health Team advise on weaning on a Thursday each month.

Reception parents especially - Don't forget our School Mum's & Dad's Coffee morning held here every Friday after the morning whistle. A perfect chance to catch up with other class parents and build relationships over a hot coffee. Feel free to bring any younger siblings for a play too.

As always, feel free to drop in any time for advice and information from our supportive team, we are open 9-5 weekdays.

Anna Durbridge - Manager

Thank you for reading this and after having shared a lot of vital information with you I would like to take the opportunity to wish everyone at Dovers Green a very happy start to the school academic year and a successful term.

Yours faithfully,



Anya Salisbury
Headteacher

Dates for your Diary **First Half of Autumn Term**



Wednesday 26 September	Year 2 Great Fire of London drama workshop
Thursday 27 September	Owls Class Assembly 9.00 a.m.
Friday 28 September	Harvest Festival 9.00 a.m. Parents Welcome, for Year 1 and Year 2 only
Tuesday 2 October	Curriculum Evening 7.00 p.m. – 8.30 p.m. Open Morning Wander for Prospective Parents 10.15 a.m. - 11.45 a.m.
Thursday 4 October	Otters Class Assembly 9.00 a.m.
Thursday 11 October	Rabbits Class Assembly 9.00 a.m.
Saturday 13 October	Challenge Saturday 9.30 a.m. – 12.30 p.m.
Monday 15 October	Art Week – Theme 'Take One Picture' Parent Teacher Consultations 3.30 p.m. – 6:30 p.m.
Tuesday 16 October	Open Morning Wander for Prospective Parents 10.15 a.m. - 11.45 a.m.
Wednesday 17 October	Parent Teacher Consultations 4.00 p.m. – 7.00 p.m.
Thursday 18 October	Squirrels Class Assembly 9.00 a.m.
Friday 19 October	Sponsored Walk 9.00 a.m. School's Out! Finish at 3.05 p.m.
Monday 22 October – Friday 26 October	HALF TERM

Second Half of Autumn Term



Monday 29 October	INSET DAY
Tuesday 30 October	Back to School
Thursday 1 November	Hedgehogs Class Assembly 9.00 a.m.
Friday 2 November	Open Morning Wander for Prospective Parents 10.15 a.m. - 11.45 a.m. Mufti Day Christmas Disco 5.30 p.m. – 7.00 pm
Thursday 8 November	Foxes Class Assembly 9.00 a.m.
Friday 9 November	School Photographer
Tuesday 13 November	Early Years Foundation Stage Curriculum Evening 7.00 p.m. – 8.30 p.m.
Thursday 15 November	Blue Ladybirds Assembly 9.00a.m.
Friday 16 November	Mufti Day
Thursday 22 November	Red Ladybird Class Assembly 9.00 a.m. Open Morning Wander for Prospective Parents 10.15 a.m. - 11.45 a.m.
Thursday 29 November	Yellow Ladybird Class Assembly 9.00 a.m.
Friday 30 November	Mufti Day

Saturday 1 December	Christmas Cracker 12.00 noon - 2.00 p.m.
Friday 7 December	Bling your Bike to Christmas Bike It Breakfast
Tuesday 11 December	Christmas Play 2.00 p.m. (Adults Only)
Wednesday 12 December	Christmas Play 2.00 p.m. (Adults Only)
Thursday 13 December	Badgers Class Assembly 9.00 a.m. Christmas Play 2.00 p.m. (Adults Only)
Friday 14 December	Christmas Play 2.00 p.m. (Adults Only)
Monday 17 December	Christmas Lunch
Tuesday 18 December	Christmas Party
Friday 21 December	Schools Out for Christmas! School Closes at 1.30 p.m.
Friday 21 Dec – Friday 4 January	CHRISTMAS HOLIDAYS
Monday 7 January	Back to School Spring Term 2019