



Newsletter

Term: Summer 2023

Issue No: 17

Date: 16th June

Dear Parents, Carers and Children

Well - that has certainly been a busy couple of weeks! The good weather arrived just in time for the start of this half term and even our overdue Ofsted Inspection could not put a dampener on our spirits. Thank you to all of you for your kind words of support and encouragement; the emails and messages we received were greatly appreciated. The Inspection Team were impressed by the number of responses to the Parent and Pupil Surveys and I know spoke to some parents on the gate on the mornings they were here. Visits across all three sites were undertaken, so it was a mammoth task for them. We hope to receive the outcome letter at the start of next month, which we will obviously share with you all.

It was lovely to see so many of you at our Sports Mornings this week. A huge well done to the children and staff, but a special mention to Mrs Stowell who organised the mornings for us...though I do seem to have been relegated from the use of the PA and megaphone! Congratulations though to the winning Houses. As the temperature began to rise on Tuesday, we decided to curtail the usual presentation, so some of you may not be aware that on Tuesday Arundel were victorious. Finally, an enormous thank you to our Year 6 children who helped to ensure the Infants Sports morning yesterday ran so smoothly.

The last few weeks of term are rapidly flying by yet there is still much to squeeze in! Following their trip to Chessington World of Adventure last week (a trip fully funded through their fundraising from the School Stationery Shop) Year 6 are preparing for their residential to Windmill Hill PGL on Monday 3rd July. Prior to their departure, they will have the opportunity to visit their new Secondary Schools, on 27th June. We will therefore take this opportunity for the children who will be remaining at North Downs to spend the day in their new classrooms with their teachers for September 2023.

These visits will take place on **Tuesday 27th June** when we ask that children are dropped off at their new site/classrooms to spend the day with classmates and staff in readiness for the new school year. We have offered information evenings for the parents of those children who are changing sites on Thursday 22nd June, prior to the children's 'move up day' the week after. For your information, please see below the staffing structure for classes for the next school year.

School Year 2023/24

Year Group	Class/Site	Teacher(s)
Reception	Owls - Betchworth	Ms Morgan
	Robins - Brockham	Mrs Cobbold
Year 1	Puffins - Leigh	Miss Chinery & Miss Winslade
	Penguins - Brockham	Ms Gahan
Year 2	Woodpeckers - Leigh	Miss Westwood
	Kingfishers - Brockham	Mrs Tubb
Year 3	Flamingos	Mr Evenden
	Toucans	Miss Tennent
Year 4	Parrots	Ms Marshall-Bailey
	Macaws	Mrs Chase
Year 5	Skylarks	Mrs Boyer
	Nightingales	Mrs Goodwin
Year 6	Kestrels	Miss Whitcher
	Eagles	Mr Smith

You will have undoubtedly noticed quite a few changes within those names listed in the table. Sadly, we will be bidding sad but incredibly fond 'farewells' to **Mrs Cummins**, **Mr Skinner** and **Mr Wade**, all of whom are retiring at the end of this term. There are not enough words to describe how much we will miss them.

Their contributions over their combined forty two years at North Downs have had such huge impact on the school...they will be so greatly missed. **Mrs Cox** is also leaving us at the end of this term, as she and her lovely family are relocating to Dorset. We wish them all well in their exciting new adventures.

In light of Mr Wade's retirement, over the last few weeks the governors have undertaken a reorganisation of the school's leadership structure. I am, therefore, delighted to share with you that from September:

- **Mrs Deeks** will continue as Deputy Headteacher, which will see her in a full time role, with her office based at our Leigh site.
- **Mrs Scott's** role, which will come under the title of 'Inclusion Lead', sees her increasing to four days each week.
- **Mrs Tubb** and **Mr Smith** have both been successful in securing our two new Assistant Headteacher roles. Although they will remain class based, any Leadership time out of class will be covered by the lovely Mrs Tolan.

Congratulations and good luck to everyone in their new role.

Finally, we are thrilled to be able to share with you that Mrs Sharon Chase, Miss Tabitha Chinery, Miss Jess Whitcher and Miss Becky Westwood are joining the North Downs Team! Miss Chinery and Miss Westwood have both been working at the school this year, with Ms Gahan and Mrs Tubb, and we are so pleased that from September they join as permanent members of the teaching team. Some of you may also remember Miss Whitcher, who worked alongside Mr Skinner last year - she joins us from Warren Mead School to work alongside Mr Smith in Year 6. Finally, Mrs Chase is moving to North Downs from St John's School in Dorking, to work with Ms Marshall-Bailey in Year 4. I know they are all looking forward to being with us for 'move up' day on Tuesday 27th June. Children will be informed of their new class teacher on Monday 26th June...so they know where to go to the next morning!

FONDSFest

We are excited to be hosting our FIRST summer festival this term and are writing to you with more details of the event and request your help! **FONDSFest** is being held to raise money towards the school swimming pool changing rooms so is a **HUGE** fundraising initiative.

Tickets for the event can be purchased **NOW** via

<https://www.ptaevents.co.uk/fonds/index.cfm?event=event&eventId=64702>

We will also be selling tickets on the day!

We will be hosting a **"BOTTLE TOMBOLA"** at the festival and are asking for bottle donations in exchange for Mufti Day on **FRIDAY 30TH JUNE**. Please bring all donations to drop off. The school council will also be running a **SECOND HAND TEDDY/TOY** sale on the day and we are asking again for any donations to go towards this stall. (ALL DONATIONS MUST BE IN GOOD CONDITION)

VOLUNTEERS

In order for us to be able to run this event we really do need help; we understand everyone is busy but all we're asking for is a couple of hours of everyone's time! We have lots of things to manage on the day and it really will be a case of **"ALL HANDS ON DECK"**.

Please sign up: <https://www.signupgenius.com/go/70a0849ada622a5fd0-fondsfest/>

*** IF WE DO NOT GET ENOUGH VOLUNTEERS THE EVENT MIGHT NOT BE ABLE TO RUN ***

There will be:

• BBQ/BAR Bouncy Castles Face Painting Fire Engine Visit (*subject to operational commitments)
Games Stalls Music and More

So, add the date to your diary, grab your tickets and enrich your children's school journey by lending a hand!

‘Good Job, Thomas!’

On Sunday 28th May Thomas, in Year 5, won the QuadKids Open Athletics Meet in Guildford, where over 200 children were competing. Thomas took part in the vortex throw, long jump, 75m sprint and 600m run. He came first in three out of the four events but then went on to win the whole U11 boys QuadKids competition. His favourite bit was being presented his medal by Sir Mo Farah, who told him ‘Good Job’...it really doesn’t get much better than that! Congratulations Thomas!



Action for Nature Competition - Surrey Wildlife Trust

Don't forget! The deadline for recording your actions for nature on the SWT website **is this Sunday - 18th June**. You can record your actions and upload a photo using this simple survey: <https://arcg.is/ajOir>
If we can demonstrate that our wider school community has taken the most actions for nature, North Downs could win a **£300 grant towards outdoor learning equipment and tools** for our school grounds.

As one of the eleven schools taking part, we are in with a great chance to win this competition so the more families that take **Action for Nature**, the greater our chances will be!

You can scan this code to enter your actions for nature...thank you!



Diary Dates

Thursday 22nd June - 7.00pm Parents Meeting for new Year 3 children at Brockham
Thursday 22nd June - 7.00pm Parents Meeting for new Leigh Year 1 Parents at Leigh
Tuesday 27th June - ‘Move Up’ Day
Friday 30th June - Mufti Day in return for donations for FONDSFest
Friday 30th June - Year 3 Camp Night
Monday 3rd July - Year 6 Residential to Windmill Hill PGL
Thursday 6th July - 7.00pm New Reception Parents Meeting
Saturday 8th July - FONDSFest
Wednesday 19th July - Year 6 Leavers Disco
Thursday 20th July - Year 6 Leavers Assembly
Thurs 20th July - Children break up - Infants at 1.00pm and Juniors at 1.15pm
Friday 21st July - INSET Day
Tuesday 5th September - Children return to school