

16th April
2021

THE DOWNS SCHOOL NEWS

Message from Ms Allen

We hope you had a lovely Easter break and are now able to get out more with some of the restrictions now lifted – we expect to see lots of new hair styles over the next couple of weeks! It has been great to see children bringing back their homework forms and collecting their house points. If your child created a design for all the plastic bottles we collected please send the design in.

The Downs Primary School and Nursery governing body needs you! An opportunity has arisen to recruit a community governor to our Local Governing Body. Governance is a challenging and demanding role, but also a very rewarding one. As a parent governor, you'll work in partnership with the Headteacher, the senior leadership team and co-operatively with other local governors to raise standards and improve outcomes for all children in our school.

This is a voluntary position, but there are many reasons why our local governors find their role rewarding. As a local governor you would:

- contribute to raising standards of education in our school, making a positive difference to the lives of young people now and in the future.
- have the chance to serve the local community and meet like-minded people who share the same passion for school improvement.
- realise your own potential by learning new skills which are transferable and offer the prospect of greater personal career development.
- No previous experience as a governor is necessary but you need a strong commitment to the role of improving outcomes for children, the inquisitiveness to question and analyse, and the willingness to learn. Successful applicants will be subject to an enhanced disclosure through the Disclosure Barring Service.
- For more information about the role and to apply, please email the Governance Manager, Mrs Deb Bartram: d.bartram@passmoresacademy.com

Parent consultation

Thank you once again for completing the parent survey. If you added your name and we want to know more about your comment, we might contact and invite you in to discuss it further, we hope that's okay. If you did not leave your name but would also like this opportunity then please contact the school, state which question you want to discuss; and we will endeavour to accommodate this.

If you missed speaking to your child's class teacher before we broke up and you now wish to speak to them please contact the office and we will arrange this for you.

Postcards for great behaviour

From this week we will be sending home one postcard per class just to let you know your child has outstanding behaviour. If you receive a postcard in the post please congratulate your child. It's just an additional way to recognise and celebrate good behaviour.

Please remember in order to move forward and come out of all the restrictions around Covid-19 it is important that everyone complies to the rules. This means that in the unfortunate event we have to send home a bubble, due to a positive case, then children who have been told to isolate are not allowed, under any circumstances, to be in the playground dropping off and picking up. If you do this and your child later develops symptoms you would have put many people at a greater risk and that is simply not fair. Please do not bring your child onto the school site if they have been told to isolate. We appreciate you wearing your facemask on site.

The school House captains are busy organising a whole school event to join in with the Captain Tom 100 Challenge. We will add photos to Twitter.

Today children had the chance to participate in some events in remembrance of Prince Phillip, Duke of Edinburgh.

"There is more in you than you think" Plus est en vous.

This is the motto from Prince Philip's school which served as his inspiration to start the Duke of Edinburgh Award. He encouraged youngsters to challenge themselves, learn a new skill and explore the outdoors. For this reason classes focused largely on learning new skills and being outdoors.

Word of the week: **imminent** - On Sunday I knew the return to work was imminent and I was looking forward to seeing everyone back at school.

Big pedal next week

We're taking part in Sustrans Big Pedal 2021, the UK's largest inter-school cycling, walking, wheeling and scooting challenge. The challenge runs from **19th April to 23rd April**. All you need to do is encourage your child(ren) to take active journeys to school on as many days as possible during the event and join them on their way. You and your family can also win prizes during Sustrans Big Pedal. Simply post a photo of you and your child(ren) cycling, walking, wheeling or scooting to school on social media during the challenge using #BigPedalWin. To be in with a chance of winning, you'll need to follow Sustrans on Instagram [instagram.com/sustrans](https://www.instagram.com/sustrans), Twitter twitter.com/sustrans or Facebook facebook.com/Sustrans.

Be sure to check the terms and conditions found on the Big Pedal website prior to entering the competition.

Wellbeing support

The Essex Child and Family Wellbeing service are offering parents 30 minute virtual appointments to discuss their Child or young person's current emotional wellbeing challenges, offering strategies to be support them, signposting to online services and recommending services that best support children and young people. Please see the attached poster if you think this would be helpful.

This week UKS2 children has a session with the 2Johns about online safety. Please monitor your child's access to social media and we will continue to remind them how to be safe and how to use social media appropriately.

Homework will be available on the website from Monday.

<https://www.downsschool.com/page/?title=Homework&pid=1014>

If you have any issues or concerns regarding another parent, please speak to the school and do not take matters into your own hands. When speaking to members of staff please remember to treat them respectfully, be polite and do not shout at them.

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

 Dragon	176
 Griffin	204
 Lion	190
 Unicorn	275

WELL DONE UNICORN!



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**

Pearl in Elm Class
David in Sycamore Class
Logan in Maple Class
Brooke P in Rowan Class
Hadiya in Chestnut Class
Hasan in Oak Class

 **Griffin House**

Layla in Larch Class
Ray in Willow Class
Riley in Birch Class

 **Lion House**

Eshal in Mulberry Class
Raga in Holly Class

 **Unicorn House**

Sienna in Aspen Class
Sophie in Cedar Class
Amy in Hazel Class

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

Amelia in Acorn Class

Eric in Aspen Class

Joanne in Oak Class

Aaron in Mulberry Class

Eli in Cedar Class

Lacey in Holly Class

Jacob in Rowan Class

Sophie in Elm Class

Jermaine in Chestnut Class

Leo in Larch Class

Ben in Willow Class

Nazir in Sycamore Class

Mia in Birch Class

Stefan in Maple Class

Logan T in Hazel Class



Diary Dates for the Summer Term 2021

Thursday 22nd April	Year 3 Virtual Visit – British Museum
Tuesday 29th April	Virtual Crucial Crew – Year 6 1:45pm – 2:45pm
Wednesday 5th May	World Maths Day
Wednesday 19th May	Year 6 Virtual Visit – Evolution Workshop
Monday 31st May – Friday 4th June	Half Term
Monday 7th June	INSET Day
Thursday 17th June	School photos
Friday 2nd July	INSET Day
Monday 5th July – Friday 9th July	Year 6 Essex Outdoors
Wednesday 21st July	Early Closure for children – 1:30pm

More events and details regarding specific events will follow.