

23rd October
2020

THE DOWNS SCHOOL NEWS

Message from Ms Allen

Welcome back to everyone, once again the children have settled in quickly, but they do have worries and concerns around the recent news of another national lockdown. We have asked teachers to find time to talk to the children about this and answer their questions as best as possible. No doubt the next month will be difficult and we will keep you informed of any changes. Where possible we will add any updates to the weekly newsletter which can also be accessed through the school website at

<https://www.downs.essex.sch.uk/page/?title=Newsletters&pid=1043>

However, at times information needs to get to you sooner so we will then email you, please make sure we do have your correct email address.

In the meantime, we are asking everyone who enters the school site to wear a face covering. We recognise a minority of people will be exempt and some of you may not like wearing one, but this is being asked of you so that all staff feel safer in work. It is important that we all play our part and do what we can to stop the spread of COVID-19. We thank you in advance for your cooperation with this and also with social distancing in the playground. This week we set up a partition for Year 2 parents. Please remember Year 2, 4 and 6 come out at 3.15, there is no need to be earlier than this unless you are collecting from Year 1,3 or 5. Please make sure your child stands with you and is not running around.

Parents' evening was certainly strange this year. We really had hoped to be able to meet up in person with you but again we are taking COVID-19 seriously and a phone conversation was the best way forward. We hope you found this helpful and if you missed your call please let the office know and they will be able to arrange for the class teacher to phone you at a convenient time.

We have had to cancel the school photographer. We will update you further once we have a new date when they can come in.

We have had a couple of Eco bricks brought into school, we feel plastic waste is a really important topic for children to know about and we hope you can support us by helping your child fill a bottle with plastic waste so we can then move on to the second stage of this project and design something for the playground.

Staff at the Harlow Foodbank were very pleased with the donations which weighed 105.5kg and they asked us to pass on our thanks to all the parents who donated.

Next week is Children in Need. On Friday 13th children can wear anything Pudsey related, yellow or with polka dots if they can bring in a donation in cash. Children also have the option to purchase Children in Need merchandise. All payments will be cash only. Please sign up for the items you would like via Sims-Pay and send your child in with an envelope, before Friday, labelled with their name, class and what items you have purchased. The envelopes will then be collected from the classes on the day. Merchandise is limited and will be on a first come first served basis.

The items are:

- Wristbands £1
- Pin Badges £1
- Glo in the dark keyrings £2

The following week is Anti bullying week and the theme this year is 'United Against Bullying' we will spend some time in school focusing on what bullying is and what it is not – we will discuss mean and rude behaviour.

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

Week 8 - prosperous

Week 9 - imperative

Additional homework has been set for your child to complete, this can be found on our school website <https://www.downsschool.com/page/?title=Homework+Autumn+2&pid=1061>

Please also remember the continuous provision for history sent out before half term and the geography sent out at the start of the Autumn Term. Children also need to be reading regularly so that they become fluent readers.

We gave out 200 certificates for children who had 100% attendance last half term. Whilst we do recognise that some absences just cannot be avoided, we do still want to acknowledge those children who have had good attendance.

We wanted to update you again with guidance on COVID-19.

What to do if your child develops symptoms of COVID 19

If your child develops symptoms of COVID-19, they must not come to school and should remain at home for at least **10 days** from the date when their symptoms appeared. Anyone with symptoms should seek a test and this can be arranged via <https://www.nhs.uk/ask-for-a-coronavirus-test> or by calling 119.

All other household members who remain well, must stay at home and not leave the house for 14 days. This includes anyone in your 'Support Bubble'.

Further information is available at: <https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/covid-19-stay-at-home-guidance/stay-at-home-guidance-for-households-with-possible-coronavirus-covid-19-infection>

The 14-day period starts from the day when the first person in the house became ill. Household members should not go to work, to school or to public areas and exercise should be taken within the home only.

If you require help with buying groceries, other shopping or picking up medication, or walking a dog, you should ask friends or family. Alternatively, you can order your shopping online and medication by phone or online.

Household members staying at home for 14 days will greatly reduce the overall amount of infection the household could pass on to others in the community.

Symptoms

The most common symptoms of coronavirus (COVID-19) are recent onset of:

- a new continuous cough
- a high temperature
- a loss of, or change in, your normal sense of taste or smell (anosmia)

For most people, coronavirus (COVID-19) will be a mild illness.

If your child or anyone in the household does develop symptoms, you can seek advice from NHS 111 at <https://www.nhs.uk/conditions/coronavirus-covid-19/check-if-you-have-coronavirus-symptoms/> or by phoning 111.

How to stop COVID-19 spreading

There are things you can do to help reduce the risk of you and anyone you live with getting ill with COVID-19

Do

- wash your hands with soap and water often – do this for at least 20 seconds
- use hand sanitiser gel if soap and water are not available
- wash your hands as soon as you get home
- cover your mouth and nose with a tissue or your sleeve (not your hands) when you cough or sneeze
- put used tissues in the bin immediately and wash your hands afterwards

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

Harper in Holly Class
Ryan in Maple Class
Deniz in Cedar Class
Sadie in Hazel Class

Griffin House

Bryce in Mulberry Class
Bobby in Aspen Class
Bethany-Anne in Rowan Class

Lion House

Chloe in Elm Class
Robert in Larch Class
Thea in Willow Class
Max in Birch Class
Rehan in Oak Class

Unicorn House

Izabel in Sycamore Class
Eva in Chestnut Class

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

 Dragon	233
 Griffin	232
 Lion	206
 Unicorn	249

WELL DONE UNICORN!



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

Mila in Mulberry Class

Millie in Holly Class

Hayden in Elm Class

Claudia in Larch Class

Poppy in Sycamore Class

Lexie in Maple Class

Isla in Aspen Class

Harrison in Cedar Class

Abbie-Leigh in Rowan Class

Samuel in Chestnut Class

Mason in Willow Class

Melody in Birch Class

Faith in Hazel Class

Sophia 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 November and Thursday 5th November	Parents' Consultation
Friday 13th November	Children in Need
Monday 16th November	Flu Vaccinations
Monday 16th November – Friday 20th November	Anti-Bullying Week
Monday 23rd November	School Photographs - CANCELLED
Friday 27th November	INSET Day
Friday 18th December	Early Finish 1:30pm – CHRISTMAS HOLIDAYS

More events and details regarding specific events will follow.