



Be the best you can be, every day

Newsletter

Term: Spring 2022

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Date: 7th January

Dear Parents, Carers and Children

Happy New Year! I hope you all had a peaceful and relaxing Christmas. This rather cold and bracing weather has been somewhat of a shock after the record breaking mild New Year. However, I am sure things will change again next week so this is a good opportunity to ask that you ensure your child comes prepared for all eventualities - from waterproofs to woolly hats! We do our utmost to ensure that the children are not cold in class. However, as you know we do need to ensure that rooms are adequately ventilated. To that end, please do make sure your child 'layers up', as I always say to my own boys!

As is usual, we have busily launched ourselves into our learning, without delay. With this Newsletter, you will have received the PSHE Knowledge Organisers for this half term. Learning Letters will also come home next week, with additional curriculum information for your child(ren). Looking at the diary for this term, we also have our 'usual' activities planned such as Parent Teacher Consultations but more information to come out about these over the next couple of weeks.

ELSA and Pastoral Support

We are incredibly fortunate at North Downs to have two wonderful ELSAs - Mrs P-H and Mrs Hitch. For those of you who are not aware, ELSAs or Emotional Literacy Support Assistants work individually with children who may need help recognising, understanding, managing or expressing their emotions. Some areas in which the ELSAs work are around social skills, self-esteem, loss and bereavement, friendship skills, anger management and recognising emotions.

How does the ELSA work?

- Each child is seen on a regular basis during the school week for a 20 - 30 minute slot.
- Sessions are tailored to each individual child.
- Sessions are fun using art, craft, stories, puppets, games, stories or drawings.
- There is ALWAYS time for talk.

What happens during each session?

- Each session is pre-planned to suit the individual child and the area/s in which they are having problems. For example, a child may learn what the triggers are to becoming angry and work on ways to understand and reduce the triggers for that child.
- The child is encouraged to use their new skills in the classroom or the playground.
- The programme helps the child develop social skills, personal awareness and coping strategies to help with self-esteem and self-confidence.
- Pupils are helped to find their own solutions rather than the ELSA telling them what to do.

Referrals for ELSA support are made via the class teachers, who complete a referral form highlighting the type of support needed. However, both Mrs P-H and Mrs Hitch are often approached directly by parents, as sometimes the difficulties children may have are being exhibited more at home than in school. In order to make a request for ELSA support a little more accessible for parents, and to ensure effective liaison with a child's class teacher, we have created an email address which parents can use to contact Mrs P-H or Mrs Hitch.

This email address is: ELSA@northdowns.surrey.sch.uk

A Polite Reminder from Surrey County Council Admissions

Surrey County Council Admissions have asked that we remind parents that the national closing date for Reception and Junior applications for September 2022 entry is **15 January 2022**. For infant schools, this includes any children on roll in Year 2 for transfer to a Junior school next September.

Online applications are strongly encouraged via <https://www.eadmissions.org.uk/eAdmissions/app>. Parents can apply online from a smartphone or tablet as well as a laptop. If you are unable to apply online, you will need to request a paper application form via the Surrey Schools & Childcare Service (0300 200 1004, Mon-Fri 9am-5pm). The completed paper application form must be received by Admissions (to the Quadrant Court address) by 15 January; you must allow time for the post to reach them. If you need to apply on paper, it is recommended that applications are sent by recorded post.

Full information is available on Surrey's website at www.surreycc.gov.uk/primaryadmissions. The Surrey Schools & Childcare Service can also provide impartial help in completing an application.

Applications received after the closing date without an exceptional reason will be treated as late and will not be considered until all on time applications have been processed. This may jeopardise the chance of you being offered one of the preferred schools for your child.

We have been enjoying our LOTc...



...some of our outdoor learning photos from last term.

Dates for the Diary

Friday 11th February - Break up for half term
Monday 21st February - INSET Day
Tuesday 22nd February - Children return to school.
Wednesday 9th to Friday 11th March - Year 4 residential trip to High Ashurst
Friday 1st April - Break up for Easter - Infants at 1.00pm and Juniors at 1.15 pm
Tuesday 19th April - Children return to school
Monday 2nd May - Bank Holiday
Monday 16th May - School Science Week
Thursday 26th May - Maypole on The Green
Thursday 26th May - Children break up for half term
Friday 27th May - INSET Day

Wishing you all an enjoyable and relaxing weekend.

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