

## Dovers Green School January 2019 Newsletter

Dear Parents,

Happy New Year to you all! Welcome back to school - a new year and a new term, with lots of exciting new ventures beginning. Ms White and I have been speaking to the children about our new Value - Respect that is represented by the Giraffe. Alongside this we have introduced a new system to support all the children in speaking up for themselves if someone does or says something they don't like. We want our children to have the tools to explain to each other if they don't like any behaviour towards themselves. The new system is called WIBIT. The poster that we are using to promote this with the children is attached; by following this acronym they can explain to each other what behaviours they don't like and be able to explain why in a calm and structured way. We have also discussed how to respond if someone has used WIBIT to explain their feelings to them. To promote this tool we have made some stickers, had playground and classroom posters made and will also be including this system regularly into our assemblies and class reflection times. We have also updated our Anti Bullying policy which will be put on the website following its approval at our governor meeting next week. We have made a leaflet reminding children strategies of bullying and their wellbeing. This will be sent home next week for you to share with your child and a slip to return when you have.

At the end of last term we said goodbye to Rebecca Thompson, teaching assistant in Yellow Ladybirds, who went to work at her daughter's school. This week we welcomed Katrina Winterbourn who will be the new teaching assistant in this class.



This term the Year 2 classes will be finding out about hot and cold places on Earth. This will include looking at the expedition of Captain Scott and learning about volcanoes. The Year 1 topic for this term is 'Let's Explore!' with the children discovering our world and space. They had a very exciting morning yesterday as trainee astronauts led by Captain Roberts. A topic web and curriculum information sheet has been attached for the Key Stage 1 classes.



Ladybirds and Badgers newsletters have also been distributed today which share information on the learning and activities which will be taking place this half term. I hope that you find this information useful and that it helps you support your child's learning at home.

Next week, we have a whole school Problem Solving Week and after half term we have Book Week. Next Friday on 18 January we are asking dads and male relatives to come into school from 1:40 p.m. to work alongside your child / children. The Friday of Book Week, which is 8 March, we are asking mums or female relatives to come into school in the afternoon.

### Parent Governor

A vacancy has arisen for **one** parent governor on our governing body. We are seeking nominations for parents to stand for election as a parent governor of Dovers Green School. You will receive a ParentMail on Monday detailing how you can stand for election or nominate another Parent and a paper copy of the nominations slip will be put in your child's book bag, so please look out for this. The deadline for nominations is noon on Thursday 24<sup>th</sup> January 2019.

### Home School Link Worker (HSLW).

Sadly Cathy has resigned from her position as our home school link worker. Cathy is going to still be working in the Children's Centre and concentrating on her Outreach role, so we still have her expertise on site.

We are thrilled that Lisa Brewis has accepted taking on this role. Lisa is a teaching assistant in Red Ladybirds, she is also one of our ELSA support assistants and in her previous role she had a lot of experience in supporting families and has previous DSL (safeguarding) advanced training.



Lisa will be doing this role on a Thursday morning when her time in Red Ladybirds will be covered by Aiko Brown. There will be a handover between herself and Cathy for the next couple of weeks.

The role of the HSLW is to support families in various ways which includes:

- liaising with school staff;
- signposting to other services available in the area;
- helping to improve family relationships and be available for families in crisis situations;
- supporting families and children by providing outreach support;
- helping families with access grants and information;
- giving direct and confidential support to parents and carers, no matter how big or small the worries are, such as giving ideas and strategies to deal with behaviour at home.

Lisa will be on the playground on a Thursday morning, or you are welcome to pop in and see her in school on a Thursday morning. Alternatively you can contact her at via the office who will take details and she will get back to you.

### New Website

This week we are very excited to have launched our new website. I would like to say a huge thank you to Katharine Perry who has fully supported me in designing and uploading all the information. We have looked at many other websites and have brought ours up to date with a children friendly feel and a look that supports our dedication to using the outdoor area to support all children's learning and development of skills. It has a lot more information available so please take your time to look at it.



We have also purchased a calendar app alongside it that will link to all smart phones. Instructions on how to use this was sent out earlier this week and is also added to the back of this newsletter.

### Now to say thank you.....

- Your generous donations at the end of the Christmas plays raised a fantastic £572.82 for NSPCC and Save the Children.
- Father Christmas would also like to thank Dovers Green PTA for helping him give all the children a present when he visited on party day. The children were thrilled and it made their day all the more memorable.

A plea from the teachers.....please could you read at home regularly with your child. It has been a busy holiday for most people and some children have not read at all during the break from school. Our children are very young and even our more able readers benefit from some quiet reading time with mum or dad. Those that are not so confident very quickly slip back if they do not practise.



When you do hear your child read could you please write a comment in their reading diary or if you prefer, just acknowledge with a signature. The teachers choose reading books for your child which are appropriate to their ability and will assess both reading and understanding of the text before moving a child to the next level. If reading is too hard too soon it can be detrimental to their progress, but be assured that your child will move to the next level as soon as the teachers know that he/she can cope with a more complex text.

Parents are very welcome to come in any day after school to choose a library book with their child. We have got many lovely books, both fiction and non-fiction. During the week children have the opportunity

to use the library as a group when doing collaborative work, as a class and also independently. Children also have the chance to change their book during lunchtimes on a Tuesday and Thursday when Miss Perry and the new Year 2 library monitors are available to help them.



## Other Important Information.....

### Attendance

With all the bugs going round our whole school attendance at the end of last term was 96.64%. In school we work hard to promote good attendance and punctuality.

I was also delighted to give out 100% Attendance Certificates and stickers to 94 children who managed to come to school every day during the Autumn Term despite all the horrible germs which were circulating. Attendance stickers were also given to children who had attended school for over 99.5% last term.



Regular attendance and punctuality is vitally important and it is essential that parents help their children to establish good habits from a very early age. Obviously no-one can help being unwell but parents can avoid taking children out of school for holidays and making non urgent appointments before or after school. It is also very important that the office are notified of all absences so that they can be authorised. If your child is unwell please telephone the school as early as possible in the morning and leave a message on the Absence Line or if you wish, you can send an email to: [info@dovers-green.surrey.sch.uk](mailto:info@dovers-green.surrey.sch.uk).

**Children must be kept at home for 48 hours following diarrhoea and  
48 hours after the last time of being sick.**

Please do make sure that you check our school term dates and INSET days as they do not always coincide with other local schools. Your child should be at Dovers Green even though a sibling may be off due to INSET at another school.



Do remember that we open the school gates at 8.30 a.m. There is a whistle at 8.45 a.m. and our school day starts at 8.50 a.m. Please try to be punctual as much curriculum time is lost through children arriving at school late.



### Early Morning

Even though we have had a very mild winter up to now, there are mornings that the playground and trim trial will be icy and slippery. The trim trial is unsupervised in the mornings so please do not let your child on if you feel it is too slippery. We assess it before every first play.



### School closures

Sometimes due to adverse weather conditions schools have to close. If Dovers Green has to close, we will inform you through **ParentMail** and our **school website**. I will also inform the Local Authority who put it on their website at <https://www.surreycc.gov.uk/schools-and-learning/schools/school-closures> as well as Radio Heart on 102.7 and on their website at [www.heart.co.uk/crawley/local/snow](http://www.heart.co.uk/crawley/local/snow). However due to the high volume of calls there is sometimes a delay in communicating with the last two. Please do not assume that if other local schools are closed we will also be closed, as it depends on a number of factors but mainly the number of staff who can get to work safely. Please also remember that information on the PTA Facebook Page has not come from school and may not be accurate.



### Forest School

Forest School should resume after half term unless, like last year, the ground becomes completely saturated. This half term we give our wooded area the chance to recover and allow the bulbs and plants to emerge away from children's feet! Year 1 and 2 are using their Forest School sessions to teach extra science sessions.



We are very excited that through our Sports premium funding we have this week trained another 5 members of our staff to be level 3 qualified Forest School leaders. This supports our commitment to including the outdoor learning in our curriculum insuring children get high quality learning sessions in our Forest School.

### Class Assemblies

Rabbits class assembly for this term will be on Thursday 17 January, Foxes class assembly is the following week on Thursday 24 January. Yellow Ladybirds' assembly will be on Thursday 31 January, Blue Ladybirds have their assembly on Thursday 7 February and Red Ladybirds assembly will be on Thursday 14 February. All assemblies start at 9.00 a.m. Please do try to come along as it's an opportunity for you to see some of the work that your child is doing in school. Assemblies for the other classes will be during February and March. Dates are at the end of this newsletter.



### Curriculum Evening

## 'HELPING YOUR CHILD WITH MATHS'

Our curriculum evening this term will be on Thursday 24 January at 7.00 p.m. Following last term's curriculum evening, the majority of parents requested that they would like to know more about the teaching of mathematics to support their children in completing the new Mathematics software we have purchased. The evening will be planned to give you an insight into how we teach mathematical skills to young children. Teachers will once again be leading year group workshops and there will also be a workshop for Badgers' parents. A ParentMail will be sent out next week, so please do put the date in your diary and try and come along.



### Parents' Forum Meeting

The next Parents' Forum meeting is on Monday 14 January at 9.00 a.m. The parent representatives are: Emma Berners (Badgers), Christine Buckley (Red Ladybirds), Nicola Turrell (Rabbits), Nicola Farquharson-Roberts (Squirrels), Ali Hannant (Hedgehogs), Louise Sheridan (Otters) and Erica Charlton (Owls). Please let them know if you have any suggestions as to how we can improve any systems and procedures, we value all feedback and comments. We are still looking for representatives from Blue Ladybirds, Yellow Ladybirds and Foxes. If you are interested in joining our parent forum we are really keen to hear from you.

### FINAL REMINDER

#### School Admissions - Applying for a Place in Reception and Year Three

If your child is due to start school or transfer to a junior school, the closing date for applications to infant, junior and primary schools is **15 January 2019**. If your application is submitted after the closing date you will be treated as a late applicant and therefore you may not receive an offer of a school place until the end of June 2017.

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

*Welcome back and Happy New Year to all of our families! Hope you all had a fun if not relaxing festive break.*

*The Surrey CC online consultation has now closed so my team and I wish to thank you all for your amazing support in completing this. We appreciate that the need for us in this area is clearly evident from your comments. We'll keep you informed of any decisions that the Council make with regards to closure and hope for the best.*

*It's brilliant that most of our January courses are fully booked but please see our website for February & March dates for our usual popular courses and talks such as First Aid, Weaning, Child Physio, and Baby*

*Massage. However, we'd love to see a few more of you on our 4 week Parenting Puzzle course starting on Wednesday 23 Jan (7.30-9.30 p.m.). Start your New Year with a positive and calmer family life. In just 4 evenings see your relationships start to transform, your communication improve and inject the fun back into your home.*

*If you have overspent at Christmas we can offer advice on money management to get you back on track. We are also advertising on our Facebook page a weekly recipe that's affordable and easy to make. On those chilly rainy days when you are stuck indoors, why not try cooking with your little one instead of turning on the TV to reduce screen time. A healthy diet helps fight off those winter germs and keeps bugs at bay. We sell Healthy Start vitamins here at the Centre if you need a boost in addition to your diet.*

*Just a reminder that every Friday after the playground whistle, the Childrens Centre host a coffee morning for any Dovers Green parents / carers and their younger siblings. It's an hour long drop in session for a cosy cuppa and a chat to warm up after the morning school run and a great chance to build and nurture relationships around your child's School life while your little ones can play - we have toys, books and colouring for them.*

*We look forward to seeing you all again soon.*

*Anna and the Team*

I would like to take this opportunity of wishing everyone a happy term and should there be anything you are uncertain about, please come in to discuss it with me.

Yours sincerely



**Anya Salisbury**  
**Headteacher**



## Dates for Your Diary



Monday 14 January	'Problem Solving Week' begins Parent Forum Meeting 9.00 a.m. in Beavers Rabbits Parents Meeting with Anya Salisbury 2.30 p.m.
Tuesday 15 January	<b>Deadline for Primary School Applications</b>
Thursday 17 January	Rabbits Class Assembly 9.00 a.m. 'Problem Solving' Census Lunch
Friday 18 January	Rabbits Parents Meeting with Anya Salisbury 8.50 a.m. Bring your Dad to School Afternoon 1.40 p.m. – 3.00 p.m.
Saturday 19 January	Whizz Bang Charity Keep fit event at 1.30 p.m. in the School Hall
Thursday 24 January	Foxes Class Assembly 9.00 a.m. <b>Deadline for nominations for Parent Governor 12 noon</b> Mathematics Curriculum Evening 7.00 p.m. – 8.30 p.m.
Thursday 31 January	Yellow Ladybirds Class Assembly 9.00 a.m.
Tuesday 5 February	Safer Internet Day
Thursday 7 February	Blue Ladybirds Class Assembly 9.00 a.m.
Monday 11 February	<b>Deadline for the return of Parent Governor ballot papers 12 noon</b> Parent Teacher Consultations 3.30 p.m. – 6.30 p.m.
Thursday 14 February	Red Ladybirds Class Assembly 9.00 a.m. Parent Teacher Consultations 3.30 p.m. – 6.30 p.m.
<b>Friday 15 February</b>	<b>INSET DAY</b>
<b>Monday 18 – Friday 22 February</b>	<b>Half Term</b>



# How the app Works



Firstly, you will need to download the app from either the [iTunes App Store](#) , [Google Play](#) or [Windows Store](#) by clicking on the relevant buttons below or by loading up the app store on your phone and searching for 'School News'.

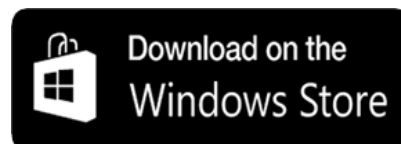
Once you have located and downloaded the free app, launch the app and you will then be able to either click on the '**Find my school**' button which uses the phones GPS to locate all the schools in the surrounding 20 miles, or you can type in the schools postcode and click on '**Get my school**' button.

Your school's postcode is: **RH2 7RF**

You will then see a list of schools that use the app. Click on the school you wish to view news & events for.

You will then be able to click on the '**News**' button to view all of the latest news items that have been added to the school(s) you have selected and also all of the upcoming calendar events by clicking on the '**Events**' button.

Clicking on '**My Schools**' will display a list of schools that you view news and events for. Clicking on one of the schools will the display the school address, telephone number and email address which you can click on to either phone or email the school directly from the app.



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