

DOVERS GREEN SCHOOL November 2018 Newsletter

Dear Parents,

Welcome back after the half term break which I hope you all enjoyed! We have a very busy and exciting month ahead with school photos; our Choir Singing in the Reigate Big Sing; Autumn Disco; whole school WWI Remembrance Day celebration; Anti Bullying Week; EYFS Curriculum evening for Ladybird parents; Mufti Days and Dovers Christmas Fair. As well as all of the above, Year 1 had a treat to hook them into their new book when all their adults dressed up as 'Room on the Broom' characters this week. Year 2, to start their new theme book, came in to school to find mysterious giant paw prints left across the terrace.

Children's Centre

When you read Anna's update about the Children's Centre at the end of this newsletter you will see the very sad news that it is currently Surrey's decision to close Dovers Green Children's Centre. We are devastated by this news and what this means to our school and the whole Woodhatch community. Since February we have submitted our own proposals to lead a consortium of Centres covering the whole borough. Unfortunately responding to the poor Children's Services Ofsted report there have been many staff changes in Surrey and our proposal is no longer being considered. Katy King, our Speech and Language therapist, has also headed up the local petition to keep local Centres open and she spoke to the councillors in a cabinet meeting on behalf of all families objecting to the cuts.

We have one final chance to demonstrate to Surrey how important Dovers Green Children's Centre is to our community. On Tuesday a Surrey Children's Centre consultation was opened. It is open until January 4th. Please respond. It seems that it is a very complicated form, the more you can fill in the better but in particular pages 17 and 18 which are about the proposal for the centres in Reigate and Banstead and lists us as closed. If you need help filling in the form please go into the Children's Centre where they will be able to help. Please ask all friends and family to fill this in to support our community. The link is: www.surreycc.gov.uk/consultations and search for Dovers Green.

Greensand Multi Academy Trust



We have been part of the Greensand MAT for a year now. There has been much work to do in the first year in terms of putting cohesive policies and procedures in place. Alongside this, the Headteachers of the Greensand Schools have focused on supporting the teaching and learning in each School across the academy.

I think it is important to share with you what our strategic aims for the next three years are:

- 1) Teaching and Learning - Providing a Trust wide framework for evaluating and improving the quality of teaching and learning
- 2) Community - Providing a vehicle for Greensand stakeholders to build relationships which help to deliver the vision
- 3) Governance - Providing outstanding governance with clear and effective lines of communication and accountability at all levels
- 4) Leadership - Providing outstanding leadership which meets the demands of an expanding Trust
- 5) Effective Systems - Providing structures and systems for the effective management of the Trust, including estates
- 6) Growth Providing increased financial efficiency and opportunities to share best practice

The Greensand schools have excellent relationships and partnerships with many other schools in the local area, in Surrey and across the South East. We hope collaboration with other schools and Multi Academy Trusts will continue to thrive.

This month Greensand are leading a Teaching and Learning review in each school. This will consist of lesson observations, work scrutiny, learning walks and asking the children about their learning experiences. I will share the outcomes of our review in the next newsletter.

Eco Team and School Council



This week The Green Team have been finding out about eco-bricks. We have discussed what they are and how we could use them in our school. Ecobricks are plastic bottles which are stuffed solid with clean and dry plastic to create reusable building blocks. The Green Team have enjoyed designing a variety of structures that we could use in our outdoor areas.

We are looking forward to starting our project and we would love it if you could help by making an eco-brick at home. To find out how you can make your very own eco-brick visit: <https://www.ecobricks.org>. It is very simple to make but you must make sure you use clean and dry plastic and that you push the plastic into the bottle (e.g. with the end of a wooden spoon!) to make it dense. They recommend a minimum weight of 0.33 g/ml. This means that a 600ml bottle will have a minimum weight of 200 grams and a 1500ml bottle will have a minimum weight of 500 grams.

Have fun saving the world by stopping plastic polluting our world!

Anti-bullying week will be running from the Monday 12 November until Friday 16 November. The School



Council are working with Miss Castles to promote anti-bullying through posters which they will share in assemblies, and Mrs Moxley as our PSHE leader has planned practical activities for the children to complete. The slogan for this year is: '**Choose Respect**'. The colour for this year's campaign is blue and we ask for children to wear blue on Monday 12 November as we would like to take a whole school photo of our children promoting the slogan.

Poppy Appeal

Poppies will be available in school all next week. Year 2 children will be taking them to each class every day so your child can make a small donation in return for a poppy.

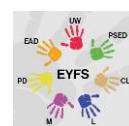


First World War Centenary Celebration

On Wednesday 14 November the whole school will be remembering the end of WWI. Miss McDonough has organised a fantastic workshop to come in and work with Year 1 and 2 children and to hold an assembly for Ladybirds. Each class will be using a picture book called '*Where The Poppies Used to Grow*' to support their understanding during this week as well as producing a piece of Poppy art which will be displayed. The children are asked 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.

Reminder.....Reminder.....Early Years Foundation Stage Evening

We are holding an evening for parents of children in the Early Years Foundation Stage on Tuesday 13 November at 7.00 p.m. to give you information about the curriculum that our youngest children follow, to explain how we assess your child's learning and how you can support them at home. Please do try to come along as it will give you an insight into school life for our youngest children.



Sponsored Walk



What a glorious sunny Autumn morning we had for our annual sponsored walk on the last day before half term and it was lovely for the children that so many of you stayed to support them. We have already received almost £2000, which is a fantastic effort - well done! I would be very grateful if any outstanding sponsored walk money could be brought into school as soon as possible. Thank you for your support.

Values

Our new value this half term is Love. We worked with the School Council last year to decide our Values and to link them to animals that represent each value. The chosen animal for Love was the Elephant. This was because the children felt elephants show a lot of love to each other in their family units. I introduced this value and its link to the British Value - *Tolerance & Mutual Respect* in assembly on Tuesday. I have asked the children to create a poster of an Elephant explaining or labelling how they show love. It would be wonderful to have a range of posters from different year groups. If your child makes one please ask them to hand it to their teacher where it will make its way to me and be shown in my assemblies. If you have a story book of elephants please could I borrow it to share in assembly? I will make sure it is returned to you.

Mufti Days

Just to remind you that there will be two more mufti days to support the Christmas Fair on Friday 16 and Friday 30 November. The theme of the fair this year is the North Pole and Children can wear their own clothes in exchange for a gift or donation. Please refer to the PTA newsletter regarding what to bring on each day. We really appreciate your support for the Christmas Fair which is one of our largest fund raisers.



Due to there being a blue dress up day for anti-bullying week, red or appropriate costume for WWI Centenary Celebration and various Mufti Days we have decided to support Red Nose Day in March instead of Children In Need. However, we will be sharing the work of Children in Need with the children in our assemblies and if any children want to wear spots or Pudsey accessories on Friday 16 November they are welcome to do so.

Christmas Fair - Theme = North Pole



The PTA are working hard to organise our Christmas fund raising event which is being held in school on Saturday 1 December between 12.00 noon - 2.00 p.m. Please, please do support this event by offering your help on a stall, by donating a gift or by selling raffle tickets to family and friends.....the Christmas hampers make fantastic presents! All monies raised are used to enhance your child's education by paying for some of the extra resources that we have at Dovers Green.

Thank you to all the Year 2 children for their Christmas Fair poster designs and a huge Congratulations to Rhys in Otters whose design for the Christmas Fair poster has been judged as the winning poster by the PTA. Runners up from each class are; Darcy in Owls, Eva in Hedgehogs, Henry in Otters and Ethan in Badgers. Each child will receive a prize from the PTA.

A few reminders:

✚ The Trim Trail can be used before or after school but you do need to supervise your child to ensure their safety. Remember it must not be used when it is cold and frosty.



✚ Now that the weather is getting colder please make sure that children come to school appropriately clothed for playtimes and outside curriculum activities. Children should not be coming to school without a coat.



✚ Please remember to park considerately avoiding resident's driveways when dropping off and picking up your child from school.

Bling your Bike to Christmas Bike It Breakfast

We would love for you and your child to decorate their bike and come along to our Christmas Bike It Breakfast on Friday 7 December starting at 8.00 a.m. 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 breakfast in the hall. More details to follow by ParentMail.



Christmas at Dovers Green

There will be a separate ParentMail detailing the various Christmas activities later in the month but please put the dates of our school play in your diary - Tuesday 11 December, Wednesday 12 December, Thursday 13 December and Friday 14 December.

To accommodate the children comfortably and be able to offer two tickets per family for a performance, the reception classes will each take part in the play on a different day:

- Blue Ladybirds plus Years 1 & 2 on Tuesday 11 December
- Red Ladybirds plus Years 1 & 2 on Wednesday 12 December
- Yellow Ladybirds plus Years 1 & 2 on Thursday 13 December

All performances begin at 2.00 p.m. and are for **adults only**. I appreciate that this may cause difficulties for some of you and would not want to deny anyone the opportunity of seeing their child perform so we are arranging crèche facilities in the Children's Centre for all four days. There will be spaces for twenty four children for each day of the performance and spaces will need to be booked in advance. You will be able to book your child/children into the crèche for one performance only. Look out for the ParentMail on the evening of Monday 19 November inviting you to reserve your play tickets and a crèche space if required, and we will do our best to accommodate your needs.

Christmas Lunch

Christmas lunch this year is now on Tuesday 18 December. If your child normally has a packed lunch and you would like them to have Christmas lunch, please advise the School Office by Friday 30 November which allows for our cook to place the food order.



School Calendars

We are not producing a paper calendar this year. In line with our newly designed website - hopefully to be revealed before Christmas - we have purchased an app that will link parent dates to smart phones. This was a request from the Parents Forum that we have looked into and incorporated into our new website design.



Children's Centre News.....from Anna

I hope this email finds you all well after the half term break.



We had some disappointing news from Surrey County Council on the Thursday before the children broke up. Dovers Green Sure Start Children's Centre has been earmarked for closure at the end of August next year (2019). This is a huge blow for our local families, our school and the loyal staff who work so hard in the centre. This decision is being put to a public consultation which starts on Tuesday 30 October 2018, and ends on the 4 January 2019.

It is crucial that you express your views to the Council about their decision to close so many centres in the South East. We really would appreciate you taking the time to have your say.

In other news.... We will be holding a little 'Children in Need Cake Sale' on Friday 16 November during the School Parent Coffee Morning starting straight after School drop off. Please come along and support this

amazing charity that do so much good for children in the UK and overseas. If you would like to donate some cakes too, that would be very much appreciated! My cup cakes are famous, so are available on a first come served basis!!

We are continuing to run our regular programme, so do come along and have a look at all the sessions we offer for you and your little ones. We do still have spaces on our First Aid talk run by the St John Ambulance on Saturday 17 November 10.00 a.m. - 12 noon. It is a 2 hour session designed to enable you to know what to do in an emergency. It really is 2 hours well spent, as we all know, accidents do happen! We only ask for a £5 donation, so call the centre (01737 223621) to book your space!

Kind regards,

*Anna
Centre Manager*

Please remember that if there is anything you need to discuss with me, I will be happy to meet with you.

Yours faithfully



Miss Anya Salisbury
Headteacher



Dates for Your Diary



Thursday 8 November	Foxes Class Assembly 9.00 a.m.
Friday 9 November	School Photographer
Monday 12 November	Anti-Bullying Week Children to wear Blue for 'Choose Respect' Slogan
Tuesday 13 November	Early Years Foundation Stage Curriculum Evening 7.00 p.m. – 8.30 p.m.
Wednesday 14 November	WWI Centaury Celebration Children to wear Red or appropriate costume Open Morning Wander for Prospective Parents 10.15 a.m. - 11.45 a.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 8.00 a.m.
Tuesday 11 December	Christmas Play 2.00 p.m. (Adults Only) Blue Ladybirds plus Years 1 & 2
Wednesday 12 December	Christmas Play 2.00 p.m. (Adults Only) Red Ladybirds plus Years 1 & 2
Thursday 13 December	Badgers Class Assembly 9.00 a.m. Christmas Play 2.00 p.m. (Adults Only) Yellow Ladybirds plus Years 1 & 2
Friday 14 December	Christmas Play 2.00 p.m. (Adults Only) Years 1 & 2 only
Tuesday 18 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