

### **Message from Ms Allen**

Welcome back to what will be a very busy half term. We are starting a new incentive called 'Look for a book' – books are being donated by staff and as a parent you can also donate and join in. All you have to do is choose a book your child has read and place it into a sealed plastic wallet or waterproof bag along with a note from the school (the notes are available from the school main office). Then you and your child hide the book somewhere around Harlow for another child to find and enjoy. When a child finds the book they will know it came from our school and we would be grateful if their parents could post it on social media or on our twitter page, @thedownsschool, and hopefully re-hide the book or keep it and hide one of their own books. We are really trying hard to promote reading, so please support us with this incentive.

### **Cinema Trips**

The cinema trips started this week and the children really enjoy this opportunity to see a film with their friends. We have several events coming up so please cast an eye on the calendar on the back of this newsletter and on the website and we will try to send text reminders to your phone.

### **Parents Evenings**

A big thank you to all the parents who came to one of our parent's evenings. We cannot stress how important it is that you take an interest in your child's learning. If you could not come at the times given, please speak to your child's class teacher or phone the office and we will endeavor to make arrangements for you to meet with your child's class teacher as soon as possible.

### **Children's Reading**

A big thank you to all those parents who hear their child read regularly. 27 children received their prizes for reading more than 5 times a week. Thank you to all the parents of those children. The children were very happy to choose their prizes.

### **School Lunchtimes**

We are working on improving how much your children enjoy their lunchtime play. Children in KS1 have lots of toys to keep them busy and engaged in play. Through our Pupil Leadership Team, we have learnt that children in KS2 have said they sometimes get bored outside so we are working on new ideas to improve their lunchtime experience. They are learning playground games in the PE lessons and they have been allocated different areas of the playground on different days of the week. We will continue to seek their views through assembly, class discussion and the PLT.

### **Homework for this half term**

Please make sure you access the website to see your child's homework for this half term. Also, use this opportunity to browse our website and if you think there is anything missing or other information you would like to see please let us know.

### **Childnet – Online Safety**

Childnet have updated their parent and carer toolkit to help parents have conversations about online safety. Their booklet 'Let's talk about life online' includes ten key messages that should be shared with children:

1. "You can always come to me if you need help."
2. "What would you do if this happened...?"
3. "Remember that not everyone is who they say they are online."
4. "Keep your personal information safe, and other people's too."
5. "Be respectful to others online."
6. "Think before you post."
7. "Remember to ask if it's okay."
8. "Remember not everything is true online."
9. "The things other people post online might not always show what their life is really like."
10. "Recognise how going online makes you feel and take a break when you need to."

The Parent and Carer Toolkit can be found here: <https://www.childnet.com/parents-and-carers/parent-and-carer-toolkit>

Diary Dates for the Autumn Term 2019	
Monday 11 <sup>th</sup> Nov – Friday 15 <sup>th</sup> Nov	Anti-bullying Week
Monday 11 <sup>th</sup> November	Remembrance Assemblies
Tuesday 12 <sup>th</sup> November	Odd Socks Day to Raise Anti-bullying Awareness
Wednesday 13 <sup>th</sup> November	No Pens Day in school Year 3 and 4 Cinema Trip
Friday 15 <sup>th</sup> November	Children in Need
Thursday 21 <sup>st</sup> November	Year 1 Trip to Toy Museum
<b>Friday 29<sup>th</sup> November</b>	<b>Non-Pupil Day (School closed to children)</b>
Monday 2 <sup>nd</sup> to Friday 6 <sup>th</sup> December	Last week for school clubs
Monday 2 <sup>nd</sup> December	Reception classes Christmas shows
Tuesday 3 <sup>rd</sup> December	Pantomime visiting school – whole school
Monday 9 <sup>th</sup> December	Year 1 Christmas shows
Wednesday 11 <sup>th</sup> December	KS2 Carol Service at St Paul's Church, Harlow Town
Wednesday 11 <sup>th</sup> December	Whole school Christmas Dinner
Friday 13 <sup>th</sup> December	Christmas Jumper Day
Monday 16 <sup>th</sup> December	Year 2 Christmas shows
Wednesday 18 <sup>th</sup> December	Christmas Discos
<b>Friday 20<sup>th</sup> December</b>	<b>1.30pm Break for Christmas Holidays</b>
<b>Monday 6<sup>th</sup> January 2020</b>	<b>Spring Term begins - Children return to school</b>
<b>More events and details regarding specific events will follow.</b>	

## Bikes and Scooters

Once again we are asking you to not let your child ride their bikes or scooters in the playground. Unfortunately, **we have had a parent complain that they almost got hit by an adult riding their bike in the playground which is simply not acceptable.** This is also a reminder that our car park is not to be used unless you have a permit from the school. We are now working with 3PR parking & Essex County Council.

**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**

Aleish in Willow Class  
Alesandra in Rowan Class  
Minaj in Aspen Class  
Jenithi in Chestnut Class  
Pearl in Mulberry Class  
Heidi in Maple Class  
Matilda in Rowan Class  
Logan in Elm Class  
Geoge G in Birch Class  
Mia B in Aspen Class

### **Griffin House**

Chole in Chestnut Class  
Evelyn-Delilah in Holly Class  
Abigail in Oak Class  
Bobby in Sycamore Class  
Payton in Hazel Class  
Renee in Willow Class

### **Lion House**

April in Hazel Class  
Maddison in Maple Class  
Miley in Larch Class  
Aniya in Elm Class  
George in Larch Class

### **Unicorn House**

David in Oak Class  
Miyah in Cedar Class  
Emilija in Birch Class  
Hajra in Holly Class  
Haseeb in Sycamore Class  
Kyra-Blu in Cedar Class  
Ezreal in Mulberry Class

## Safeguarding – Absence

It is absolutely vital that you contact the school if your child is going to be absent. Please just call the school on 01279445538. You can leave a message if for some reason the call is not answered (we do have a dedicated absence line where a message can be left).

For safeguarding reasons, if we are unaware of the reason for your child's absence we will call you. If we are unable to contact you, members of staff will visit your home. If contact still cannot be made, we might have to notify the Local Authority and/or notify the police that your child is missing, so it really is essential that you contact us each time your child is absent. As always, the safety of your children is our primary concern.

## Lost Property

We have a huge amount of lost property in school, mainly school jumpers. If you label your child's belonging's we are able to return them to your child. We are now in the cold season so please remember to label your child's coat as children do take them off and forget where they left it. Coats cost a lot of money if they go missing.

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

Isabel and Zaid in Oak Class  
Sufiyah and David in Birch Class  
Kye and Aliza in Chestnut Class  
Erika and Archie in Cedar Class  
Lilli-Rose and Ruby in Maple Class  
Izabel and Amiyah in Larch Class  
Dexter and Leo in Holly Class  
Alice, Millie and Haseeb in Acorn Class

Amber-Mae and Lucy in Hazel Class  
Amy and Roksana in Willow Class  
Maci and Olivia in Rowan Class  
Eva and Elias in Aspen Class  
Luke and Adam in Sycamore Class  
Olivia and Stefan in Elm Class  
Hayden and Christopher in Mulberry Class



## Anti-Bullying Week

Next week is anti-bullying week. As part of this we having an Odd Socks Day in school next Tuesday 12<sup>th</sup> November where the children can wear odd socks to school. The aim is to raise ant-bullying awareness and celebrate our differences and what makes us all unique. If you would like to donate to the Anti-Bullying Alliance charity you are able to do so through SIMs Pay.

We were recently visited by Firehorse Productions who performed 'Just Joshing'. The show was watched by children in Years 2 to 6 and taught the children about bullying and cyberbullying and what to do in these situations. It was thoroughly enjoyed by all of the children who made a fantastic audience!

## Children in Need – Friday 15<sup>th</sup> November

Friday 15<sup>th</sup> November is Children in Need day. This year, if your child wants to, they can come to school in their PJ's, wear something spotty or wear a Children in Need t-shirt, onsie, ears etc. We are asking for small donations for this worthwhile charity which can be made through SIMs Pay.

In addition, we are selling Children in Need merchandise – key rings, pin badges and wrist bands. These can be ordered through SIMs Pay and the items will be delivered to the children in class.

## Our Star Writers

Please see below our Star Writers. All these children have produced fabulous writing which is on display in the school and have been rewarded with a special pencil.

Weronika in Oak Class  
Shaurya in Willow Class  
Sadie in Chestnut Class  
Miyah in Cedar Class  
Zayan in Maple Class  
Ryan in Elm Class  
Indie in Holly Class

Tasnim in Hazel Class  
Valerie in Birch Class  
Olivia in Rowan Class  
Joel in Aspen Class  
Haseeb in Sycamore Class  
Hareem in Larch Class  
Andrew in Mulberry Class

