

The Downs Primary School and Nursery

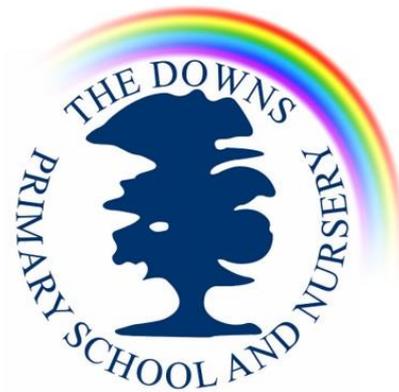
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The Downs School News – Friday 17th July 2020

This newsletter contains important information regarding arrangements for September – Please make sure you read it in full. Thank you.

Dear Parents and Carers,

This is now the last weekly newsletter of this year. Last week we ended the week by saying goodbye to many of our Year 6 children. We are so pleased that we could bring them together one last time before they go on to their secondary schools and the next adventure of their lives. Thank you for bringing them in. We wish them all well and hope to see them soon.

When we return to school in September we will be adhering to and following all the guidance set out by the DfE. If you would like to read the current advice, I have attached a link to the DfE documents below.

https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/what-parents-and-carers-need-to-know-about-early-years-providers-schools-and-colleges-during-the-coronavirus-covid-19-outbreak?utm_source=15%20July%202020%20C19&utm_medium=Daily%20Email%20C19&utm_campaign=DfE%20C19

School returns for children on Thursday 3rd September.

In the newsletter last week, I provided some information about what September might look like. What I can now tell you is that we will be having a staggered and soft start and end to the day.

The children should go straight to their classrooms and not wait in the playgrounds. The timings set out below will allow for less congestion around the school site.

Years 1, 3 and 5 – Children should arrive between 8.40am and 8.45am.
They will end the day between 3.05pm and 3.10pm.

Years 2, 4 and 6 – Children should arrive between 8.50am and 8.55am
They will end the day between 3.15pm and 3.20pm.

Reception Once the children are attending a full day (as from Monday 14th September) –
Children should arrive at 8.55am and will finish at 3.15pm.

Nursery children will continue with their current start and end times –
Mornings – 8.30am until 11.30am
Afternoons – 12.30pm until 3.30pm
Full day – 8.30am until 3.30pm

If you have children in different year groups, starting at different times, you can drop off all of your

children in one visit and each child must go straight to their classroom. All teachers will be in their classroom from 8.40am for this purpose. Older children can be dropped off at the gates to walk in on their own to reduce congestion. If you want your Year 6 or Year 5 child to walk home alone, please inform us in writing when you return.

The main gate and Greenhills gate will be open as normal to ease congestion. However, the car park will remain closed for safety reasons.

Lunches - Throughout the day, including at break times and lunchtimes, children will be kept in their year group bubbles. This has meant changing the times of lunch slightly to accommodate everyone.

Year 1 and 2 will remain at 12.00noon to 1.00pm

Year 3 and 4 will change to 12.00noon to 1.00pm

Year 5 and 6 will move to 12.30pm to 1.30pm.

Children can still choose between bringing in a healthy packed lunch or having a school dinner. The menu will be posted on the website before September and will be on a two-week rota.

We do need **every child to bring in their own labelled bottle filled with water** every day as we will not have water fountains in use. They will also need this for lunchtime. The children will need to be in **school uniform** and will also need a **P.E. kit**. Children do not need to bring in any additional resources such as a pencil case, as all equipment will be supplied and labelled for your child's use only.

Breakfast Club will be open as normal from 8.00am, but children attending Breakfast Club will not be in year group bubbles and therefore, sending them to Breakfast Club will be your choice. We will of course group them where possible and follow additional hygiene measures.

We will continue to provide children with a FREE breakfast of cereal if they want it. If you do not want your child to be offered cereal, please inform us in writing.

As it stands at the moment, there will be **no after school clubs running for Autumn Term** and no school trips. We are in discussion with Kingswood at present regarding the residential trip for next year's Year 6. We will of course let those parents concerned know the outcome as soon as we have it.

We will also be limiting the number of people visiting the school and where possible we will continue with on-line meetings.

As I said last week, I am sure there will be mixed feelings about children returning to school and **we will send another newsletter on Friday 28th August** (the week before returning), to cover any potential updates and to reiterate this information.

The school office will be open from Wednesday 2nd September. On Thursday 3rd we will have staff outside to show children where to go. We cannot wait to see children back in school, in their uniform, ready to learn.

Health and Wellbeing

In case you do need any additional support or advice over the summer we have posted several organisations documents on our website under the Health and Wellbeing section -

<https://www.downsschool.com/page/?title=Health+and+Wellbeing&pid=1030>. Please take a few

minutes to have a look, there are some lovely ideas, challenges and self-care ideas to support you and your family, or a friend.

See Hear Respond is a service provided across England by Barnardo's and other national and local community-based organisations in response to the coronavirus (COVID-19) outbreak. The programme has been created to help children and young people in England who are experiencing harm and increased adversity during this period by providing support to those who are not being seen by social care or other key agencies. Working with its partners, Barnardo's aims to reduce the likelihood of harm and ensure other support and protective networks are in place. See Hear Respond accept referrals from any source either through the Freephone number 0800 151 7015 and via the https://www.barnardos.org.uk/see-hear-respond?utm_source=8%20July%202020%20C19&utm_medium=Daily%20Email%20C19&utm_campaign=DfE%20C19

Reading Together

To support reading together the DfE have published tips for parents and carers of primary aged children to help them encourage and support their children to read. They contain ideas on how to plan reading opportunities at home and make reading enjoyable and engaging, including during the coronavirus (COVID-19) outbreak. https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/10-top-tips-to-encourage-children-to-read?utm_source=16%20July%202020%20C19&utm_medium=Daily%20Email%20C19&utm_campaign=DfE%20C19

House Winners!

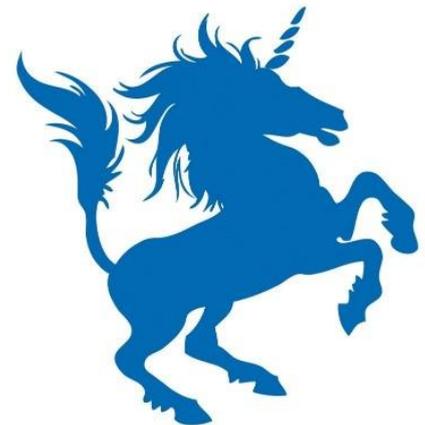
We have continued to allocate house points during this lockdown period and now have an overall House Winner. Our 2019 House winner was Unicorn House. This year house points finish as follows -

8003 Dragon House

7533 Griffin House

7676 Lion House

8583 Unicorn House



Our 2020 House winners are **UNICORN HOUSE!** Congratulations

Well done to every single member of each house for your contribution to your house points total. It has been a great competition, despite lockdown, and I look forward to next years competition.

On behalf of all the staff I would like to say thank you for the presents, well wishes and positive comments. We wish you all a very safe and restful summer break.

Kind regards

Ms Jeanette Allen
Headteacher