



Newsletter

Term: AUTUMN 2017

Issue No: 03

Date: 6th October

Dear Parents, Carers and Children

We are very excited about Mrs Tolan's recent visit to Shanghai, where she was taking part in a Maths Specialist Teacher Exchange project. We have been hearing about all the exciting things she did and learnt. Mrs Tolan is training to become a Maths Mastery Specialist through our work with the Surrey Maths Hub and was chosen as one of only two teachers in the county to visit Shanghai to find out how they teach maths and to exchange ideas and techniques.

The two Shanghai teachers she has been working with will be on their return exchange in November and will be visiting us at North Downs. This is a fabulous opportunity for Mrs Tolan and North Downs and we look forward to sharing our learning with you and the children in the coming weeks.



Our Reception children have been enjoying their pet topic recently, especially the visits from a selection of animals...including dogs, guinea pigs and bearded dragons. Caterpillars were relieved to discover these were lizards and not real dragons! Our thanks to the parents accompanying these visitors for bringing them into school.

A very big thank you goes to FONDS' retiring Joint-Chairs Estelle and Kerri for their years of stalwart support of North Downs and its pupils. Estelle and Kerri have been a part of FONDS for many years, working tirelessly and with enormous enthusiasm and commitment and NDPS has benefitted hugely from their efforts. Our thanks are also due to Victoria, retiring this year from her post as FONDS Treasurer - as with Estelle and Kerri, Victoria's volunteered time and fundraising input has meant North Downs has been enriched socially and materially! Thank you ladies - and three cheers to you...hip, hip, hooray!

REMINDERS AND DATES

IMPORTANT - Data Collection Sheets: across the autumn term we are running our annual **DATA CHECK**. You will receive, via your child's bookbag, a form for you to sign and return as confirmation that details held for your child are up to date, making changes as necessary. The forms will be sent home staggered, alphabetically, with the first batch (A-I) coming home today (in the case of siblings, with the eldest) and further batches coming home in future weeks. **Please look out for and return your form SIGNED within 5 days of receipt, irrespective of changes or not.**

School Photographs: a reminder that the children's individual photos are Tues 10th & Wed 11th (see Diary Dates).

Year 6 Secondary Applications: you are reminded that the deadline for applying for a secondary school place in September 2018 is Tues 31st October 2017. The online admissions system is quick, easy to use and available 24 hours a day. Applications made online receive their outcome notification by email too. Visit www.surreycc.gov.uk/admissions for full details and to apply. Surrey County Council recommends parents apply by Fri 20th October, before the half term holiday. Please be aware late applications will not be allocated a school place until all 'on time' applications have been processed and will greatly reduce your chance of securing a preferred school place.

Headlice: we have been notified of some unwelcome visitors. Please check your child's head this weekend and treat if necessary before they return to school on Monday. Advice is available from the NHS at <http://www.nhs.uk/conditions/Head-lice/Pages/Introduction.aspx>

OTHER NEWS

Dorking Minds - Dorking Mental Health Project: are a charity that aims to help people in the Dorking area take control of their mental health, providing services and support. No one with Mental Health issues should feel isolated or alone. 1st Monday of the month 'Help the Helper' meetings, 7.30-9pm at The Malthouse Youth Centre, Dorking www.dorkingminds.org.uk/ email: info@dorkingminds.org. Also a few places left for the MHFA course on 7th & 14th October, teaching how to identify, understand & help a young person who may be experiencing a mental health issue. Join them in Dorking High Street on Saturday 7th October between 12-3pm for 'Rock on Dorking' fun event. Come and celebrate World Mental Health Day on 10th October at Dorking Halls. Book at: <http://dorkingradicalfilms.org/mad-to-be-normal>.

Chatter Matters Group: do you have a pre-school child around 2- 4 years? Are you concerned about their communication development? Are you waiting for a speech therapy referral? You may be interested in coming with your child to our Chatter Matters group in November. The course runs for 5 weeks - Mondays 1st November to 6th December 2017 (no session 29th November) 1.30pm-2.30pm and includes free play, an activity, story and song, snack time and games. Activities are designed to encourage such things as interaction, listening and attention skills, eye contact, oral motor skills, building vocabulary and modelling skills to parents to encourage the child's communication development. Please contact Christine at Dovers Green Children Centre on 01737 223621 or outreach@dover-green.surrey.sch.uk for information and to book.

'Magic, Illusion & Comedy' Evening: Sat 14th October at St Luke's Church, Reigate (excellent for families with children age 6 and over). Buffet supper 6pm, show 7pm. £6 6-16yrs/£9 adults. Tickets St Luke's 01737 243846.

Pet & Dog Walker's Service: St Mary's Buckland, 10.30am Sun 15th October, everyone - and their pets - invited!

Dorking Rugby Football Club: girls rugby 'Pitch Up & Play' for girls Yrs 4-8 Sun 15th October 1-3.30pm Brockham Big Field.

Half Term event: "Into the Wild" a Halloween Fun Day at Leith Hill Place (NT) on Tues 24th October. Morning and afternoon sessions must be pre-booked. For more details and to book visit www.nationaltrust.org.uk/leith-hill-place.

Dorking Lawn Tennis & Squash Club: Half-Term Tennis Camps for ages 4 to 16 from Mon 23rd to Fri 27th October. Email or phone to book - dorkingtennis@gmail.com / 07941 266155.



Who ever said "rain stops play..."?!

FRIENDS' MATTERS

Before FONDS' messages this week, the North Downs community would like to welcome Claire, Hazel and Christine to their new roles in FONDS and thank them for their commitment to the school and its pupils.

Thank you to all the parents who baked, helped and supported our recent **Teas on the Green**. A beautiful day meant an outstanding turnout...and a fabulous amount of money raised. We'll have the grand total for you next newsletter.

We are looking forward to seeing everyone at Saturday's **Autumn Ball**. Please arrive 7pm for drinks and a prompt sit-down at 7.30pm. It looks set to be a fantastic evening. A big thank you is due to Mark O'Keefe, Dorking Accident Repair Centre and David Driscoll, Seymour's Estate Agents Dorking for sponsoring our Casino Tables for the night. Thanks also to DJ Richard Turner for volunteering his services to us for the night.

Finally, a couple of dates for your diaries...

FONDS Meeting - Wed 18th October 7.45pm The Royal Oak, Brockham. New volunteers are wanted please - we need new blood! We will be discussing planned events and thinking of new ones, so come along with your ideas. All welcome.

FONDS Winter Fair - Friday 1st December from 2.45pm at the Brockham Village site.

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

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

Yours sincerely

Finally

A fun and successful visit to High Ashurst is wished
for our Year 4s next week!



Autumn Term 2017

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| Sat 7 th Oct | FONDS Autumn Ball (7pm Betchworth Golf Club) |
| Tues 10 th Oct | Individual School Photographs - Brockham |
| Wed 11 th Oct | Individual School Photographs - Betchworth & Leigh |
| Wed 11 th to Fri 13 th Oct | Year 4 to High Ashurst |
| Tues 17 th Oct | Parent Consultations |
| Thurs 19 th Oct | Parent Consultations |
| Fri 20 th Oct | INSET 2 of 5 |
| Fri 20 th Oct | Preferred submission date for Year 6 Secondary School applications to SCC |
| w/c Mon 23 rd Oct | HALF TERM WEEK |
| Tues 31 st Oct | Closing date for submission of Year 6 Secondary School applications to SCC |
| Wed 1 st Nov | Open Morning - Brockham |
| Thurs 2 nd Nov | Open Morning - Betchworth |
| Fri 3 rd Nov | Year 4 Assembly (High Ashurst) 9.10am |
| Tues 7 th Nov | Year 5 visit to Wisley |
| w/c Mon 27 th Nov | Last week of NDPS Clubs |
| Wed 6 th Dec | KS2 Christmas Performances 1pm & 6.30pm |
| Thurs 7 th Dec | KS2 Christmas Performance 6.30pm |
| Tues 12 th Dec | KS1 Christmas Performance - Brockham 5pm |
| Thurs 14 th Dec | <i>KS1 Christmas Performance - Betchworth & Leigh 5pm</i> |
| Tues 19 th Dec | <i>North Downs Carol Service 7pm</i> |
| Wed 20 th Dec | Gold Star Assembly Leigh (by invitation) |
| Thurs 21 st Dec | Gold Star Assembly Brockham (by invitation) |
| Thurs 21 st Dec | Last Day of Term Early Closure: R/KS1 - 1pm KS2 - 1.15pm |

Term and Holiday Dates 2017/2018

....are available on Surrey County Council website www.surreycc.gov.uk

INSET DAYS: 1st) 04/09/2017; 2nd) 20/10/2017; 3rd) 19/02/2018; 4th) 25/05/2018; 5th) 23/07/2018

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