

The Downs Primary School and Nursery

The Hides, Harlow, Essex, CM20 3RB.

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The Downs School News – Friday 5th May 2020

Dear Parents and Carers,

Welcome back to the last half term of this year. It seems surreal considering the circumstances we have endured since March. We hope you and your families had a good half term break and managed to enjoy the sunshine, (apparently the sunniest May on record).

As you know, this week we welcomed back our Year 6 children. It has been lovely to see them in school and, although it is only for a couple of hours, and there are only a few of them in, it has been good to see them in the classrooms enjoying their lessons. My office is directly underneath Year 6 and I have heard all the chatter these last few days, which has made the school come alive again.

Just a reminder that our social distancing measures mean the car park is closed as Year 6 use this area to leave the site and children in supervision wait there in the morning until Year 6 have all gone in. There are social distancing and one-way systems in place all around the school site complying with the risk assessment which is available to you upon request should you wish to see it. If you do need to come into the school grounds, please follow all the procedures in place. They are there for the safety of you, your child and the staff. We also suggest, if you need to speak to us for any reason, you phone the school office or email your child's teacher rather than coming in to school.

Year 6 children who came into school this week quickly understood the social distancing measures put in place and were able to follow the new rules and routines with no problems. We look forward to welcoming more children back, but we also recognise this is a choice that is made by parents and not an easy decision to make. Please feel free to call us or email the teacher if you wish to discuss what to do. In the meantime, please remember that your child is still being set the same work to do at home.

Some Year 1 children will be back on Monday and we have made lessons short and routines manageable, so that they too will be able to follow the expectations and enjoy coming back to school.

We will let you know when the Trust feels it is safe and manageable to invite further year groups back to school.

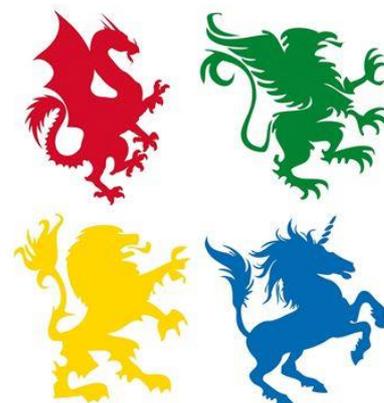
We hope you have all been able to access the home learning and your daily email from the class teacher. Please remember they are there to help if you have any questions about learning and feel free to call the school or email admin@downs.essex.sch.uk if you have any other problems or want any advice or just someone to talk to.

As a decision was made by The Trust not to invite our youngest children back into school at this point in time, Reception staff have been making video lessons and adding these to Tapestry. We hope you have been enjoying these videos and they have helped your child to enjoy their learning.

If you need a new book for your child to write in feel free to call or email your child's class teacher and arrange a time to collect a book from the school.

Today we have added the four House Scavenger Hunt videos to our website - one from each House Leader. Thank you to all the children who participated by sending in pictures of their coloured objects.

This part of the competition was to make the best video; all four videos are really good and a lot of thought and work went into them. Please go onto our website to view the video (especially the one for your own house) and then go to twitter @TheDownsPrimary to vote for your favourite video. Voting will close early next week so get your vote logged quickly. The competition is not over yet! The four House Leaders are also growing their sunflower and at the moment Unicorn House has the tallest plant – again, see Twitter for updates.



We sent a twitter link last week for KS2 children to enter the competition to illustrate the new J.K Rowling book 'The Icabog'. You can also find out more about this on our website. Good luck if you enter!

We are looking into organising a virtual sports day for children to take part in so please look out for information about this soon.

Lastly, but very importantly, we want you to know that we will be sending out reports towards the end of this term.

Have a lovely weekend

Kind regards

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'J. Allen', with a horizontal line extending to the right.

Ms Jeanette Allen
Headteacher