

Dear Parents, Carers and Children

We wish a very Happy New Year to our pupils, parents and carers...

...and hope you had a lovely Christmas and break - as well as a chance to recover just a little from the excitement and excesses of the festive season before returning to school for Spring Term 2018!



Caterpillars were excited to be back at school and starting their new topic on 'Transport'.

As you can see, they didn't waste any time in making a selection of vehicles and playing related games.

If anybody knows of anyone with an old and/or interesting vehicle we would love to hear from you.

REMINDERS AND DATES

With increased absence during the winter period we ask that you give your attention to the following notes please:

- if your child is unexpectedly absent from school you should contact your school office before 9.30am that day
- if their absence is of more than one day's duration it is not necessary to advise school daily; if the absence is prolonged, please call/email with an update every couple of days
- absence due to vomiting and/or diarrhoea (*whatever the cause*) has a 48 hour exclusion period, so your child should not return to school until there has been a clear 48 hours since their final bout of illness
- it has recently been decided that it will no longer be necessary to provide written confirmation of dates/reason for sickness absence following your telephone/email notification (except in specific cases, as advised by HT)
- if your child will be absent from school for a planned medical absence (e.g. a hospital appointment), signed written notification is required in advance of the day (whenever possible medical/dental appointments should be made for after the school day)
- a request for any other absence should be made on the school's **Term-Time Absence Request Form** ('Application for leave of absence for exceptional circumstances') in advance, which is available to download from our website - <http://www.northdowns.surrey.sch.uk/page/?title=School+Forms+for+Download&pid=361>

A reminder: to ensure it arrives at its destination, any letter etc. should be handed directly to your child's class teacher or into your School Office please, not left in bookbags (unless you are sure your child can be relied upon to hand it in themselves). Thank you.

OTHER NEWS

School Games Mark Award: we are pleased to announce that we have achieved the **School Games Mark Gold Award** for 2016-2017. The School Games Mark is a Government led award scheme launched in 2012, facilitated by the Youth Sport Trust to reward schools for their commitment to the development of competition across their school and into the community, and we are delighted to have been recognised for our success.

Book Fair: thank you to everyone who bought a book/books at our Scholastic Book Fair before Christmas. We raised a splendid £889, enabling us to spend the equivalent amount again on books for the school, with each class choosing a selection for their individual use.

KS2 School Meal Payment: a reminder that school meals are payable in advance. If you have not yet paid your child's, please ensure you do so by Monday morning (8th). The cost for next term is a total of £123.75, of which £60.75 is the first half term and £63.00 the second half term (this includes a deduction for our February inset). You can pay online via your Tucasi account (link on website) or by cheque, but please be aware that NO CASH payments can be accepted. Thank you.



Should Father Christmas need extra helpers next year, he need look no further...



...and before Christmas is a distant memory, the children's Christmas Lunch - and some splendid Christmas jumpers!

FRIENDS' MATTERS

Many thanks again to all parents and carers who donated/helped/spent at the Christmas Fair last term. We are delighted to say we raised £3,750 from the event, which ended a fabulous term of fundraising with the Autumn Ball raising around £3,000 and mulled wine sales another £350 at the Christmas performances. All these funds will be put to excellent use for the children as we have committed to buy another 2 interactive screens for the classrooms as well as replacement cameras, and are in discussions as to how to help with the outdoor learning development plans for 2018.

Our next meeting is planned for Tuesday 16th January 7.45pm at the Dolphin Inn, Betchworth, all are very welcome!

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

J. Douglas

Finally

Have a relaxing weekend.



Spring Term 2018

Thurs 4 th Jan	First Day of Term
Mon 8 th Jan	Breakfast and Moles Clubs recommence at Brockham
Mon 8 th Jan	Early Birds Clubs recommence at Betchworth & Leigh
Fri 12 th Jan	Class Assembly - 6C
w/c Mon 15 th Jan	NDPS Clubs begin
w/c Mon 15 th Jan	After School Swim Club begins
Thurs 18 th Jan	Class Assembly - Bees
Fri 19 th Jan	Class Assembly - Dragonflies
Fri 26 th Jan	Class Assembly - 5MB
Thurs 1 st Feb	Class Assembly - Beetles
Fri 2 nd Feb	Class Assembly - Butterflies
Tues 6 th Feb	Safer Internet Day
Tues 6 th Feb	Parent Teacher Consultations
Thurs 8 th Feb	Parent Teacher Consultations
Fri 9 th Feb	Class Assembly 3WM
w/c Mon 12 th Feb	HALF TERM WEEK
Mon 19 th Feb	INSET 3 of 5
Tues 20 th Feb	NDPS swimming begins
Fri 2 nd Mar	Class Assembly - 5BM
Fri 9 th Mar	Class Assembly - 3T
Fri 16 th Mar	Class Assembly - 6J
w/c Mon 19 th Mar	Last week of NDPS Clubs
Mon 19 th Mar	In-house Swimming Gala for Years 3-6
Fri 23 rd Mar	Sports Relief
Wed 28 th Mar	Gold Star Assembly Leigh (by invitation)
Thurs 29 th Mar	Gold Star Assembly Brockham (by invitation)
Thurs 29 th Mar	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 <https://www.surreycc.gov.uk/schools-and-learning/schools/school-term-dates/add-school-term-dates-to-your-phone-or-calendar>

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

Term and Holiday Dates 2018/2019

....are available on Surrey County Council website <https://www.surreycc.gov.uk/schools-and-learning/schools/school-term-dates/add-school-term-dates-to-your-phone-or-calendar>