



Dovers Green School October 2018 Newsletter

Dear Parents,

The first month of the new school year has been completed and what a busy time we have had at Dovers Green! We are delighted with how well our youngest children in Ladybirds and Badgers have settled into the routines of school; and Year 1 children are settling very well into their new classes with more structured routines; and Year 2 are rising to the challenge of being ambassadors and mentors throughout the school.



Years 1 and 2 have certainly had a WOW start to their themes. Year 2 had the Rainbow Theatre visit which led them in a Great Fire of London interactive drama session where they went back in time and met King Charles II and Samuel Pepys. It was also lovely to see so many of them dressed up from this time. Year 1 have been on a scarecrow's wedding scavenger hunt in Forest School and Badgers have been solving problems set by the Paw Patrol characters.

We have had our first Walk to School where Dovers children, along with teachers, parents and siblings had the opportunity to walk from the Beehive to school waving our school flags. We had over 70 children join in plus their parents and a number of siblings - our best turn out ever! We will have to purchase some more flags as we only ordered 70, but there was some lovely sharing going on between the children. Thank you for joining us!

Owls led us in our first class assembly of the year which demonstrated how much learning they have already done linked to their topic, **It's a London Thing**. They explained their learning through songs, sharing facts, drama and even a re-enactment of the 2012 Olympics.

So, as you can see, we've had a very busy first few weeks of term and the children have already produced some fantastic work.

School Development Plan

Attached to this newsletter is the current School Development Plan. This is one of the most important documents a school creates as it states the direction the school will be travelling in for the next year.



Our three main focuses this year are: 1) The learning of all children is supported by removing barriers and having expectations that demand pupil involvement and engagement; 2) All children and staff can reflect on their learning and suggest their own next steps; 3) To provide a language rich curriculum.

We have written the plan on a more concise format. All staff and governors have been included in the writing of it and we welcome parents to be included too. Please let me know if you have any questions or ideas to support our priorities. Included in each Parent's Forum meeting there will be the chance to discuss this document further. I appreciate there is not much time to feed back to your forum reps before our first meeting on Monday, but this will be an ongoing agenda item throughout year. Feedback is really welcome.

Challenge Saturday - Saturday 13 October

As you know, our school grounds and Forest School are vitally important to us at Dovers Green and are embedded into the curriculum for your children. Twice a year we organise a Saturday morning to work with parents to tidy, organise and improve our outdoor learning environment.



Please do come along and meet the challenge with other parents, children, staff and governors between 9.30 a.m. - 12.00 p.m. We will be tidying the grounds including our Forest School. 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!

Communications between School and Parents



As I mentioned in the September newsletter, communication is key and therefore we try to keep you well informed with accurate and up to date information through school newsletters, ParentMail, curriculum information, plus Badgers and Ladybirds curriculum newsletters half termly. Please read all emails that we send to you.

The first Parents Forum for this year is being held on Monday 8 October at 9.00 a.m. in Beavers. These meetings are held once every half term and we would like to have a representative from each class who is able to attend every meeting during this academic year. We still need representatives from Yellow Ladybirds, Blue Ladybirds, Red Ladybirds, Foxes, & Rabbits. If you are interested and are able to commit to these meetings, please contact the school office. The agenda has a main focus on how we can make Dovers Green even better for the children and the parents. The other dates are: Monday 12 November, Monday 7 January 2019, Monday 25 February 2019, Monday 22 April 2019 and Monday 10 June 2019. Minutes will be taken and circulated to the whole school community.



Attendance



It is well documented that attendance and attainment go hand in hand and at Dovers Green we work hard to promote punctuality and good attendance. We celebrate whole class attendance each week and termly certificates are awarded to children with 100% attendance, along with stickers for those with above 99.2%. Obviously children cannot help being unwell but parents can ensure that their child is at school on time and also avoid term time holidays. Thank you for your help.

School Ambassadors

We would like to congratulate our new members of the School Council, who work with Miss Castles to improve the school through the views of the children; the Green Team who work with Miss Yardley-Rees in ensuring we are considering our environment and not wasting energy and the Bike It Crew who work with Mrs Hughes on encouraging children to bike, scooter or walk to school.

This Year's School Council are: Year 2 - Charlotte, Harrison, George H and Year 1 - Kirath, Lucas and Lillie.

This year's Green Team are: Year 2 - George and Daniel and Year 1 - Alice, Eve, and Isabella.

This year's Bike It Crew are: Year 2 - Oscar, Izzy and George and Year 1, Alfie, Millie and Charlie.

Reception children will join from the Summer Term.

Jeans for Genes

Thank you for your donations to the Jeans for Genes appeal which raised £173.20. All money collected has been given to the National appeal to raise funds for research into genetic disorders affecting children and to provide advice and support services for their families.



Lost Property



We have purchased three large brightly coloured bins to keep the lost property stored in. They are now kept just inside the door that is in the middle of the terrace. They are named very clearly with one for coats and shoes; one for jumpers and cardigans; and the third for miscellaneous. We have also written a poem which is displayed just above the bins:

*"If you have put your name in, you will find lost items in a bin.
Dig deep and here you will find, Jumpers, Cardigans and even Shoes left behind.
So basically, **Name in, find in Bin.**"*

RE Syllabus

I am often asked about the teaching of Religious Education at Dovers. We follow the RE Surrey syllabus which for infants covers three main religions; Christianity, Islam and Judaism. The syllabus also includes informing children about non-religious beliefs such as naturalism, which follows a philosophical worldview of the natural world. The units of work are covered in class and through our assemblies. This year we have arranged for leaders of Christianity and Islam to come into school to talk to the children first-hand. We are also beginning to make links with a Synagogue to arrange for a Rabbi to come and speak to the children. We also talk about many religious faiths at appropriate times in our assemblies. We would welcome parents of all faiths to come and speak to the children in small groups, or to help us lead an assembly, or to just share some photos and experiences about special festivals and celebrations. 'Harvest' is included in the Surrey syllabus to be taught as a Christian festival, so we invited Anita, the vicar at St Luke's church, to come and support this assembly.



The wonderful demographics of Modern Britain includes the diverse beliefs and cultures that co-exist together. At Dovers we teach the children about the British Values, one of which is: *mutual respect for and tolerance of those with different faiths and beliefs and for those without faith.*

We also celebrate the wealth of nationalities we have at Dovers through our flags in the hall. These represent the nationality of every child at Dovers (we are just updating the flags to include our new intake). If you feel you can benefit the children and support us by sharing your beliefs or culture then please do contact the office.

First World War Centenary



We feel that even though our children are so young we cannot let this momentous occasion pass them by. Miss McDonough who is our History Lead teacher has organised a workshop to come in and work with Year 1 and 2 children and to hold an assembly for Ladybirds. This workshop will be held on Wednesday 14 November. Each class will also be using a picture book called - *Where The Poppies Used to Grow* to support their understanding during this week; each class will also produce a piece of Poppy art which we will display. We are giving you as much notice as possible as we will ask the children to dress up on this day in either appropriate costume or wearing something red. Due to the high demand of these workshops at this time the price has risen and is £600. We will be asking all

Year 1 and 2 children to donate £1 for the workshop on the day, the school will pay the rest of the money from our school funds account.

Curriculum Evening

It was fantastic to see so many of you at the Curriculum Evening earlier in the week and judging from the feedback, parents found it really useful. Our EYFS curriculum for just Ladybirds parents is on Tuesday 13 November from 7.00 p.m. - 8.30 p.m. The next date for whole school curriculum information is Thursday 24 January. Please put the date in your diary and more information will follow via ParentMail.



Cake Sales



On Friday 12 October Year 2 will be holding our first Cake Sale. The cake sale will be organised as follows:

- ✚ Teachers will ask their PTA class representatives to organise parental support and invite parents to contribute cakes from home.
- ✚ Cake sales take place during the school day starting at 1.45 p.m. and each class goes to the hall with the adults that work in their classroom.
- ✚ Children are invited to bring £1 in to spend at the cake sale and this will buy three cakes which they can then take home at the end of the school day. The office are unable to lend or pass money to any child, so **please ensure that you remember to give your child £1.**
- ✚ If you do forget, leftover cakes will be sold on the terrace at the end of the school day where unlimited numbers can be bought.

Cake sales are an active learning experience for the children whereby children work collaboratively and use a range of mathematic skills. We value this learning experience and to further deepen this we have reduced the number of cake sales so all children can also take part in an enterprise project throughout the year.

Harvest Festival

Thank you to all parents that came and joined in our Harvest Assembly. The children really enjoy Harvest Songs even with the hitch we had singing *Big Red Combine Harvester*. The food that was collected has been donated to Love Works who are a local charity working towards beating food poverty, loneliness and social isolation. Your donations will be going to their foodbank which helps to supply those in need in our surrounding area. Love Works have been in touch to say they have been overwhelmed with the amount of food collected by our school, so a huge thank you for your generous donations.



Bike It Breakfast - Friday 7th December



Our first Bike It breakfast for this school year is on Friday 7 December starting at 8.00 a.m. Dovers Green became a Bike It school four years ago and were awarded the bronze, silver and gold awards in consecutive years. It is an initiative to promote safe cycling and a healthy lifestyle and on Bike It Breakfast day, children and parents are encouraged to cycle to school and then stay for a free breakfast in the hall. More information will be sent via ParentMail.

Fit Friday

Our first Fit Friday will take place next week. We encourage children to Cycle or Scoot on a Friday and the Bike It Crew will judge the bikes and scooters by different criteria, though

generally they will be checking how well maintained and clean the bikes look. Like last year, there will be prizes given to those children whose bike or scooter is judged as best for that week.

Parent/Teacher Consultations

These ten minute meetings will take place on Monday 15 October from 4.30 p.m. - 6.30 p.m., and Wednesday 17 October from 5.00 p.m. - 7.00 p.m. I cannot stress how important it is to meet your child's teacher to discuss their progress. You will have had access to ParentMail to sign up you slot. If you don't have ParentMail, please come into the office from Monday to sign up.



Sponsored Walk and Coffee Morning



The half term ends with our annual sponsored walk in the school grounds at 9.00 a.m. on Friday 19 October. Please, please try to get as many sponsors as possible as all monies raised will be used to provide the 'extras' for your children. Unlike many other local schools, at Dovers Green we do not ask for contributions to the school fund, but we really appreciate the couple of parents that do make regular contributions. The sponsored walk is very important as it allows us to provide extra activities to benefit the children's learning. With the money collected from the sponsored walk we are able to provide various workshops and learning experiences without asking for additional parental contributions. Why not come along and support your child and then stay for coffee and a chat with other parents. You will find a sponsor form in your child's book bag today which should be returned after half term together with your sponsorship money. Thank you for your support.

Open Morning Wander

We have four 'Open Morning Wanders' arranged for prospective parents - Tuesday 16 October, Friday 2 November, Wednesday 14 November and Thursday 22 November. They all take place between 10.15 a.m. and 11.45 a.m. It is an opportunity for prospective parents to ask questions and see Dovers Green at work.



Parent Teachers Association (PTA)



A plea.....from the PTA for volunteers to join a band of parents who have lots of fun and work tirelessly to organise social and fundraising events. The money that is raised contributes to your children having those little, and sometimes big extras. At the coffee morning after the sponsored walk on the last day of this half term, Dee Breach the Chair together with other PTA volunteers will be drumming up support. I appreciate that we all lead busy lives but if everyone gave just a little bit of their time to help, I know that Dee would be delighted to see you there and would warmly welcome any new faces.

There are some urgent repairs that need to be done to our PTA shed, especially with the weather now changing. Please contact the office if you are able to provide a quote for these works or know of anyone who has the expertise to help.

A Message from Anna Durbridge our Children's Centre Manager...



Wow! The first half term of the School year is almost complete and we have been as busy as ever with our Tuesday morning Play & Learn at full capacity every week and enjoyed another very fun and muddy Little Explorers Forest School course which we will be starting again in the Spring. Thanks for your ongoing support everyone.

We have a lovely ***NEW*** nurturing group for Under 1's running every other Monday 10:00-11:30 - alternate weeks to the Health Drop In Clinic sessions - we explore all our senses and provide a

relaxed environment for parents and carers to get out of the house and chat between themselves over a cuppa. Our next baby group is on 15 October.

Would you know how to respond to your child in an emergency situation? Our First Aid Talk run by St John Ambulance will teach you all of the first aid basics, helping you to react quickly and calmly if you ever needed to. We kindly ask for a £5 donation towards the worthy cause which is running on Saturday 17 November 10:00 till 12 noon. Non-mobile babies are welcome. Please call to book.

The Childrens Centre is lucky enough to have a Child Physician come in regularly to share her knowledge on what expected physical infant development is. From tummy time, encouraging crawling and walking, and safety in the home for mobile and non-mobile children. This is a FREE informative session and a great chance to ask any questions if you have concerns or awaiting a referral. Thursday 11 Oct - 12-1pm. Please call to book.

We don't just support families of pre-school children here. Our expertise reach to those tricky early teenage years so in collaboration with Reigate School, they are hosting our FIRST ever Talking Teens 4 weeks course starting on Thursday 1 November (7:30-9:30pm). Aimed at parents/carers of Years 6 / 7 / 8 this course aims to give parents the confidence to communicate effectively, understanding the complex teenage brain, approaching difficult issues such as drugs, sex, alcohol and social media and how to manage the inevitable conflict as they grow to be more independent in their transition into adulthood. BOOK YOUR SPACE NOW! £10 donation towards the guide book please.

Yours faithfully,



Miss Anya Salisbury
Headteacher

Dates for your Diary Autumn Term

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 Autumn 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

Thursday 20 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