

# The Downs Primary School and Nursery

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## The Downs School News – Friday 1<sup>st</sup> May 2020

Dear Parents and Carers,

We are now at the end of week 6 of lockdown and I am sure by now you are in a routine. However, if you find yourself having to go back to work, we do have children in school, or if you need some support or someone to talk to please email us and we will call you back. We are here to help where we can. Thank you again for responding to the emails daily and we hope the work that has been set has been easier to access and your children have enjoyed completing it. The competitions and extra work sent on the emails are just for fun so please do not worry if you don't do everything, we don't expect you to. It has been lovely to see so many new faces on Twitter and our followers have gone up to 279!

In these times it is important to recognise acts of kindness. We would like to thank one of our parents in particular who has organised cards for one of our families going through an extremely difficult time at present.

A Coronavirus Crisis Bereavement Line funded by the Clinical Commissioning Groups across Essex has opened in support of all bereaved adults and children. The service is being run by the charity Havens Hospices and is open seven days a week from 9am - 6pm. The telephone helpline is for bereaved adults and children who have lost a loved one, directly or indirectly, as a result of Coronavirus. Anyone who calls can speak to an experienced counsellor or bereavement worker who can listen, support and offer advice during these challenging times. The number to call is 01702 220 321 or you can visit [havenshospices.org.uk/crisisline](http://havenshospices.org.uk/crisisline) to find out more.

Today, Friday 1<sup>st</sup> May is Pyjamarama Day – it is a time to celebrate the bedtime story and the enjoyment of reading together. This year Pyjamarama Day will be a day when families can stay in their PJ's and join in a festival of story-filled fun at home. Please send your teacher videos or photos of you enjoying stories and books for our Twitter feed as we love seeing what you are doing! Also please tell us or show us the title of your favourite book.

We really hope you had fun with the 'Who am I?' quiz. If you haven't had a go at it yet, please do and see if you can work out the names of the staff from their childhood photos. Can anyone guess which one I am? Here are 3 clues:

- 🔍 My mum cut my fringe
- 🔍 I am old so photos were not in colour
- 🔍 I still have the same teddy bear

Thank you to all the children for writing messages for Captain Tom's birthday. We hope he likes the video we made. Please go to the website to view this and our Twitter feed to like it.

This year, like many things, it will look and feel different for our families during the Holy month of Ramadan, not being able to visit friends, family and the mosque but we wish them a safe and peaceful Holy month.

Although times are so uncertain, we are hoping to get back to school as soon as possible. We therefore wanted to remind parents about applying for a Nursery place for September. To do this you can download an application form from our website at the link below and then, once completed, email it to us at [admin@downs.essex.sch.uk](mailto:admin@downs.essex.sch.uk). Lots of information about our school and nursery can be found on our website and if you would like to visit our nursery, just give us a call or send us an email once school reopens and we can arrange that for you.

For nursery admission and application information and form go to - <https://www.downsschool.com/page/?title=Nursery+Admissions&pid=1035&action=saved>

On that note, much of the guidance coming into schools now is asking us to think about what needs to be in place for when schools return. We do not know when this will be, what this will look like yet or what the government will propose. From a school point of view, we will do everything we can to make it safe for staff and children. We are also thinking about all the events that have been missed during this period of closure and we will endeavour to look at what it will be possible to do safely and in the time given, including organising a goodbye to our Year 6 children.

Coming up for next week is the 'Stay at Home Tea Party' on Friday 8<sup>th</sup> May (see flyer attached). Join us in celebrating the 75<sup>th</sup> anniversary of VE Day by having a tea party in your living room or garden. You could make and send invitations to members of your household asking them to come along, help your grown up by making some food and drink for the tea party and decorate your window, living room or garden in red, white and blue. Don't forget - send us your photos of you all celebrating for our Twitter page.

As always stay safe and look after each other.

Kind regards



Ms Jeanette Allen  
Headteacher

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*It is your responsibility to monitor your child's use of any of these websites and their suitability for your child.*