



# Newsletter

Term: AUTUMN 2014

Issue No: 01

Date: 12<sup>th</sup> September

Dear Parents, Carers and Children

We welcome everyone back to a new year at North Downs, and especially our new starters; both those embarking upon their educational journey in Reception, as well as children joining us in older year groups from other parts of the county, country - and world! We are delighted to have you at North Downs, and look forward to another happy and successful year to come. We also welcome back Mrs Hilston, returning to teaching at North Downs following her maternity leave, and are sure you are as pleased as we are to see her back.

Diary Dates were sent last week and are now repeated on our Diary Dates page attached (also notice of the remaining three INSET days this academic year). Please check our Diary Dates page weekly for additional dates or changes.

We draw your attention to an invitation to a **Meet the Teacher** session next week for all classes in Years 1-6. This is an opportunity to informally meet your child's teacher and hear about some of the things they will be doing during the year. We look forward to seeing you all there. Our sessions for Caterpillars and Ladybirds (reception classes) follow at the end of the month, giving both children and parents time to settle in...although from the children's perspective they seem to have done this already, as our photographs show!

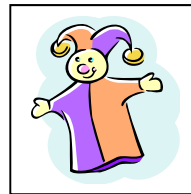
We also include a photograph (below left) of a sculpture designed and created by some of last year's Year 3 as part of a NADFAS project with sculptor Mary Kaun-English for a Sensory Garden at Broome Park Nursing Home, which was recently opened for the enjoyment and benefit of their residents. We have received a letter from Mr & Mrs Choy at Broome Park, thanking us and inviting any participating pupil and their parents to visit and see the artwork in situ. Please ring Broome Park in advance if you would like to accept their invitation.

Finally, it was always the plan that Mrs Ewing's appointment as Headteacher was for a 3-year fixed term period until July 2015. This term the Governors will start the process of advertising for her replacement, and we will keep you advised as this proceeds.



## Other News

We have details of a local event 'Catch It!' that may be of interest to our KS2 children: this is a Reigate Deanery Children & Youth Event for children in Years 3 to 6 on Saturday 4<sup>th</sup> October at Reigate Baptist Church; from 10am to 3pm. Cost is £5 per child for activities including: Wayward Drums, Oneway Puppets, Nomad Sports Cage, Stance Street Dance, Art and much more. Please Contact Rev. Kate Capper for booking and more information on 01737 217191 or email [revkate@thecappers.co.uk](mailto:revkate@thecappers.co.uk)



## Friends' Matters

**FONDS AGM:** is being held on Tuesday 16<sup>th</sup> September; 7.45pm at the Brockham site. All welcome - remember, if you are a parent at North Downs you are a member of FONDS! Please join us, not only for some 'official business' but also as we will be planning social and fundraising dates and events for the year ahead. The first of which is...

**Teas on the Green:** Sunday 21<sup>st</sup> September. We will be sending a paper plate home with your child the week before, in the hope that you are able to return it with a cake or other edible goodies. Thank you for your support.

## 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)*

We ask that you give your attention to the following reminders at the start of the school year...

**Absence:** for a school to be able to authorise a child's absence on their pupil record, it is a DfE requirement that any such absence be covered by a signed/dated note from their parent/carer.

- Therefore, if you are aware in advance of a need for your child to be absent from school for any amount of time (from whole day medical appointments to an hour at the dentist etc.), you must let your class teacher/school office know in writing before the day.
- Similarly, if your child is unexpectedly absent (through illness etc.), a phone call on the first day of absence is necessary to let your teacher/school office know\*, but must be followed up by a written note on their return to school for the School Register. **Please note that sickness/diarrhoea require a 48 hour exclusion period.**
- \*Not only is it a legal requirement, but also an important safeguarding matter that the School Register be completed accurately twice a day. Please phone the school office - absence line at Brockham - by 9.30am at the latest (before 9.00am for preference) to advise your child's absence on the first day they are away, and if the absence is of a longer duration, please make contact every couple of days to confirm its continuance. *Please do not rely on verbal messages to a class teacher who may be unable to relay this to the school office in time for the Register to be correctly completed.*

**Timekeeping:** NDPS has a staggered start time between 8.40 and 9.00am. School Registration is at 9.00am, so anyone arriving after 9.00am will have a late mark in the School Register. Please be aware that any child arriving after 9.15am, when the School Register officially closes, will be marked as an unauthorised absence for that session (the HT has the ability to review this in exceptional circumstances). **Anyone arriving after 9.00am must sign in at the school office.**

**School Dinner Money Arrears:** as you know, from September 2014 all children in Years R-2 are entitled to a complimentary school meal. Unfortunately we still have some outstanding dinner money payments due from meals supplied last year (for children in last year's reception and Year1/2 classes). If you are unsure if this applies to your child, please check your Tucasi account for information on its status - and additionally, Mrs Williams will be sending an email if this applies to you and your child's account is in arrears. **Please be sure to settle this debt immediately.**

**Cheque/Cash Payments:** it is school policy for members of staff not to accept such payments unless they are presented in a sealed, named envelope. We ask that you do not embarrass staff by asking them to accept unsealed payments.

**School Playground Equipment:** equipment or toys in the school playgrounds are for school use only, during school hours and under school staff supervision (P.E./playtime etc.). No pupils, siblings or parents may use school equipment outside these school supervised sessions. Please ensure your children remain under your close supervision before and after school, and **do not allow them to play in the outdoor classroom/adventure playground areas at all please.** We also remind you that personal bikes, scooters etc. are not to be ridden within the school premises.

Thank you for your cooperation in all of the above matters.

Yours sincerely

*A.J. Ewing*

Finally

Have a great weekend



### Advance Dates - Autumn Term 2014

Monday Sept 15 <sup>th</sup>	All reception children full time from today
Tuesday Sept 16 <sup>th</sup>	Year 3/4 Meet the Teacher 3.15pm Year 3: 3M Year 4: 4HW
Wednesday Sept 17 <sup>th</sup>	KS1 (Years 1 & 2) Leigh and Brockham Meet the Teacher 2.40pm
Friday Sept 19 <sup>th</sup>	Year 5/6 Meet the Teacher 3.15pm + Year 6 meeting re PGL (Windmill Hill) Year 5: 5MS Year 6: Hall
w/c Sept 22 <sup>nd</sup>	NDPS clubs begin
w/c Sept 22 <sup>nd</sup>	<i>EYFS/KS1 Harvest Assemblies (for pupils only)</i>
Tuesday Sept 30 <sup>th</sup>	Betchworth Reception (Caterpillars) Meet the Teacher 2.40pm
Thursday Oct 2 <sup>nd</sup>	Brockham Reception (Ladybirds) Meet the Teacher 2.40pm
Wed-Fri Oct 15 <sup>th</sup> - 17 <sup>th</sup>	Year 4 Gaveston Hall trip
Tuesday Oct 21 <sup>st</sup>	Parents Evening: Leigh / Betchworth 3.30 - 6pm (no children) Brockham 5 - 7.30pm (no children)
Wednesday Oct 22 <sup>nd</sup>	Parents Evening: Leigh / Betchworth 5 - 7.30pm (no children) Brockham 3.30 - 6pm (no children)
w/c Monday Oct 27 <sup>th</sup>	Half Term
Wednesday Nov 5 <sup>th</sup>	Brockham Open Morning for prospective parents 9.30am
Thursday Nov 6 <sup>th</sup>	Betchworth Open Morning for prospective parents 9.30am
Friday Nov 21 <sup>st</sup>	Butterflies (Yr2) Assembly 9.15am
Friday Nov 28 <sup>th</sup>	5S Assembly 9.15am
w/c Dec 1 <sup>st</sup>	Last week of NDPS clubs
Friday Dec 5 <sup>th</sup>	6C Assembly 9.15am
Tuesday Dec 16 <sup>th</sup>	Betchworth Gold Star Assembly 9.15am
Thursday Dec 18 <sup>th</sup>	Leigh Gold Star Assembly 9.15am
Friday Dec 19 <sup>th</sup>	Brockham KS1/2 Gold Star Assembly 9.15am
Friday Dec 19 <sup>th</sup>	Last Day of Term

### Term and Holiday Dates 2014/2015

...are available on the school website [www.northdowns.surrey.sch.uk](http://www.northdowns.surrey.sch.uk)  
and on the Surrey County Council website [www.surreycc.gov.uk](http://www.surreycc.gov.uk)

INSET DAYS: 1<sup>st</sup>) 02/09/2014 2<sup>nd</sup>) 03/09/2014 3<sup>rd</sup>) 05/01/2015 4<sup>th</sup>) 20/07/2015 5<sup>th</sup>) 21/07/2015

### Term and Holiday Dates 2015/2016

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