

12th March
2021

THE DOWNS SCHOOL NEWS

Message from Ms Allen

It has been a really good week. We have had a very high percentage of children in school all week and we want to thank you for trusting us to have put all the necessary precautions in place to make it as safe as possible for your child to be in school, this has made it easier for us as we have not had to make too many phone calls. As a reminder, if your child is going to be absent from school please call and let us know as soon as possible. No contact results in us having to complete a home visit and in some cases to contact social care. Please make sure we have two or more up to date contacts for you.

The children have spent some time reconnecting with each other and have been working hard all week. I am sure they will be tired when they get home today.

Social Distancing

The staggered times are in place to reduce congestion, so please try not to arrive too early and ensure you follow social distancing whilst on site, we do try to be outside daily but it will not always be possible, so we rely on you to follow the guidelines. Thank you for not letting children on the play equipment – remember they are not allowed to use this after or before school and they must not ride their bike or scooter in the playground.

Laptops

Thank you for returning the loaned laptop, again this has been made easy by you bringing it back as asked. They will be used in school to support learning and it will also allow us to have spares if a bubble has to be sent home. We are still waiting for a few to be returned – it is vital that you do return it as it was made clear that it was a loan and signed out by you.

We want the children to get outside and do some gardening. If you do have any spare equipment (especially child size) at home and you are willing to donate it to the school that would be great.

Year 6

Well done to the Year 6 children who attended booster sessions this week, your dedication is admirable. Although the government has decided that they will not be sitting SATS in the same way as previous years have they will still be assessed and they all still need to continue to make progress and be Secondary ready. This is why we are still putting in place all the support we had before and we highly recommend that you talk to your child and explain that the more they learn and know the easier it will be to make that transition into secondary school. Year 6 children should all know what secondary school they will be attending. If you don't know please come to the office so someone can help you.

Year 6 children have been wearing their leavers tops. As a reminder you can get a form from the office and these can be ordered through Lofty Creations as this is the company that we have agreed could use our school logo.

We are not permitted at this point in time to go on any school visits, so we have planned some virtual ones. Please make sure your child is in school and does not miss out. We would normally have planned a residential trip for Year 5 children when they are in Year 6, but we have been advised not to at the moment. Equally swimming is currently not an option.

Word of the Week

cajole – Have you had to **cajole** your Year 6 child to attend booster sessions this week?

Please remember on Tuesday 16th March, children can wear their funky socks to school to raise awareness for young carers.

House Points - Children are able to earn Team Points for their house by working together and showing a good team spirit.

 Dragon	286
 Griffin	266
 Lion	305
 Unicorn	297

WELL DONE LION!



Stars of the week – to children who have really shone in class and impressed a member of staff.

Amaiyah in Mulberry Class
Callie in Holly Class
Andra in Elm Class
Harrison in Larch Class
Eshaal in Sycamore Class
Gabriela in Maple Class
Reece in Aspen Class

Uma in Cedar Class
Brooke P in Rowan Class
Minaj in Chestnut Class
Sadie in Willow Class
Hassaan in Birch Class
Amy in Hazel Class
Georgia in Oak Class



Team Spirit - Children are able to earn Team Points for their house by working together and showing a good team spirit. Children who have been awarded for Team Spirit are as follows.

 **Dragon House**
Nandi in Sycamore Class
Shongayi in Aspen Class
Poppy in Oak Class

 **Griffin House**
Sharon in Holly Class

 **Lion House**
Mia in Mulberry Class
Mishal in Elm Class
Lilli-Rose in Cedar Class
George in Rowan Class
Elias in Chestnut Class
Frankie in Birch Class
Ronny in Hazel Class

 **Unicorn House**
Newton in Larch Class
Olivia in Maple Class
Mia H in Willow Class

Diary Dates for the Spring Term 2021

Tuesday 16th March	Funky Socks Day for Young Carers
Wednesday 17th March	Virtual Farm Trip – Larch (9:30am) and Elm (11am)
Friday 19th March	Virtual Farm Trip – Holly and Mulberry (1pm)
Wednesday 24th March	Virtual Farm Trip – Maple (1:30pm)
Thursday 25th March	Virtual Farm Trip – Sycamore (1:15pm)
Friday 26th March	Purple Day to support Epilepsy
Friday 26th March	1.30 school closure
Monday 29th March – Friday 9th April	Easter Holidays – School Closed
Monday 12th April	Children return to school

More events and details regarding specific events will follow.



Now we are back in school I have been asking children if they have been reading at home and of course they all say they are. Please sign your child's reading record, encourage them to read daily, ask them questions about their book and read with them – children love to hear adults read.

Reading is a fundamental life skill. In fact, it is one of the most important ingredients to becoming all that you can be.

Reading develops your brain, provides a window into the world around you and helps you do better in all school subjects.

Most importantly, reading can not only help you become a better student, but a better person. You can learn from the brightest people whenever and wherever you choose.

Here are some inspiring quotes about reading that show the power and impact it can have on you and the world:

1. *"Once you learn to read, you will be forever free."* — Frederick Douglass
2. *"The more that you read, the more things you will know. The more you learn, the more places you'll go."*— Dr. Seuss, *"I Can Read With My Eyes Shut!"*
3. *"I find television very educating. Every time somebody turns on the set, I go into the other room and read a book."* – Groucho Marx
4. *"There are many little ways to enlarge your world. Love of books is the best of all."* – Jacqueline Kennedy
5. *"Today a reader, tomorrow a leader."* – Margaret Fuller
6. *"There is more treasure in books than in all the pirate's loot on Treasure Island."* – Walt Disney
7. *"There are worse crimes than burning books. One of them is not reading them."* – Ray Bradbury
8. *"Reading without reflecting is like eating without digesting."* – Edmund Burke
9. *"The reading of all good books is like conversation with the finest (people) of the past centuries."* – Descartes
10. *"Reading is to the mind what exercise is to the body."* – Richard Steele
11. *"So please, oh PLEASE, we beg, we pray, Go throw your TV set away, And in its place you can install, A lovely bookshelf on the wall."* — Roald Dahl, *Charlie and the Chocolate Factory*
12. *"Reading is a discount ticket to everywhere."* – Mary Schmich
13. *"Books are a uniquely portable magic."* – Stephen King
14. *"No entertainment is so cheap as reading, nor any pleasure so lasting."* — Lady Montagu
15. *"To learn to read is to light a fire"* — Victor Hugo, *Les Miserables*
16. *"You can find magic wherever you look. Sit back and relax all you need is a book!"* – Dr. Seuss
17. *"Books train your mind to imagination to think big"* – Taylor Swift
18. *"If you are going to get anywhere in life you have to read a lot of books."* – Roald Dahl
19. *"Reading is to the mind what exercise is to the body"* – Joseph Addison
20. *"The whole world opened up to me when I learned to read"* – Mary McCleod Bethune