

Dovers Green School

February 2019 Newsletter

Dear Parents,

We are already in February - it feels that this half term is speeding. We have had a wonderful start to 2019 with WOW days to launch the new themes the children are learning: Year 2 has had their teachers acting out their focus story; Year 1 had a space day where they trained as astronauts with Captain Roberts and went to space in a rocket which was set up in Fireflies - our sensory room; Ladybirds watched a video of a dinosaur walking down our own school corridor; the next day the children found abandoned dinosaur eggs so have been hunting to see where the dinosaur has gone., (dinosaurs is a new topic for the Early Years which has caused a lot of excitement and interest for all ladybirds); Badgers have been busy learning two traditional tales - The Gingerbread Man and Little Red Riding Hood and have enjoyed cooking some delicious gingerbread men. Badgers have also loved using their new extended classroom, and with their teachers they have made a poster explaining the development of this which is attached to this letter. We are very grateful to Reigate and Banstead Borough Council for funding this improvement.

We have also had a Problem Solving Week which ended with over 160 dads or male relatives coming into school to work alongside their children. Please see our display in the main corridor to see the work completed in this week.

Children Centre Update

It is with a very heavy heart that we have to share the news that this Tuesday the Surrey cabinet made the final vote to close 27 of the current Children's Centres across Surrey. Of which Dovers Green is one. We are still fighting and will until we get the final letter of closure. I would like to thank Anna and all her team - Christine, Cathy, Kelly, Valerie and Hannah who have conducted themselves with such dignity and professionalism in this very difficult time, always putting the needs of all our families at the centre of everything they do. I can't express the loss that this will be to our community right now as I feel too raw, but I know the impact will be huge.

Internet Safety

The National Safer Internet Day is on Tuesday 5 February. The slogan for this year is:



Together for a Better Internet

We have a company, Perform for Schools, coming in to lead a workshop with Year 1 and 2 which focuses on using the internet safely in an interactive, age appropriate way. Lessons will be taught all week to all children to reinforce the importance of staying safe online and ensuring that children know what they should do if they are worried by something that they might see. At school our computer system is filtered so that our very young children cannot access unsuitable material and they are taught how to use **Hit the Button**, our internet security icon, if they are worried about anything they see on screen. Please help your child to stay safe by being vigilant about what they access on digital devices at home.

Although the internet is a fabulous resource for learning, there are many websites that have totally inappropriate content. Children learn quickly and are very adept at using technologies but it is really important that there is adult supervision to protect them from the evils of a sometimes very unsafe world.

'FamilyShield' is a free solution offered by a company called OpenDNS, which instantly blocks access to adult websites. With FamilyShield, you simply make one small change to your Broadband router at home, to protect all your devices such as a computer, tablet, smartphone or gaming console (Wii, Xbox), connected to your home broadband router (Wi-Fi network). This is the **Router** option. The most up to date location page for this option is: <https://www.opendns.com/home-internet-security/>. They also offer setup guides on the page to help anyone who needs it.



Alternatively, you can configure each computer, smartphone or tablet separately, by choosing the **Computer** option. However, setting up each tablet or smartphone this way means only the current Wi-Fi connection is protected and any subsequent connections to a Wi-Fi network will need to be configured again. This is useful when visiting friends and family and you are connecting your tablet or smartphone to their Wi-Fi network.



A website we use a lot in school is **ThinkUKnow**. This is very easy to navigate and has a section for children aged 5-7 and a section for parents and carers. Within this section there is lots of information about filters.



It is also important to talk to your child or children about coming to you immediately if they see something on the internet that worries them, such as a link that popped up and took them to an inappropriate website.

Our IT Technician has set up an email address internetsafety@dovers-green.surrey.sch.uk. He is happy for any parents to communicate with him about any e-safety concerns. He will reply when he is in on a Tuesday. He has also offered that if any parent would like advice face to face that he will be available for 15 mins at the end of every Tuesday. If you would like to meet with him please phone the office so that he is aware.

We have real concerns about the amount of children using Fortnite, over the last few months in school, we have seen the game's continuing popularity grow. Children from Ladybirds to Year 2 tell us they play the game, despite the 12 age rating. With this in mind we have, with the support of the NSPCC website, pulled together some information about the game and how to keep your child/children safe while playing it. Please visit our new website and the E-Safety page by following the link: <https://www.dovers-green.surrey.sch.uk/page/?title=Online+Safety&pid=106>

Communication

I really would welcome ideas on ways to improve how parents and the school can communicate better together. From the school's point of view we write this newsletter to try and share important information, what has gone on and what is coming up in each month and we send out weekly reminders to ensure that parents are prepared for the week ahead. On top of this the Parents' Forum was set up a year ago. I personally find this group vital in supporting the school to make improvements with the direct involvement of parents' opinions. I was a little surprised then to read many comments on Facebook as to only having given a week's notice for Bring your Dad to school day. We asked for the sign in form to be completed a week before so that the right amount of resources could be organised. The actual date went out in the December newsletter. We are hoping that the new calendar app and link on the new website will support parents in looking ahead to the activities that the school is running. I would like the next Parents Forum meeting to have Communication on the agenda. Please can you speak to your rep if you have any suggestions of how communication can be improved. We still have spaces in Blue Ladybirds, Yellow Ladybirds, Foxes and Rabbits classes for the Parent Forum reps. Being a member of the Parent Forum is a fantastic opportunity to be able to express the views of parents in a constructive way and we value all the comments made at these meetings.



Productions

This year we are changing the format of our summer productions. Previously in the summer Year 2 have led a whole school production and the following week lead a leaver's assembly. From observing this last year, I felt that our oldest children spent the majority of their time in their last few weeks rehearsing. By involving the whole school it also means that some Year 2 children only get a very small part. We understand that some only like to be narrators and have a small speaking part, but



if this performance was just for Year 2 then children could be more involved whilst still within their comfort zone.

The teachers still wanted all the children to be involved in a performance as our children love singing and performing and, in my opinion, are every talented at this and it also supports confidence in all areas of their life. The Parents Forum felt that the whole school productions were enjoyed and are important to parents.

So with this in mind Year 1 are going to lead their own production at the end of this term. Ladybirds are going to lead a Mother's Day production which is going to include more singing and performing than the traditional Dovers assembly. Year 2 are going to lead their own production at the end of the summer term which will end with them sharing their memories.

The dates for these events are on the calendar app and on the website. They are as follows:

Year 1 Production - Friday 22 March, 2.00 p.m.

Ladybirds Mother's Day Performance - Friday 29 March, 2.00 p.m.

Year 2 Leavers Production - Tuesday 16 July, 1.30 p.m. and Wednesday 17 July, 1.30 p.m.

The other benefit of making these performances year focused is that we will not have to limit tickets to two per family.

Marvellous Me

We think Marvellous Me is a great communication tool to share personal class / year information with parents. Our latest email from the company celebrates our success as a school in using this tool, I have copied this for you to read below:

'We wanted to drop a quick email to thank you and your staff for having such a strong Autumn term with MarvellousMe! You have an outstanding 92% of the parents on board, and almost 13,000 snippets of wonderful news have been shared with them already this school year - you are doing a brilliant job at connecting parents with their children's life at school!'



Winter PE Kit

Throughout the year, we teach two PE lessons every week. One of these lessons will be outside and we are lucky to have the astro surface which enables us to continue our sports lessons all year (expect in heavy rain). I do appreciate that some children can feel the cold more than others and so, if this applies to your child, please ensure that they have a pair of dark coloured tracksuit bottoms or leggings in their P.E. bag so that they are warmer. The children do have the opportunity to wear their fleeces or coats during these lessons. From feedback from the Parents Forum we want to make it clear that children are allowed to wear trainers for PE, our uniform list does have plimsolls recorded but we are happy for trainers to be worn. The importance is that children have the appropriate footwear for sport. We will make sure that the uniform list is updated.



End of Key Stage One

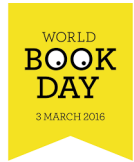
There will be two meetings for the parents of Year 2 children on Tuesday 12 February at 2.30 p.m. and Wednesday 13 February at 9.00 a.m. to share with you how children are assessed at the end of key stage one.

Parent/Teacher Consultations

This term parent/teacher consultations will be held on Monday 11 February and Thursday 14 February after school. Many of you have already booked a slot via ParentMail, but there are still some spaces so please do book if you haven't. This mid-year meeting with your child's teacher is very important to review their progress.



World Book Day



To give you notice - this year World Book Day is Thursday 7 March and the idea of this special day is to promote reading. To get everyone into the spirit we would be delighted if on that day the children could dress up as a favourite book character. For our school book week, which coincides with this date, we will be celebrating the wonderful story / picture books written by Anthony Browne. At the end of the day the children will be given a £1 Book Token to put towards a book of their choice or it may be exchanged for one of the eight specially produced £1 books, if stocked by the retailer. We will be inviting Mums or female relatives to join their child in school at 1.40 p.m. on Friday 8 March to end our book week.

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



As most of you probably know, this week we received the sad news that our Children's Centre will close. We have no further details as yet, but will keep everybody informed when we know more. Needless to say, we are extremely disappointed in the decision as this will affect many of our local families and impact on support services.

However, it's still business as usual at the moment! We are taking bookings for our informative Talking Teens course which starts on Wednesday March 6th. Teenage years are a time of enormous change and brain development. So, if you have a pre-teen or teenager why not call us to book a place? Also coming up is Chatter Matters for those aged 2.5 - 4 years old and in need of extra help with their communication skills in a fun, play environment. This starts at 10am on Thursday February 28th. Under 1's resumes on Monday 4th February 10-11.30am, runs fortnightly, and is a chance to bring your little one along, use our toys, sensory activities and have a drink and a chat.

We look forward to seeing you!

Anna and the team

One of the ways we use our School Fund is to enhance the children's learning with all the amazing workshops and visitors that we offer, many of which are listed in this newsletter. So thank you for supporting our sponsored events, it is much appreciated. If you would like to contribute regularly to this fund, we currently have one parent who makes a regular contribution, please mail admin@dovers-geen.surrey.sch.uk or phone the school office and speak to Katharine Morrow.

Anya Salisbury
Headteacher



Dates for Your Diary

Tuesday 5 February	Safer Internet Day
Thursday 7 February	Blue Ladybirds Class Assembly 9.00 a.m.
Monday 11 February	Parent Teacher Consultations 3.30 p.m. – 6.30 p.m.
Tuesday 12 February	End of Key Stage One meeting for Year 2 Parents 2.30 p.m.
Wednesday 13 February	End of Key Stage One meeting for Year 2 Parents 9.00 a.m.
Thursday 14 February	Red Ladybirds Class Assembly 9.00 a.m. Parent Teacher Consultations 3.30 p.m. – 6.30 p.m.
Friday 15 February	INSET DAY; School's Out for Half Term! HALF TERM HOLIDAY
Monday 25 February	Back to School Parent Forum Meeting 9.00 a.m. in Beavers
Thursday 28 February	Squirrels Class Assembly 9.00 a.m.
Friday 1 March	Walk to School – Please meet at the Beehive at 8.15 a.m.
Monday 4 March	Book Week
Thursday 7 March	Dress up for World Book Day
Friday 8 March	Bring your Mum's to School Afternoon from 1.40 p.m.
Monday 11 March	INSET DAY
Thursday 14 March	Hedgehogs Class Assembly 9.00 a.m.
Friday 15 March	'Red Nose Day' Comic Relief Bike it Breakfast 8.00 a.m. – 8.45 a.m.
Thursday 21 March	Owls Class Assembly 9.00 a.m.
Friday 22 March	Mother's Day Mufti Day Year 1 Performance 2.00 p.m.
Thursday 28 March	PTA Super Lady Sale
Thursday 4 April	Otters Class Assembly 9.00 a.m.
Friday 5 April	Schools Out for Easter 1.30 p.m.

Badger's new outside area!!



First they dug a massive hole and put some fences on there.



Then they sprinkled pretend green grass. We can lay down on it or run on it.



We got a big gate so we can close it or open.

The men came in their diggers and made it for us. By Joseph.



It was noisy like a grrrrrr sound, like a dinosaur grrrrrrr!

It's lovely, it's half green and grey.

It looks like a park. By Matthew

We make it big. I like the wheelbarrow. By Mika

It was really small outside before and now it's bigger. By Poppy

Written by the Badgers children



A huge thank you to Reigate and Banstead Borough Council for funding this improvement project for Badgers outside area.

Our new grass it's nice and soft and quite fuzzy and lovely. You can do football on it. By Ethan

Dovers Green School Dates 2019-2020



Term	Term Starts	Term Ends	Holidays	INSET Days/Closures
Autumn Term 2019	Thursday 5 September 2019	Friday 25 October 2019	Monday 28 October 2019 to Friday 1 November 2019	Tuesday 3 September 2019 Wednesday 4 September 2019
	Tuesday 5 November 2019	Friday 20 December 2019	Monday 23 December 2019 to Friday 3 January 2020	Monday 4 November 2019
Spring Term 2020	Monday 6 January 2020	Thursday 13 February 2020	Monday 17 February 2020 to Friday 21 February 2020	Friday 14 February 2020
	Monday 24 February 2020	Friday 3 April 2020	Monday 6 April 2020 to Friday 17 April 2020	Monday 9 March 2020
Summer Term 2020	Monday 20 April 2020	Friday 22 May 2020	Monday 25 May 2020 to Friday 29 May 2020	Bank Holiday Monday 4 May 2020 Polling Day Thursday 7 May 2020
	Monday 1 June 2020	Friday 17 July 2020		Monday 3 July 2020