



Newsletter

Term: AUTUMN 2015

Issue No: 01

Date: 11th September

Welcome everyone, to a new school year.

I have very much enjoyed my first full week at North Downs. During our very first assembly this term, I spoke with the children about the new challenges we each face over these first few weeks and I am proud to say I have achieved my first challenge - which was to make it to our three sites without getting lost, despite the diversions!

I have spent these first few days getting to know the staff and children, as well as trying to meet as many parents as possible. I very much believe that the positive environment that we create in a place of learning and the focus on your children's development are the fundamental requirements for running a successful school. I would therefore like to thank those parents I have spoken with for being so welcoming, to the staff and children who have been wonderful. I will continue to be out and about at the start and end of each day so please do stop and introduce yourselves, I would very much appreciate it and I look forward to working with you.

JL Douglass



Mrs Jane Douglass

Dear Parents, Carers and Children

The start of a new academic year always feels fresh and exciting: looking forward to meeting new friends, working with new colleagues and sharing varied and interesting learning experiences with all the children, new and 'old'.

This year is no exception as we welcome 59 children and their families into reception, as well as the other pupils joining us in years 1, 3, 4 & 5 this term. We are delighted to have you all with us and wish you a happy and rewarding North Downs' future.

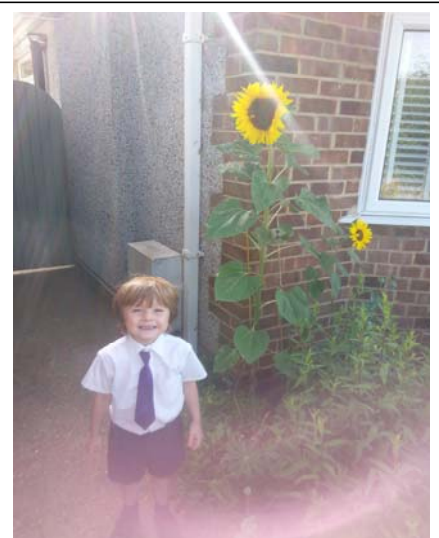
We are equally pleased to be able to greet two new members of staff: Mrs Linda Whitehead, who joins the teaching staff, sharing class teacher responsibilities for Dragonflies with Ms Terry, and Mrs Marie Eatwell, our new Teaching Assistant working with Ladybirds. Please join us in making them feel welcome and at home.

Finally, last but by no means least, we are thrilled to be joined by and to welcome Mrs Douglass, who takes up the reins at North Downs as Headteacher. We are very fortunate to have Jane join us, and look forward to working with her towards another happy and successful year at North Downs.

Autumn Term Diary Dates

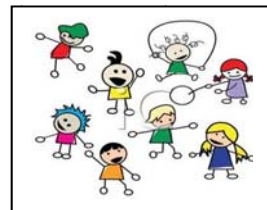
This terms dates are available below. Please check weekly for updates.

Last academic year Ladybirds planted sunflower seeds. Most planted at school fell victim to slugs, but here is Sam with his at home. When Mrs Goody came to judge them for the Brockham Horticultural Society summer show, Sam's was the tallest sunflower at 169cm, Amber's had the biggest head at 28cm across and William's was the prettiest!



Other News

The Fitness Zone: we will be sending home flyers for this fitness club with children today. Whilst this is not a school endorsement for the club, please be sure to mention North Downs if you decide to sign-up, as they have generously said that for everyone who joins, mentioning North Downs, they will donate £50 to our school fund.



Calling swimmers in Years 4, 5 and 6: there is an exciting new club if you are confident in and under the water and can swim at least 100m at ease. Beginning Monday 21st Sept and run by Miss Winslade for 5 weekly sessions from 3.20pm-4pm, combining keep fit and synchronised swimming to music. You will need a hat, nose plug (if you choose to buy one) and goggles. Book your place through the clubs' letter coming home on ParentMail. The sessions are competitively priced at £3 per session totalling £15, payable via Tucasi.



Friends' Matters

Sunday 27th September: Teas on the Green. Cakes and help equally welcome! Please sign rota or see Estelle or Kerri.

Tuesday 29th September: AGM. EVERYONE INVITED. New roles, forthcoming events etc. It's your Friends, please show your support.

If you wish to contact FONDS directly, please use the following email address - fonds@northdowns.surrey.sch.uk

Reminders / Dates

Always remember to check the updated Diary Dates on the following page

(Note: dates in italics have been added or changed this week)

Gardening Club Plant Sale: after school next Friday 18th September, children from last year's Gardening Club will be selling pot plants after school. An ideal opportunity to support their efforts and re-stock your autumn gardens at the same time!

School Payments: as this is the start of a new academic year, we take the opportunity to remind you that we are now a cashless school. Our preferred method of payment is via our online system Tucasi. Every child has been issued with a registration code, enabling parents to create an account. Once set up, payments for school meals, trips, school-stocked uniform items etc. can all be made through this account. Items such as ties, sunhats and swimming hats paid for online will be sent home with the child. Please note that if necessary, it is still possible to make a payment by cheque (payable to North Downs Primary), but whenever possible, please use Tucasi. Thank you.

Parking: we also start the year with a general reminder about parking for drop-off and collection at school. Whilst our primary concern is for the safety of children, parents, staff and road users, we also ask for your consideration towards our neighbours and other motorists please...so avoiding hatched areas of the road, not obstructing driveways, entrances, corners etc. This would seem to be obvious, but the complaints received show they happen with worrying regularity. **More specifically we have had a few parental concerns voiced at Leigh since the start of this term about school parking versus through traffic.** Please leave sufficient space for traffic to pull into when the road effectively becomes a single lane with parked cars at the start and end of the school day. Also, we ask that you leave as quickly as possible once you have dropped or collected your child, to reduce congestion and free up space for arriving parents' cars. If parents would like the chance to socialise and catch up whilst their children play, may we suggest Leigh playground as a safe, secure and lovely park, with off-road parking, so ideal for purpose.

Tripod: a slightly strange request, but does anyone have a tripod gathering dust in their loft that they no longer want and which North Downs could have for filming assemblies etc.? If so, Miss Winslade would love to hear from you. Thank you.

Chess Sets: another plea, this time for any unwanted chess sets that could be donated to school please. Sadly a shed at Brockham leaked during the summer break, ruining the playtime chess sets, so if you have an unused set at home it will find a welcome at North Downs. Thanks again.

Yours sincerely

JL Douglas

Finally

Have a lovely weekend

Autumn Term 2015

w/c Mon 14 th Sept	KS2 Swimming starts
Mon 14 th Sept	Reception children all day
Tues 15 th Sept	Years 3/4 Meet the Teacher 3.15pm
Wed 16 th Sept	Years 1/2 Meet the Teacher 2.40pm
Thurs 17 th Sept	Local papers to photograph new Reception classes for forthcoming edition
Fri 18 th Sept	Years 5/6 Meet the Teacher 3.15pm
w/c Mon 21 st Sept	NDPS Clubs commence
Sun 27 th Sept	FONDS Teas on the Green
Wed 30 th Sept	Brockham Reception Meet the Teacher 2.40pm
Fri 2 nd Oct	Betchworth Reception Meet the Teacher 2.40pm
Fri 16 th Oct	5S Class Assembly
w/c Mon 19 th Oct	Last week of swimming
Wed 21 st Oct	Parents Consultation: Betchworth & Leigh 3.30-6pm Brockham 5-7.30pm
Thurs 22 nd Oct	Parents Consultation: Brockham 3.30-6pm Betchworth & Leigh 5-7.30pm
Thurs 22 nd Oct	FONDS Bags2School
Fri 23 rd Oct	6C Class Assembly
Fri 23 rd Oct	FONDS Halloween Disco
w/c Mon 26 th Oct	Half Term Week
Tues 3 rd Nov	Leigh parents invited to tour Brockham Village site
Wed 4 th Nov	Brockham Open Morning
Thurs 5 th Nov	Betchworth Open Morning
Fri 6 th Nov	Year 4 Assembly (High Ashurst)
Tues 10 th Nov	Brockham individual photos (am) - Tempest
Tues 17 th Nov	Betchworth & Leigh individual photos (am) - Tempest
Fri 20 th Nov	3MB Class Assembly
w/c Mon 30 th Nov	Last week of NDPS Clubs
Fri 4 th Dec	FONDS Christmas Fair
Wed 9 th Dec	KS2 Christmas Performance 1.30pm & 6pm
Thurs 10 th Dec	KS2 Christmas Performance 6pm
Mon 14 th Dec	Caterpillars Christmas Performance Betchworth 9.15am & 2.15pm
Tues 15 th Dec	KS1 Christmas Performance: Leigh 9.15am + Gold Star Assembly Brockham 2pm
Wed 16 th Dec	KS1 Christmas Performance: Brockham 9.15am) Leigh 2pm
Thurs 17 th Dec	Ladybirds Christmas Performance Brockham 9.15am & 2.15pm
Fri 18 th Dec	Brockham KS1 & KS2 Gold Star Assembly 9.15am
Fri 18 th Dec	Last Day of Term Early closure: Years R-2 1pm Years 3-6 1.15pm

Term and Holiday Dates 2015/2016

....are available on the school website www.northdowns.surrey.sch.uk

and on the Surrey County Council website www.surreycc.gov.uk

INSET DAYS: 1st) 02/09/2015; 2nd) 05/01/2016; 3rd) 22/02/2016; 4th) 06/06/2016; 5th) 22/07/2016

Term and Holiday Dates 2016/2017

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