



Newsletter

Term: AUTUMN 2015

Issue No: 11

Date: 11th December

Dear Parents, Carers and Children

Very well done and thank you so much to FONDS for their outstanding Fair last Friday. Hours (and hours and hours...) of work obviously went into its planning and preparation and what a fantastic time was had by all. FONDS now deserve a very well-earned rest! Meanwhile, as this will be our last newsletter of 2015, we take the opportunity to also thank you all for your support during the term: parents, carers and children alike. A successful and happy term has been enjoyed, with exciting educational trips and activities, and fun school occasions such as our Christmas events. With the final week in sight, we wish you all a very Merry Christmas and a happy 2016.



Rev. Carol Coslett took Christingle Assemblies at each of our village sites, with each child making and holding their own Christingle (see photos overleaf too). Thank you to everyone who returned a collection candle. Your donation will be sent to The Children's Society, which works with disadvantaged children of all ages. Your kindness will make a real difference.



Caterpillars decorating their Christmas tree - well, the bottom half!



Here are some photos of Year 6 children running activity stalls and games at last week's Fair. More are available on the website.



With...Alice, Dominic, Famke, Jasmine, Katie, Max, Mia, Noah & Olivia!



REMINDERS AND DATES

Breakfast Club/Early Birds/Moles: please note that these clubs will recommence on Monday 11th January.

Threadworm: we have been advised of a case of threadworm. This is highly contagious; class teachers will be refreshing pupils' awareness of the need for good hygiene, including thorough hand washing whenever the toilet has been used and before eating etc. and we ask that you reinforce this with your child at home please. The Health Protection Agency has produced a threadworm information leaflet, available at www.hpa.org.uk.

Early Closure: we remind you that school finishes early on the last day of term at 1pm for Years R to 2 and at 1.15pm for Years 3 to 6. Please collect your children promptly, to enable teachers time to prepare their classrooms for the Spring Term!

INSET Closure: we also remind you that the first day of the Spring Term, Tuesday 5th January is an INSET closure (number 2 of 5); children return to school on Wednesday 6th January 2016.

Flora Tubs for Tablets: please bring any Flora promotion lids you may have to school on Monday 14th. Thank you.

OTHER NEWS

Applications for a Reception School Place in September 2016: you are reminded that children born between 1st September 2011 and 31st August 2012 will need to apply for a school place by 31st January 2015. The easiest and quickest way to apply is online at www.surrey.gov.uk/admissions. The online process has been available since 1st September 2015; please note that it must be completed by 15th January 2015 otherwise the application will be counted as late and will not be considered until all other applicants have been offered a school. If you already have a child at North Downs, you must still apply by the deadline date for a sibling. If you are unable to make your application online, you may request a paper copy by calling 0300 200 1015.

Applications for a Year 3 School Place in September 2016: this year, for the first time, North Downs has an official PAN at Year 3, making it available to select during the online application process for pupils transferring from other infant schools at the end of Year 2. If you are currently on the Admissions waiting list for a Year 2 place at NDPS, please be sure to make a separate Year 3 application. The same details apply for a Year 3 application as for Reception - applying online at www.surrey.gov.uk/admissions, with a deadline date of 31st January 2015. (As before, if you are unable to make an online application, you should request a paper copy by calling 0300 200 1015, thank you.)

Congratulations Year 4!

We are excited and delighted to be able to share with you the news that our Year 4 children were overall winners in the recent **Sumdog Surrey Maths Contest** - achieving this result by a very healthy margin over the second place school. Please join us in saying "well done" to the children on their splendid achievement!



Year 5 Girls Football took place in November. The girls played really well and were a credit to the school. It was an exciting competition as it was so close. In the end it came down to goal difference and the girls narrowly (by 1 goal!) missed out on 3rd Place. Well done girls we are very proud of you.

More Christingles...

...and look out for the Nativity Supplement in the Surrey Advertiser next week.



FRIENDS' MATTERS

Wow...after months of planning and weeks of creating it was great to see that the Christmas Fair went as planned!! Children looked like they were enjoying themselves taking part in everything on offer - and parents seemed happy with the cake and mulled wine available!! We are pleased to say that with the support of everyone who donated items and offered help we raised just over £3000, so a big thank you everyone!! What next?? Well, this Saturday (12th) FONDS are Wreath Making - some spaces are left, details went out earlier this week.

Finally we would like to wish everyone a very merry Christmas and happy new year.

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

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

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

Yours sincerely

A handwritten signature in black ink, which appears to read 'J. Douglas'.

Finally

This week we have an additional two IT related pages attached to the newsletter for your attention: one about the new LearnPads being introduced for use in class; the other about Digital Leaders. Please read on....

Introducing the new



This term we have been introducing the new LearnPads which have been funded and bought by our fabulous FONDS.

LearnPad is a tablet computer designed specifically for use in the classroom. Tablet technology is relatively new for use in education and I am sure many of you may be thinking that we have lots of computers in school (as well as pen and paper!) already, so why on earth do we need to need to spend out on such extravagant new equipment? Many of our computers are very old, have been in school for a number of years and have been upgraded and repaired several times. The portability and touch-screen interface of these tablet computers make them very engaging to students of all ages. They are also easier to manage in a classroom environment. By having LearnPads, in addition to these older machines, we can start to explore so many more extensions of teaching and learning for the children. Pupils are immediately more engaged and they support the development of a number of essential academic skills including research, problem solving, creative thinking, team working and so on. We're also able to make our subscription-based websites readily available to use and that's extended learning and will no doubt increase attainment.



In the curriculum

In KS1 we have been using the LearnPads during guided reading to share books. We can put the headphones on and listen to stories whilst sitting in the book corner. We have also played on different activities linked to Maths and English. We enjoyed taking them with us on our Tesco trip to take photos of the activities.

Year 5 found they were ideal for recording sound effects of volcano eruptions to then insert into animations they created with computer code on Scratch software. We have lots of ideas for future projects & look forward to seeing how many ways we can use them to enhance our learning.

Computer Clubs

We had great fun using the LearnPads at KS2 Computing Club creating stop frame animations. Working in groups we took lots of pictures to put together into a short animation.

Year 2 Computing Club has also been using the LearnPads to take photographs of traditional story scenes. We then put these into Photostory and added our voices using the microphones. Look out for some of these coming soon on the school website.

Digital Leaders



What is a Digital Leader?

Digital Leaders are students with a passion to help their school shape computing within the curriculum around the use of technology. Digital Leaders take on or develop leadership roles which provide advice and guidance as to the effectiveness of technology as well as supporting and enthusing their peers.

How were our leaders selected?

As the Computing Curriculum Leader Miss Winslade invited pupils to officially apply for this new and exciting role. These applications were carefully read and selected by the computing team and Year 6 Leaders were chosen based on their ability to communicate with others in addition to their proven computing skills. These children, along with Miss Winslade and our network manager Mr Cross held task based interviews for the applicants. Year 6 was very thorough in their questioning and worked brilliantly with the younger children as well as reporting back in discussion with adults. There were four leaders chosen per year group from years 2-6 who now form our Digital Leader Team.

Introducing your new Digital Leaders

Year 6

Adam Cobbold, Katie Lawton, Phillip Parsons & Chloe Pearce

Year 5

Rosie Baglow, Jack Watkins, Adam Marsden & Ben Baillie-Young

Year 4

Eve Pearce, Kasia Parsons, Rufus Hunter & Elyse Harvey

Year 3

Joseph Perrin, Beth Fellows, Max Bavington & Maxwell

Year 2

Ruby Pike, Freddie Horton, Isabella Whiteway & May Lestrangle



Isabella and May – our new Digital Leaders at Leigh



What next?

Each of our leaders was presented with a badge during assembly by Mrs Douglass. After meeting briefly to have these lovely photos taken the leaders will be meeting in the near future with Miss Winslade to form an action plan in order to help and support their peers, discussing competitions, resources and possibly some fund raising.





Autumn Term 2015

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
Wed 16 th Dec	KS2 Carol Service at Christ Church Brockham 7pm
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

Spring Term 2016

Tues 5 th January	INSET CLOSURE 2 of 5	
Wed 6 th January	Pupils' first day back to school	
w/c Mon 18 th January	NDPS clubs begin	
Fri 22 nd January	Class assembly - 3MB	
Fri 29 th January	Class assembly: 5MS	
Fri 5 th February	Class assembly: Dragonflies	
Fri 12 th February	Class assembly: Butterflies	
w/c Mon 15 th February	HALF TERM	
Mon 22 nd February	INSET CLOSURE 3 of 5	
w/c Mon 22 nd February	Swimming starts	
Thurs 3 rd March	KS1 bedtime story: 6 - 7pm	
Fri 4 th March	Class assembly: 5S	
w/c Mon 7 th March	Last week of NDPS clubs	
Mon 7 th March	Bikeability: Yr5	
Tues 8 th March	Bikeability: Yr5	
Fri 11 th March	Class assembly: Ladybirds	
Tues 15 th March	Parent Consultations	Leigh and Betchworth: 3.30pm - 6pm Brockham: 5pm - 7.30pm
Thurs 17 th March	Parent Consultations	Brockham: 3.30pm - 6pm Leigh and Betchworth: 5pm - 7.30pm
Fri 18 th March	Class assembly: 3M	
Wed 23 rd March	Brockham Gold Stars: 9.15pm	
Thurs 24 th March	Leigh Gold Star Assembly: 9.15am	
Thurs 24 th March	End of Term	Early Closure: R/KS1: 1pm KS2: 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

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