



Newsletter

Term: SPRING 2016

Issue No: 15

Date: 26th February

Dear Parents, Carers and Children

World Book Day was designated by UNESCO as a worldwide celebration of books and reading and has now spread to over 100 countries. This year it will be celebrated on Thursday 3rd March.

Here at North Downs we are constantly endorsing not only the importance, but also the pleasure of reading and to celebrate we have a week of exciting events planned. From bedtime stories to secret reading; silent reading assemblies to extreme reading competitions; shared reading to wonderful character days; book reviews to best book votes....

A few events will need some extra support please and these are detailed below:

An **Extreme Reading Competition**: if your child would like to take part please send in a photo of them reading in an unusual situation - on a swing, in a tree..... entries as hard copies or email to geraldine.cummins@northdowns.surrey.sch.uk by Monday 7th March.

World Book Day Thursday 3rd: send your child to school dressed as a favourite book character; or dressed as an amazing character they have created from their own imagination. The theme is 'Cool Characters'. (No money donations required.) In celebration of reading, every child will bring home a book token today.

KS1 Bedtime Story Thursday 3rd March 6pm to 7pm: Bees and Beetles, Dragonflies and Butterflies are invited back to their respective village sites from 6pm to 7pm for bedtime stories and cocoa. Children should come in their pyjamas, and bring a teddy or other cuddly. Please collect your child promptly at 7pm.

Reception Bedtime Story Thursday 3rd March: Caterpillars and Ladybirds will have their bedtime story and cocoa in class during the school afternoon. Please send your child with a dressing gown and cuddly that morning.

Readathon: In order to enhance the reading opportunities at school, we are holding a sponsored Readathon - 1p a page, to raise money for new class reading books. The Readathon will run from Monday 29th February to Sunday 6th March. Sponsor forms with payment details are attached with this week's newsletter.

We hope you will embrace the events as a family and positively encourage discussion and shared reading time during and beyond next week. Here are links which give great book reviews which might help your child find books they will be inspired to read:

- An independent magazine about children's books <http://booksforkeeps.co.uk/reviews>
- Book reviews written and illustrated by kids for kids. Read our reviews or submit your own www.lovereadings4kids.co.uk/
- Download free opening extracts, read online book reviews and get involved <http://www.theguardian.com/childrens-books-site>
- News, reviews and recommendations <http://www.telegraph.co.uk/books/childrens-books/>



Caterpillars would like to thank Betchworth & Buckland Children's Nursery for inviting them to see the tractor which came to visit Betchworth site earlier this month. It complemented their current 'Transport' topic splendidly - and as you can see required close inspection!

The **School Council Cake Sales** held before half-term were a great success. Not only were lots of delicious cakes enthusiastically consumed, but all the money raised is to be spent on the playgrounds at Betchworth, Brockham and Leigh, to enhance features and/or buy new toys and equipment. **Thank you to everyone who baked and bought!**

OTHER NEWS

Dorking Rotary Club Swimarathon: Calling all swimmers! The Swimarathon is at Dorking Sports Centre Sat 12th March. Miss Sangster needs a team of 12 swimmers to take part in this sponsored event. If you are interested in representing the school please see Miss Sangster. Thank you.

Following last term's 'Christmas Jumper' event, we've received a thank you from 'Text Santa' for the £271.16 raised at North Downs for Macmillan Cancer Support, Make-A-Wish@ UK and Save the Children.

Autism Conference: for parents and professionals organised by Linden Bridge Outreach on Friday 18th March 9am to 4pm. Speakers and information stands with lunch and refreshments included (please note children cannot attend). Cost for parents/carers £30 - to book your place, please email for a booking form to: courses@sendteachingschool.co.uk - further information from Vicky Jones on 020 8330 3009 extension 237.

Mothering Sunday Services on 6th March: all welcome at

9.30am all-age Communion Service, St Mary's, Buckland - posies for all mothers;

11am all-age Family Service, St Michael's, Betchworth (posy making in the Hamilton Room 10am).



This week, Year 6 were treated to an exciting visit from FUZE, who ran a coding workshop using a computing platform designed to encourage exploration and experimentation with basic electronics, communications and even robotics. They brought Raspberry Pi with them, as well as other electronics, giving the children a fantastic opportunity to experience everything first hand. Watch out for the Year 6 Reporters' Club account of the day. Our thanks go to Mrs Blumire, who won this IT day for the school at a recently attended IT conference!

FRIENDS' MATTERS

Many thanks to everyone who joined us at the **Valentine's Disco**, it was great to see so many of you having a good time and enjoying yourselves.

We are really looking forward to **Movie Night** tonight, after school at all village sites.

Do remember we have a **Quiz Night** coming up - Friday 18th March in Brockham site school hall. Sarah from The Plough, Leigh will be supplying us with a delicious curry - see our ParentMail letter for booking details.

Advance notice that we will be hosting our **Easter Hat Parade** again this year, so get your thinking caps on!!

Finally, our **Summer Spectacular Ball** is fast approaching on Saturday 7th May, so look out for details shortly.

To contact FONDS directly, please email -
fonds@northdowns.surrey.sch.uk

Always remember to check the updated Diary Dates on the following page
(Note: dates in italics have been added or changed this week)

Please Note: Parent Consultation appointment lists available Monday 29th February at all sites.

Yours sincerely

JWonglass

Finally

It's nearly **SPRING!**

Spring Term 2016

w/c Mon 29 th February	BOOK/READING WEEK
Thurs 3 rd March	<i>'Dress as a Book Character' Day</i>
Thurs 3 rd March	<i>Reception Bedtime Story during school day</i>
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
Mon 7 th March	Ladybirds to visit Betchworth by bus and back
Tues 8 th March	Bikeability: Yr5
Thurs 10 th March	Caterpillars to Brockham by bus and back
Thurs 10 th March	<i>KS1 Curriculum Day - all Year 1 at Leigh & all Year 2 at Brockham</i>
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
Tues 22 nd March	Easter Assembly at Betchworth 9.15 (children only)
Wed 23 rd March	Easter Assembly at Leigh (children only)
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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