

10<sup>th</sup> January  
2020

# THE DOWNS SCHOOL NEWS

## Message from Ms Allen

Welcome back. It has been lovely to see the children and hear about their Christmas news. You would have received your child's attendance summary before the holiday. The government recommends that attendance should be 96% or above. This week we gave out 169 attendance certificates for children who had 100% attendance in Autumn 2. Well done to all of them. Please do remember that it is vital you contact us if your child is absent from school and that all holidays have to be taken out of term time, during school holidays.

## Penpals for Handwriting

We are using **Penpals for Handwriting** in school. This is a complete handwriting scheme for 3–11 year olds that offers clear progression through five developmental stages: physical preparation for handwriting, securing correct letter formation, beginning to join, securing the joins and practising speed and fluency.



All children will be practising their handwriting daily in school and developing a personal style to help develop their stamina when writing. Please see our website for details of what your child will be doing, which you could also use at home.

## Safer Parking

We have been working with 3PR to try and make parking safer around the school. We will be delivering letters to local residents this coming week and will shortly be sending an email to parents with a plan of action to try and alleviate congestion around the school.

All this information will also be added to our website after the children have had an assembly from 3PR. Please look out for your email and do all you can to help us try and make a safer environment for everyone.



## Update to RSE Curriculum and Policy

We will be sending a letter out next week explaining The Department for Education's announcement on compulsory changes to relationships and sex education (RSE).

These changes will come into effect from September 2020 and all schools will be required to comply with the updated requirements. In light of this we have reviewed our RSE curriculum and policy and this can be found on our website for you to look through.

## Don't Forget – Two Johns Meeting – Tuesday 14<sup>th</sup> January

On Tuesday we look forward to inviting the Two Johns into our school. The internet, social media and on-line gaming have become a way of life and are constantly updating and changing. It is essential that we all know how to keep children safe when they are using technology and are up to date with the latest safety information and practices.



Please make sure you come along to the meeting next Tuesday if you can. If you can't make it then feel free to send along another family adult. Please also make sure you complete the letter sent out to you this week so that we know how many people to expect. We look forward to seeing you on Tuesday - there will be an opportunity to ask questions.

## Spring term Curriculum and Homework

Please keep an eye on our website early next week for our Spring Term curriculum information for each year group and their homework to be completed this first half term.

## Lost Property

We have a huge amount of lost property in school. This will be given to the refuge if it is not claimed by next week. Please remember to label your child's belongings so that we can return any lost items to your child.

**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**

Freya in Maple Class  
 Indie in Holly Class  
 Leilani in Mulberry Class

 **Griffin House**

Abigail in Oak Class  
 Lilly in Rowan Class  
 Poppy in Sycamore Class  
 Zoe in Larch Class

 **Lion House**

Ben in Hazel Class  
 Chelsea in Birch Class  
 Alexandra in Willow Class  
 Justin in Aspen Class  
 Finley in Elm Class

 **Unicorn House**

Mason in Chestnut Class  
 Oliver in Cedar Class

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

Muhammad in Oak Class  
 Emiliya in Birch Class  
 Liam in Chestnut Class  
 Matteo in Cedar Class  
 Stanley in Maple Class  
 Poppy in Larch Class  
 Samuel in Holly Class  
 Ayla and Tyler in Acorn Class

Aaron in Hazel Class  
 Ruby in Willow Class  
 Alesandra in Rowan Class  
 Roselyn in Aspen Class  
 Isla in Sycamore Class  
 Aleigha in Elm Class  
 Jacob in Mulberry Class



Diary Dates for the Spring and Summer Terms 2020	
Tuesday 14 <sup>th</sup> January	The 2 Johns E Safety Training for Staff, Children and Parents
Monday 20 <sup>th</sup> – Friday 24 <sup>th</sup> January	Culture Week
<b>Friday 31<sup>st</sup> January</b>	<b>Non Pupil Day (school closed to children)</b>
Friday 7 <sup>th</sup> February	2.45pm Chestnut Class Assembly
Friday 12 <sup>th</sup> February	Dragon and Griffin House Assemblies
Thursday 13 <sup>th</sup> February	Unicorn and Lion House Assemblies
Friday 14 <sup>th</sup> February	2.45pm Rowan Class Assembly
<b>Friday 14<sup>th</sup> February</b>	<b>3.15pm School Breaks for Half Term</b>
<b>Monday 17<sup>th</sup> – Friday 21<sup>st</sup> February</b>	<b>Half Term (school closed to children)</b>
<b>Monday 24<sup>th</sup> February</b>	<b>Children return to school</b>
Tuesday 25 <sup>th</sup> February	KS1 + 2 Puppet Assemblies (in school)
Monday 9 <sup>th</sup> - Friday 13 <sup>th</sup> March	Healthy Schools Week
Tuesday 10 <sup>th</sup> March	Year 2 Warburtons Workshop (class 1 - in school)
Wednesday 11 <sup>th</sup> March	Year 2 Warbutons Workshop (class 2 – in school)
Thurs 19 <sup>th</sup> and Fri 20 <sup>th</sup> March	Skipping workshops for Years 1 to 6
Friday 27 <sup>th</sup> March	Whole School House Events
Tuesday 31 <sup>st</sup> March	3.30pm – 6.00pm Parent/Teacher Consultation Evening
Thursday 2 <sup>nd</sup> April	4.00pm – 7.00pm Parent/Teacher Consultation Evening
Friday 3 <sup>rd</sup> April	1.30pm School Breaks for Easter Holidays
<b>Monday 6<sup>th</sup> – Friday 17<sup>th</sup> April</b>	<b>Easter Holidays (school closed to children)</b>
Monday 20 <sup>th</sup> April	Summer Term begins – Children return to school