

16th October
2020

THE DOWNS SCHOOL NEWS

Message from Ms Allen

We did have our first positive test result this week and we know this would have alarmed many of you. Please be assured we continue to be vigilant and members of staff have been advised to isolate and test as a precautionary measure. Thank you for sending your child in with a packed lunch as requested.

Two weeks ago we sent home a letter outlining the plan for the possibility of any closure to the school due to Covid. On Monday your child would have come home with their email address. We also provided instructions for using Teams. Teams can be used on a PC, iPad, tablet, or phone. If you did not get any of this information please let the school know. Lessons will be provided through Teams should we need to lockdown for any reason.

This week the government updated the Covid alert status. We have sent you a copy of this information as an attachment with this newsletter. Please continue to inform us if your child develops any Covid like symptoms and remind your child about the need to wash their hands and follow the guidance.

On the 25th September a letter was sent detailing how learning would happen in the case of self isolation or a lockdown situation (this is just to inform parents in case of these situations).



Please remember that next Friday 23rd October is a teacher training day, so there will be no children in school. We return one week later on Monday 2nd November and this will be parents' evening week. Thank you for sending back your parents evening form, the response has been really good and due to the large response, your child will bring home their appointment time next week.

Our school attendance has really improved in the last couple of weeks. Please remember it is your responsibility to contact us if your child is absent for any reason, if we do not hear from you we have to do a home visit. We also must have two contacts for every child, this is a legal requirement.

Our website has information for parents who have a child due to start school next September. If you have any questions about this or would like to visit the school, please call the school office and someone will be able to help you and provide further information.

Children should not bring anything from home into school. We have seen more children bringing in items such as toys and cards into school. They do not need these and they cause problems.

Children's packed lunches are looking healthy, thank you if you have made some changes following a phone call. Please remember all children now sit together in a year bubble in one of the halls making it very important that there are no nut products in packed lunches. We are a nut free school.



Whilst we think it is great to see children get some fun exercise both before and after school by allowing them to ride their bike or scooter, they are not allowed to use them in the playground. The playground can still get crowded and young children can get hurt. This is completely avoidable by making sure your child follows the rules.

Please ensure your child holds your hand when in the playgrounds. Children are not allowed on the play equipment before or after school

Children are wearing their PE kit to school, which is absolutely fine, but we request that they wear a school jumper and not a sports top or hoodie on their PE day. PE is one lesson and for the rest of the day they are in their classroom and we believe that wearing school uniform helps children to feel a sense of belonging and be part of their class and school. Additionally, children have been coming to school in shorts for PE but the weather is turning cold and they need jogging bottoms on. All children need to arrive at school every day with a coat, ideally something that is waterproof. In light rain they do still go outside. Please make sure they have their name inside their coat.

Saturday 10th was World Mental Health Day. This week in school, children listened to an assembly and spoke about mental health. This link provides you with additional information:

<https://www.mentalhealth.org.uk/campaigns/world-mental-health-day>

Please see the attached document for more information.

Thank you for the continued support with providing your child with a packed lunch. Unless your child qualifies for free school meals or universal free school meals your child will need a packed lunch until further notice.

Please see the attached document regarding how to wear a face covering effectively.

If parents need to enter the building for any reason, please ensure you are wearing a face covering. This must be put on before entering the building.

Word of the Week

We started word of the week on the third week of this term. The words for the last few weeks are:

Week 3 - eloquent

Week 4 - dubious

Week 5 - clamber

Week 6 – yearn

Week 7 - vexed

House Points - Children are able to earn Team Points for their house by working together and showing a good team spirit.

	Dragon	335
	Griffin	317
	Lion	349
	Unicorn	334

WELL DONE DRAGON!



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**

Kadie in Sycamore Class
Masal in Willow Class
Sadie in Hazel Class
Poppy in Oak Class

 **Griffin House**

Ozzy in Holly Class
Leigh-Anna in Elm Class
Edward in Aspen Class
Youcef in Rowan Class

 **Lion House**

Aaron in Mulberry Class
Aleigha-Mai in Maple Class
Nela in Chestnut Class
Max in Birch Class

 **Unicorn House**

Albie in Larch Class
Emma in Cedar Class

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

Matthew in Mulberry Class	Laibah in Cedar Class
Amir in Holly Class	Najib in Rowan Class
Sophie in Elm Class	Darcie in Chestnut Class
Evelyn-Delilah in Larch Class	Zainab in Willow Class
Abdul-Raheem in Sycamore Class	Lacey in Birch Class
Anastasia in Maple Class	Lavinia in Hazel Class
Amelia in Aspen Class	Zain in Oak Class



Diary Dates for the Autumn Term 2019

Friday 23rd October	INSET Day
Monday 26th October – Friday 30th October	October Half Term
Saturday 31st October	Deadline for Secondary Applications
Tuesday 3rd and Thursday 5th November	Parents' Consultation
Friday 13th November	Children in Need
Monday 23rd November	School Photographs
Friday 18th December	Early Finish 1:30pm – CHRISTMAS HOLIDAYS
More events and details regarding specific events will follow.	