

6<sup>th</sup> December  
2019

# THE DOWNS SCHOOL NEWS

## **Message from Ms Allen**

The Christmas trees have gone up in every classroom and with the season of good will upon us we would like to give parents an opportunity to send a cheery message to staff. All you need to do is go into the main office, ask for a gift tag (or you can use your own one) and write a nice message to any member of staff. We will make sure it goes to the right person and is hung on their class Christmas tree.

We started this week with our first Christmas show for parents performed by our reception classes. Thank you so much for attending and thank you to all the staff for their hard work. The children really enjoyed themselves and we know you enjoyed seeing your children. We are looking forward to seeing Year 1 perform their show on Monday, 9<sup>th</sup> December and Year 2 the following week on Monday 16<sup>th</sup> December. Tickets for the Year 2 show will be sent home with the children next week.

We are still working very hard to promote reading by encouraging children to read at home regularly, asking you to read to your children and also discuss books. We are still hiding books around the local area for children to find and it was lovely to see one of our children found a book last week. Please support us with this and hide a book around town. You can collect the message slip that goes inside from the main office.

We are also still collecting vouchers from the Sun newspaper as part of their 'Books for Schools' campaign. If you have any vouchers I would be very grateful if you could send them into school.

This week children really enjoyed the Mad science day held at The Study Centre and the whole school enjoyed a pantomime of Beauty and the Beast. Thank you if you paid your £2 contribution towards this it really makes a difference.

I would also like to thank those year 6 parents that came along to our Year 6 class assemblies. The children really worked hard on them.

## **Continuing Car Park Issues**

We have had a lot of difficulties with various parking problems recently and disgruntled parents wanting to use the car park. As explained in a recent letter, we just do not have the facility to allow all the cars in as it would make it unsafe for the children. The letter we sent out last Thursday was sent with the hope that our parents and school community will work with us and support the school in making it safe for everyone.

## **SIMS-Pay**

Thank you to all the parents who have embraced SIMS pay and have paid for dinners, school trips and events. The aim is for it to be more convenient and to make life easier. If you are still experiencing any difficulty or have not attempted to use it then please come into the office any afternoon where a member of staff can assist you.

## **Key Stage 2 Carol Concert – 10.00am Wednesday 11<sup>th</sup> December**

On Wednesday 11<sup>th</sup> December Years 3 to 6 will be going to St Paul's Church in the Town Centre to enjoy their Carol Concert. Please come and join us at the church if you can. The concert is planned to start at 10.00am and I promise you will leave with that festive feeling and ready to get the wrapping done.

## **Coffee Morning with Professional Guests**

On Friday 13<sup>th</sup> December we are holding a coffee morning in the hall at 9am. All parents/carers are welcome to come in and join us for a mince pie, coffee/tea and a chat – this will be an informal event for parents and children will remain in their classes. Along with other professionals, our school counsellors and workers from the MIND Trailblazer Mental Health Team will be there to chat with you about provision for mental health and well-being in school. We will also be selling books from the book fair at the coffee morning – an ideal opportunity to pick up Christmas gifts.

## **Messy Lunches**

Messy Lunches is an event being held on Thursday 2<sup>nd</sup> January between 10.00am and 12.00noon at St Paul's Hall, College Square, Harlow Town Centre. Please do go along with your children for some free food and fun. Please note, entrance to the hall is via the double blue doors, on the terrace at the back.

## Parent Governor Vacancy

The Downs Local Governing Body (LGB) are seeking parents to become part of its board. We are looking for committed individuals that are keen to help develop and monitor school development. No experience is required as training will be given. All we require is a commitment to attend at least two evening meetings per term and the ability and willingness to visit the school in operation to ensure that school are implementing the policies and procedures that it has in place. If you are interested in becoming a parent governor please either email our Chair of Governors, Paul Adams at [p.adams@pclc.co.uk](mailto:p.adams@pclc.co.uk) or speak to a member of staff at reception.

### Diary Dates for the Autumn Term 2019

Monday 9 <sup>th</sup> December	9.30am/2.30pm Year 1 Christmas shows
Wednesday 11 <sup>th</sup> December	KS2 Carol Service at St Paul's Church, Harlow Town Centre
Wednesday 11 <sup>th</sup> December	Whole school Christmas Dinner
Friday 13 <sup>th</sup> December	Christmas Jumper Day
Friday 13 <sup>th</sup> December	Christmas Coffee Morning for Parents with Professionals
Friday 13 <sup>th</sup> December	10.45am/2.30pm Nursery Christmas Sing-a-long and Stay and Play
Friday 13 <sup>th</sup> December	Whole School House Afternoon – in school event
Monday 16 <sup>th</sup> December	9.30am/2.30pm Year 2 Christmas shows
Wednesday 18 <sup>th</sup> December	Christmas Discos
Wednesday 18 <sup>th</sup> December	Nursery and Reception Christmas Parties
Wednesday 18 <sup>th</sup> December	KS1 and KS2 Christmas Discos
Thursday 19 <sup>th</sup> December	Nursery break for Christmas
<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>	

**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**

Maisie in Chestnut Class  
Ryan in Sycamore Class  
Eva in Cedar Class  
Gabe in Larch Class  
Mia in Rowan Class  
Olivia in Aspen Class

#### **Griffin House**

Ronie in hazel Class  
Ethan in Elm Class  
Eric in Sycamore Class  
Claudia in Holly Class  
Elijah in Holly Class  
George in Willow Class  
Nathen in Elm Class  
Andra in Mulberry Class

#### **Lion House**

Millie in Oak Class  
Jessica in Mulberry Class  
Liam in Chestnut Class  
Chelsea in Birch Class  
Finley in Larch Class  
Filip in Cedar Class  
Mia in Aspen Class  
Max in Rowan Class

#### **Unicorn House**

Joseph in Maple Class  
Weronika in Oak Class  
Joanne in Birch Class  
Aaron in Hazel Class  
Malakhi in Willow Class  
Sophie in Maple Class

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

Crystal and Saram in Oak Class  
George and Teodosi in Birch Class  
Jenah and Glen in Chestnut Class  
Zara and Olivia in Cedar Class  
Sahil and Freya in Maple Class  
Hareem and Trey in Larch Class  
Ella in Holly Class

Bailey and Ronie in Hazel Class  
Freya and Natalia in Willow Class  
Vivaan and Riley in Rowan Class  
Christian and Julia in Aspen Class  
Ava-Rose and Adam in Sycamore Class  
Lucy and Nicholas in Elm Class  
De-Andre in Mulberry Class

Everyone in Holly and Mulberry for a wonderful Nativity.

