



Be the best you can be, every day

Newsletter

Term: Autumn 2020

Issue No: 4

Date: 16th October

Dear Parents, Carers and Children

Well one more week till half term...I'm not sure where the time has gone! I am incredibly proud of everyone's dedication, cooperation and understanding and in particular 'kindness' - our whole school value for this half term. Our value when we return is 'Responsibility' - also very appropriate for these times we find ourselves in. We have been very lucky, on the whole, with the weather these last few weeks; now let's hope we find ourselves entering a warm, snow-free winter!

MS Teams & Online Homework

Online homework has been in operation for just over a week now and we hope you have been able to access and complete the work set, but if you have any problems accessing homework on Teams please let us know. We thank you for your patience while we introduce this new system and please bear with us while we all get to grips with the technology.

Some of you may use Teams with your job/companies, but it is important to remember that the experience of Teams at work is going to be very different to that of a pupil in a primary school. Team's features that many of you may use, are unlikely to be available to the children, so please see below some additional information, based on queries we have received:

- Teams doesn't support multiple accounts if you have more than one child in school. The best advice we can give is to ask you to make sure that you log out after each Teams/Stream session and then login each time using the correct sign-in details. This is frustrating but important to login using the correct details as each child's login is setup to access the appropriate class assignments.
- Chat is disabled for children's accounts and not available for contacts outside the school organisation (parents email addresses), so we would recommend that all questions parents may have about homework are emailed to the class teachers.
- Chat and Posts are disabled for children's accounts so should not be used for communicating with classmates. Classes in Teams are setup for homework assignment and online class video meetings only.
- Homework should be submitted in digital format via the instructions given in the assignment. This might be to send in via email to the class teacher, take a photograph of their work and upload this to their 'class' or complete their homework interactively online within Teams.
- At the moment parents are receiving homework notification emails via parent mail as not all children have access to homework assignments via Teams yet.
- In order to make the process of managing homework as straight forward and streamlined as possible, teachers will not be adding comments in the comment box. Instead, feedback will be given verbally in class once the handing in date has been reached. If you have any problems accessing homework on Teams, please let us know.



Next week, in readiness for after half term, we will be launching a year-round walk to school challenge, an initiative run by Living Streets, part of Surrey County Council's Safer Travel team. The WOW challenge is a pupil-led initiative where children record how they get to school every day. If they travel sustainably (walk, cycle, or scoot) once a week for a month, they get rewarded with a recycled WOW Badge...it's that easy! Each year, the 11 WOW badges follow a new WOW theme, all of which are designed by pupils in an annual badge design competition. On average, WOW schools see a **30% REDUCTION IN CAR JOURNEYS** taken to the school gate and a **23% INCREASE IN WALKING RATES**.

Look out for further details next week...

Swimming

The SWIMSENSE half term swimming crash course will be held at North Downs Primary School, 26th - 30th October and is open to all children aged 3+ to 11. Teachers are in the water and groups are kept to a maximum of 4 to allow for social distancing. Sessions are 30 minutes and generally run in the mornings from 08.30 onwards.

There is also a class for Adult Improvers which will be taught by Nicky. Children tend to come for a minimum of 3 sessions. Email Emma on emiller5253@gmail.com for further details and bookings.

Updated PSHE Policy

Following on from the work Mrs Boyer has undertaken with her parent focus group over the last two terms, please see the link below to access our update PSHE Policy. This includes Relationships and Health Education and our position on Sex Education.

<https://www.northdowns.surrey.sch.uk/page/?title=Personal%2C+Social%2C+Health+Education&pid=618>

We are inviting parents to offer feedback, as we enter a 30 day consultation period. Should you have any comments please email Mrs Boyer julie.boyer@northdowns.surrey.sch.uk

FONDS

We hope the children are enjoying designing their Christmas cards. All designs must be ordered online before artwork comes back. Deadline for artwork back is **Friday 23rd October**.

Bags 2 School Reminder - bags need to be dropped to your relevant site before 9am on Wednesday 21st October.

Also, we are postponing the "Funky Hair Day" until after half term due. New date to be confirmed soon!

Wonderful News...

Joshua's (in Toucans) grandfather, Terry Keen (74), has been awarded a British Empire Medal for special services during the Covid outbreak. He helps older people keep fit and active and has been a great source of inspiration, especially during lockdown.



Netball Skills

Session

For girls aged 9-10 years

Join us for a skills session, full of fun games, skills and challenges to get our mini superstars on the court.

CONTACT US NOW IF INTERESTED

✉ Please email:
DNC.JUNIORS@HOTMAIL.COM



MONDAY 26TH OCTOBER

10-12 PM ASHCOMBE SCHOOL

DNC.JUNIORS@HOTMAIL.COM



@DORKING
NETBALL CLUB



DORKING
Netball Club



WWW.DORKINGNETBALLCLUB.CO.UK

Just to let you know...

After half term Mrs Scott's days at school are changing to Monday, Tuesday and Thursday.

Dates for the Diary

Friday 23rd October
Monday 2nd November
Tuesday 17th November
Thursday 19th November
Friday 18th December
Monday 4th January
Tuesday 5th January
Friday 12th February
Monday 22nd February
Thursday 1st April
Monday 19th April
Monday 3rd May
Thursday 27th May
Friday 28th May
Monday 7th June
Tuesday 20th July
Wednesday 21st July

Break up for half term
Children return to school
P/T Consultations
P/T Consultations
Break up
INSET Day
Children return to school
Break up for half term
Children return to school
Break up
Children return to school
Bank holiday
Break up for half term
INSET Day
Children return to school
Break up
INSET Day