



Newsletter

Term: SPRING 2015

Issue No: 20

Date: 13th February

Dear Parents, Carers and Children

Our half term has ended as busily as it began and we are pleased to share photographs of some of our recent school events.

Do remember that our activities for Safer Internet Day are a good opportunity for you to talk with your children about the internet and to reinforce the need for everyone to use it in a safe and responsible manner. We repeat the two website addresses that may help with this...

www.saferinternetday.org.uk
www.thinkuknow.co.uk

We are sad to tell you that Pepper our much-loved school guinea pig died peacefully in her sleep last weekend. She was not alone, as she was having a weekend break with a kind family, and we are very grateful to them for their care. We shall miss her, but Pepper had reached a good age for a guinea pig, and had spent over a year happily with the children in Years 2 and 6 at North Downs, having come to us from another home.

Picture



North Downs raises money to help children like Isla! Isla, in Bees, had open heart surgery when she was a baby. In the picture she is proudly holding up the special blanket and toy given to her when she was in hospital. Thanks to your generosity last week, the British Heart Foundation can help more children like her lead normal lives.



Caterpillars supporting 'wear something red'



We hope you enjoy this selection of photos of our Year 3 playing 'Morning Mood' from Edvard Grieg's Peer Gynt Suite on glockenspiels!



Beetles engaging with activities for Safer Internet Day and clearly taking the message very seriously (above and left)



Other News

Family Voice Surrey - Parent Engagement Event (5 March 2015) FREE event: don't miss this opportunity to hear the latest on the S.E.N.D. reforms in Surrey, to quiz key speakers and to gather information from local organisations, all providing services or support for families of children and young people with additional needs. Parents need to register their interest for this free event. See our web link below:

<http://www.familyvoicesurrey.org/#12015-fvs-conference/c2va>

Denbies' Half Term Events: there are lots of activities planned for this half term that may be of interest - see the Denbies' flyer (right).

Half-Term Advanced Football Course: a reminder about this course being run by 'Nick Torpey Just Soccer' on Tues 17th to Thurs 19th February on The Big Field, Brockham. For more details and to book see website www.nicktorpeyjustsoccer.com or phone 07734 721572.

DENBIES' WINE ESTATE
FAMILY EVENTS

February Half Term
Monday 16th – Friday 20th February
Daily Craft Activities from £1.50 per activity

LEGO EXHIBITION
Monday 16th – Friday 20th February
Free admission.
Including daily Lego build 11.30am & 1.30pm.
(Rainbow Trust £1.50 charity donation)

HENFOLD BIRDS OF PREY 'Swooping by'
Tuesday 17th & Thursday 19th February
10am – 2pm,
free admission.

TEDDY BEAR'S VALENTINE'S DISCO
Monday 16th February
11.00am & 2.00pm,
£7.25 per child.

LEGO BUILDING WORKSHOP
Wednesday 18th February
11am & 2pm,
£7.25 per child.
Booking essential.

PUNCH & JUDY
Friday 20th February
10.30am/12 noon/2pm.
Traditional family fun,
free admission.

DENBIES WINE ESTATE LONDON RD DORKING SURREY RH5 6AA
T: 01306 876616 | RESERVATIONS online at: www.denbies.co.uk

Friends' Matters

Quiz Night: booking forms for this event on 20th March went home via ParentMail last week. We already have requests for tickets, so don't risk disappointment - get your booking forms back to us quickly!

Next FONDS newsletter, with future dates, is due out soon - look out for your copy.

Have a great half term and we hope everyone enjoys today's Valentine's Discos.

If you wish to contact FONDS directly, please use the following email address - fonds@northdowns.surrey.sch.uk

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)

KS2 School Meal Payment: next half term's amount due is - **£52.50** (for 23rd Feb to 27th Mar)

As usual, we ask you to make your payment via your Tucasi account, using the link on our website Home Page. Please remember that we are a cashless school on our return - so NO CASH; cheques are currently still accepted, made payable to North Downs Primary School. **Payment should be made in advance of meals taken please.**

IMPORTANT - Pupil Attendance: this is to bring to your attention that further to the government's revised regulations of September 2014 concerning term-time absence (tightening the circumstances under which a Headteacher may give authorisation) we have been advised that there is to be a further tightening on attendance with new legislation coming into force in September.

The new legislation will cover all aspects of pupil absence, with the government wanting every pupil to achieve a minimum of 90% attendance. **Attendance falling below 95% will be monitored, with the school's Education Welfare Officer investigating attendance below 90%.**

Please be reassured that where we have been given a clear explanation as to the reason for a specific absence from parents - by phone initially and with a follow-up cover letter - we are able to pass this on to the Educational Welfare Officer at their regular half-termly meetings.

Children's Society 'thank you': Christmas seems a very long time ago, but we have been sent a thank you for the £206.90 raised by North Downs in the Children's Society Christingle Candles.

British Heart Foundation: and another thank you for the £376.17 raised during last week's 'wear something red' day.

Yours sincerely

A.J. Ewing

Finally

Have an enjoyable half term break



Spring Term 2015

w/c Monday 16 th February	Half Term Week
Monday Feb 23 rd	Swimming starts - lessons & clubs
Thursday 26 th February	Caterpillars Assembly 9.15am (parents welcome)
Friday Feb 27 th	4MS Assembly 9.15am (parents welcome)
Thursday March 5 th	KS1 Bedtime Story 6pm to 7pm at all three sites
w/c Monday 2 nd March	Book Week
Friday March 6 th	<i>5S Assembly 9.15am (parents welcome)</i>
Friday March 6 th	End of Book Week - dressing up as book character
Thursday 12 th March	Beetles Assembly 9.15am (parents welcome)
Friday March 13 th	<i>3MB Assembly 9.15am (parents welcome)</i>
Week of March 16 th	Last week of NDPS clubs
Friday March 20 th	6J Assembly 9.15am (parents welcome)
Friday March 20 th	FONDS Quiz Night 7.30pm
Tuesday March 24 th	Parent Consultations (pupils present) Brockham: 5 - 7.30pm Leigh and Betchworth: 3.30 - 6pm
Thurs March 26 th	Parent Consultations (pupils present) Brockham: 3.30 - 6pm Leigh and Betchworth: 5 - 7.30pm
Tuesday March 24 th	Gold Star Assembly - Betchworth 9.15am - by invitation
Thursday March 26 th	Gold Star Assembly - Leigh 9.15am - by invitation
Friday March 27 th	Gold Star Assembly - Brockham 9.15am - by invitation
Friday 27 th March	Last Day of Term - early finish: 1pm Infants 1.15pm Juniors

Term and Holiday Dates 2014/2015

....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) 02/09/2014 2nd) 03/09/2014 3rd) 05/01/2015 4th) 20/07/2015 5th) 21/07/2015

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