

24th January
2020

THE DOWNS SCHOOL NEWS

Message from Ms Allen

Thank you to all the parents who attended the after school session last Tuesday with the 2Johns. It was really well attended with around 70 parents. We hope you took something away with you and now feel more informed and prepared to protect your children from the dangers online.

Friends of The Downs – Parent Teacher Association (PTA)

We are really pleased to say that we are starting a Parent Teacher Association (PTA). The main role of a PTA is to build strong working relationships among parents, teachers and schools, in support of the children. Successful PTA's help a school become more successful by raising a significant portion of the school's discretionary money. The PTA has a lot of power to influence which programs are funded. Joining this will provide an invaluable way of supporting the school and your children in their learning. If you have some free time, are interested in becoming a member and would like more information please email friendsofthedowns@downs.essex.sch.uk

**GET
INVOLVED!**

New Reading Display

We are asking for your help with a new display to further encourage a love of reading. We would be very grateful if you could take a photo of your child reading in an unusual place and either send the photo in with your child or email it to joanne.pavlou@downs.essex.sch.uk We can then print it and add to our new display.

P.E. Kits

We would like to thank those parents who have ensured that their children have the correct PE kit in school ready for their lessons. However, it has come to our attention that not all children have a PE kit in school. Exercise and PE are a very important part of life and the curriculum. If there are reasons why your child does not have a PE kit to change into then please ask to speak to Mr Esteves, our PE coordinator.

Jewellery in School

I would also like to remind parents that children should not be wearing jewellery to school. Due to health and safety earrings are not to be worn for PE lessons. Please make sure you remove your child's earrings before school on their PE day. If your child's ears are newly pierced, then please cover them with tape before school on their PE days. If you do not know what day your child's lessons fall on, please check with your child's Class Teacher or TA.



Website Reminder – Homework and Overviews – www.downsschool.com

A reminder that homework for this half term is available on the website. Year group overviews for this term are also available for you to see what your child will be learning about this term and we have also added information regarding our new handwriting scheme. There is a lot of information about our school available on the website – please do take a look.

Young Carers

We would like to support children who are also young carers. If you think your child might be spending time caring for an adult or sibling in your family please let us know so we can provide additional support for them in school. Again more information about this is available on our website.

Chinese New Year Special Menu – Thursday 30th January

Our Cook, Mrs Evans, will be serving a Chinese New Year themed menu next Thursday. A copy of the menu is attached with this newsletter.

Attention Year 5 Parents

Please make sure you have returned to school your child's Kingswood 2020 slip indicating whether or not they will be attending. We do need the relevant slip returned even if your child is not attending the trip please.

Please also remember that to secure your child a place we must receive the £40.00 deposit by next Thursday, 30th January. If you have any questions or concerns, please do come in and speak to Mrs McClelland.



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 Willow Class
 Ryan in Sycamore Class
 Mason in Rowan Class
 Sam in Chestnut Class
 Lacey in Maple Class
 Eli in Holly Class
 Andrew in Mulberry Class
 Mason in Aspen Class

 **Griffin House**

Zaid in Oak Class
 Frejya in Birch Class
 Sarah in Oak Class
 David in Birch Class
 Sophie in Chestnut Class
 Rasia in Mulberry Class
 Isabella in Cedar Class

 **Lion House**

Robert in Holly Class
 April in Hazel Class
 Harley in Elm Class

 **Unicorn House**

Amber-Mae in Hazel Class
 Owen in Rowan Class
 Angel in Aspen Class
 Sophie in Maple Class
 Max in Larch Class
 Ajla in Cedar Class
 James in Elm Class
 Yi-Cong in Willow Class
 Azoulas in Sycamore Class
 Izabel in Larch Class

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

Diana and Weronika in Oak Class
 Zain and Billie in Birch Class
 Chase and Frankie in Chestnut Class
 Miyah and Bethany-Anne in Cedar Class
 Noemie and Martin in Maple Class
 Kadie and Mishal in Larch Class
 Newton and Lucy in Holly Class
 Shania and Mia in Acorn Class

Payton and Lizzy in Hazel Class
 Logan and Ribaha in Willow Class
 Ben and Ted in Rowan Class
 Nursrath and Patrycja in Aspen Class
 Isabelle and Reece in Sycamore Class
 Anastasia and Ethan in Elm Class
 Jessica and Mia in Mulberry Class



Diary Dates for the Spring and Summer Terms 2020

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

After School Clubs

Many of our after school clubs are now full, but we do have some spaces in the following –

ICT/Homework for Years 2 to 6 on Thursdays Origami for Years 3 to 6 on Wednesdays
 Archery for Years 4 to 6 on Fridays Get Fit with Mr Carver for Years 3 to 6 on Thursdays
 Chess for Years 3 to 6 on Fridays

If you would like to sign your child up to take part in one of these clubs, please make your payment and book through SIMs-Pay. Thank you.

Culture Week

We have been celebrating Culture Week in school this week. Please discuss with your child the activities they have been taking part in and the cultures they have been learning about this week. More information will be on the website shortly.