



Newsletter

Term: SPRING 2017

Issue No: 09

Date: 20th January

Dear Parents, Carers and Children

We start with some bittersweet staffing news, as we will be saying farewell to our HLTA Mrs Anne Wright, who leaves us for pastures new at the end of January. Anne has been with North Downs since its inception and at Brockham Primary for many years before that and will be much missed by pupils, parents and colleagues, but she is looking forward to an exciting new direction in her working life, so please join us in wishing her every happiness and success in her new career.

Safer Internet Day - Tuesday 7th February 2017

Safer Internet Day is celebrated internationally, with events worldwide aimed at promoting the safer use of the internet in our lives. This year the theme is "Be the change: unite for a better internet".

At North Downs, during the day we will be holding assemblies for the children; and Mrs Blumire, our IT coordinator, will be taking individual sessions with classes.

That evening, Mrs Blumire will also be holding drop-in 'clinics' for parents during the Parent Consultations at our Brockham and Leigh sites. No booking is necessary, just 'drop-in'.

Look out for more details to follow, as this is an opportunity for you to ask about ways you can make your home internet a safer place for your child.



Brief though it was, last week's snow caused considerable excitement. Caterpillars were inspired to paint some snow pictures, with Evelyn's, Heidi's, Sophie's & Evie's for you to enjoy. Whilst Beetles can be seen having lots of fun wrapping up warm for building snowmen and having snowball fights!



REMINDERS AND DATES

PLEASE READ: we ask that you give your attention to this reminder about school procedures concerning **UNEXPECTED PUPIL ABSENCE**.

If your child is unable to come to school due to ill health or any unforeseen family circumstance etc. please:

- notify your school office by 9am (the time of morning Registration) on the first day of absence
- phone regularly to update school staff if the illness/absence is of longer duration
- provide your child with a written note on their return to school, signed and dated, to cover their absence for the School Register (a school template is available if preferred, on the school website or from school offices)

As it is a requirement by the DfE that schools monitor absence and verify its veracity, if initial notification of absence and/or subsequent confirmation letters are not automatically provided by parents/carers, it is necessary for admin staff to follow this matter up with phone call and email reminders.

At this time of year, when it is not uncommon for a number of pupils to be absent daily, this can result in a significant amount of staff time being taken chasing parents/carers for this notification. We ask for your cooperation in phoning/writing without need of school reminders please, and thank you for your understanding.

OTHER NEWS

Parent Consultations: appointment lists will be available on Monday 30th January to sign up for the following week's consultation afternoons/evenings. These will be outside classrooms at Brockham and outside the office at Betchworth and Leigh. **Please note that children should not be brought to the Parent Consultation evenings.**

Betchworth Parking: once again we have received a phone call from an angry and distressed neighbour, following a near miss this week due to a parent parking dangerously on the corner of The Street and The Walled Garden (a Private Road). Please note that it was this lady's intention to report the matter to the police. Whilst we have no authority over parental parking outside the school site, we are hoping that yet another appeal for common sense and consideration for others will result in cars being parked with greater care and respect for both pedestrian and vehicular road users.

Breakfast Club request: does anyone have a table top (or very small) fridge they no longer require? Please see Mrs Preston-Heard, who will be very glad to give it a new home at Brockham's Breakfast Club, where theirs is on its last legs!

Surrey Highways: we have been advised that Surrey Highways is expecting to re-open **Flanchford Bridge** towards the end of February. They have also advised that there is to be a one day closure of part of **Flanchford Road in Leigh** (between its junction with Church Road/Leigh Place Road and the eastern boundary of Mulberry Cottage) for BT to do some cabling. This may be any day from 6th February onwards for a 3-month period, with advance warning signs nearer the chosen day.

23rd Dorking (Leigh & Charlwood) Scout Group: meet in Charlwood and are a recent merger of two small village groups. They are looking to increase membership in both Cubs (8-10½ years) and Scouts (10½-14 years) and are holding an Open Evening for parents and pupils (boys and girls) in Years 4-6 to see what "they get up to" from 6-8pm on Tuesday 31st January at the Scout Centre behind Charlwood Parish Hall (The Street, RH6 0ED). They would also like to encourage adult volunteers to help run the group and are especially looking for leaders to start a Beaver unit (6-8 years). For more information, contact Andrew Cripps (Cub Scout Leader) on 07725 876673 or akela@23rddorkingscouts.org.uk.



Reception learning through play...constructing dens, baking mince pies in the mud kitchen (yummy) and taking measurements around the playground

FRIENDS' MATTERS

We have recently changed FONDS to a registered charity, with lots of hard work from Victoria Wells and Dawn Cook - huge thanks to them for their efforts!

Doing this means we have to change the way we run certain events and unfortunately we need to postpone **January's Movie Night** (Friday 27th) and, as previously advised, the **Valentine's Day Disco** - apologies, but needs must!

March Movie Night will run as planned on **Friday 24th March**.

Meanwhile, here are a couple of future dates for your diary: **Quiz Night** on **28th April** and the **Summer Ball** on **10th June**.

Thank you for your continued support of FONDS.

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

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

Yours sincerely

J. Douglas

Finally

Kung hei fat choy!

Spring Term 2017

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| Fri 27 th January | Class Assembly 9.10am - Butterflies |
| Fri 27th January | FONDS Movie Night postponed |
| Fri 3 rd February | Class Assembly 9.10am - 3T |
| Tues 7 th February | Parent/Teacher Consultations Leigh / Betchworth 3.30 - 6pm. Brockham 5 - 7.30pm |
| Thurs 9 th February | Parent/Teacher Consultations Brockham 3.30 - 6pm. Leigh / Betchworth 5 - 7.30pm |
| Fri 10 th February | Class Assembly 9.10am - 6J |
| Fri 10th February | FONDS Valentine's Day Disco postponed - revised date TBA |
| Week 13 th -17 th February | HALF TERM |
| Mon 20 th February | School Swimming commences |
| Fri 3 rd March | Class Assembly 9.10am - Dragonflies |
| Mon 6 th March | Bikeability Level 1 Year 5 |
| Tues 7 th March | Bikeability Level 1 Year 5 |
| Fri 10 th March | Class Assembly 9.10am - 5O |
| Thurs 16 th March | Junior Citizen (child safety event) for Year 6 - details to follow |
| Fri 17 th March | Class Assembly 9.10am - 3MB |
| w/c Mon 20 th March | Last week of School Clubs |
| Fri 24 th March | Class Assembly 9.10am - Ladybirds |
| Fri 24 th March | FONDS Movie Night |
| w/c Mon 27 th March | Easter Bonnet competition week |
| Thurs 30 th March | Gold Star Assembly at Leigh 9.15am (by invitation) |
| Fri 31 st March | Gold Star Assembly at Brockham 9.15am (by invitation) |
| Fri 31 st March | End or Term Early Closure: R/KS1 - 1pm KS2 - 1.15pm |

Summer Term 2017

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| Tues 18 th April | First Day of School |
| Fri 28th April | FONDS Quiz Night |
| Mon 1 st May | May Day Bank Holiday - school closed |
| Tues 2 nd May | School Clubs commence |
| w/c Mon 8 th May | KS2 SATS |
| Thurs 25 th May | Maypole Day & Dancing (all at Brockham for the day) |
| Fri 26 th May | INSET Closure 4 of 5 |
| Week 29 th May - 2 nd June | HALF TERM |
| Week 5 th -9 th June | Year 6 Residential Trip to Windmill Hill |
| Thurs 8 th June | Meetings for Year R Betchworth & Year 2 Leigh parents transferring to Leigh/Brockham Sept17 |
| Sat 10th June | FONDS Summer Ball |
| w/c Mon 12 th June | KS1 Phonics Assessment |
| Mon 12 th to Fri 16 th June | Bikeability Level 2 Year 6 |
| Wed 14 th June | Induction Evening for new intake Reception parents 7.30pm Brockham |
| Tues 20 th June | KS2 Sports Day |
| Thurs 22 nd June | KS1 Sports Day |
| w/c Mon 3 rd July | Last week of School Clubs |
| Mon 10 th July | Pedals for Year 2 (Brockham & Leigh) |
| Tues 11 th July | Pedals for Year 2 (Brockham & Leigh) |
| Wed 12 th July | End of Year Pupil Reports |
| Thurs 13 th July | Parent/Teacher Consultations Leigh / Betchworth 3.30 - 6pm. Brockham 5 - 7.30pm |
| Mon 17 th July | Parent/Teacher Consultations Brockham 3.30 - 6pm. Leigh / Betchworth 5 - 7.30pm |
| Tues 18 th July | Gold Star Assembly - Leigh (by invitation) |
| Wed 19 th July | Gold Star Assembly - Brockham (by invitation) |
| Wed 19 th July | Year 6 Leavers Disco |
| Thurs 20 th July | Year 6 Leavers Assembly |
| Thurs 20 th July | End or Term Early Closure: R/KS1 - 1pm KS2 - 1.15pm |
| Fri 21 st July | INSET 5 of 5 |

Term and Holiday Dates 2016/2017

....are available on Surrey County Council website www.surreycc.gov.uk
INSET DAYS: 1st) 05/09/2016; 2nd) 06/09/2016; 3rd) 03/01/2017; 4th) 26/05/2017; 5th) 21/07/2017

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