



# Newsletter

Term: Autumn 2024

Issue No: 5

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## Dear Parents, Carers and Children

The half term break already seems a dim and distant memory, as the past couple of weeks have been super busy at school. We held our Open Mornings for prospective parents at both the Brockham and Betchworth sites. A huge thank you to our Year 6 guides who helped 'tour' the parents - they acted as fantastic ambassadors for our school and we are very proud of them for doing so well. The children have also had the chance to enjoy skipping workshops over the last two weeks and this week we have been celebrating and joining in with activities linked to Anti-Bullying Week. Today we are all wearing our odd socks - not just as a bit of fun for Children in Need but as a way of celebrating that we are all different. Any money collected today will all go to Children in Need - it's not too late to donate via Tucasi, if you have not already done so.

Just before half term, we received our Academy Offer Letter. After a bit of delay at the DfE, due to the general election, we have received the communication from the Advisory Board giving approval for North Downs Primary School to join the Everychild Partnership Trust. **This does not mean we are now an academy**, this is just giving us permission to explore this further with the Trust - there is still a long way to go and lots to do! In the meantime, we have already benefitted from many opportunities we have been given to work with other schools within the Trust, which have been very much appreciated by those staff involved. We will continue to keep you posted on any further progress!

We also find ourselves preparing for our Christmas performances. All events will take place during the week beginning 2<sup>nd</sup> December. Each of the **infant classes (Years R, 1 and 2)** will present a short Nativity based assembly, which will be performed at **the Brockham site**. The children will attend the Brockham site for the day, to allow time for rehearsal and performance... and some festive fun. The dates and times for these events are listed in the table below. We have hired a marquee, once again, to provide cover for the children and parents and to allow for a small stage area, lighting for performances etc.

For the **junior classes (Years 3 - 6)** we will once again be hosting Carol Singing on the big field during the same week. Another massive thank you to Rob and Jo at Easy Marquee Hire in the village, who are providing our marquee (complete with festoon lighting) at a discounted price for the school - greatly appreciated.

Date	Event	Year Group(s)	Time
Tuesday 3 <sup>rd</sup> December	Nativity	Year 2/Kingfishers	9.30am
Tuesday 3 <sup>rd</sup> December	Nativity	Year 2/Woodpeckers	2.15pm
Wednesday 4 <sup>th</sup> December	Carols	Years 3 & 4	5.00pm
Wednesday 4 <sup>th</sup> December	Carols	Years 5 & 6	6.30pm
Thursday 5 <sup>th</sup> December	Nativity	Year 1/Penguins	9.30am
Thursday 5 <sup>th</sup> December	Nativity	Year 1/Puffins	2.15pm
Friday 6 <sup>th</sup> December	Nativity	Reception/Owls & Robins	2.15pm

*Details regarding arrival times for these events, along with any other requests or information for particular year groups, will be sent out in our 'Christmas Events' letter next week.*

## NSEA National Championships

Congratulations for Arthur in Year 6 for his performance at the NSEA championships. He came 9th in the Jumping with Style class. This was out of 70 children who all had to qualify from around the country. In the 80cm SJ class he came 4th.

Amazing job Arthur - well done!



## Surrey Wildlife Trust - Action for Nature

This year, as part of the [Wilder Schools](#) programme, [Surrey Wildlife Trust](#) (SWT) Education and Engagement Officer, Emma Rothwell, is working with North Downs to help our pupils improve our school grounds for nature and take even more of their learning outdoors.

Surrey's wildlife is in decline, but by taking some simple actions at home, we can all help create a Nature Recovery Network across the county.

In **February 2025**, SWT will launch their **Actions for Nature Competition** - where they encourage everyone in the school community to complete one or more Action for Nature at home or in the wider community. The more actions you record will give North Downs a greater chance of winning a funding grant towards outdoor learning equipment or tools for school grounds improvement!

### Action for Nature - Make a Splash!

[Ponds can be home to an interesting range of wildlife](#), and even a small one made from a suitable container can attract animals including damsel and dragonflies, frogs and newts.

Any pond can become a feeding ground for birds, hedgehogs and bats - the best natural garden pest controllers - and your pond needn't be big. A washing-up bowl, a large plant pot, or a disused sink could all be repurposed as ponds, providing you make sure creatures can get in and out.

If you don't have your own outdoor space at home, why not [help the environment by watching what you wash away](#)? Some of our favourite washing-up liquids and cleaning products can be harmful to wildlife with long-lasting effects. Brands like Ecover, Method, Bio-D and some supermarket own-brands have good products made from natural and environmentally-friendly ingredients. Using eco-friendly detergents in your clothes wash is also a great way to watch what you're putting into rivers and seas, keeping water clean for wildlife.

## Lost Property

We seem to have had a huge increase in the amount of lost property at school. Our House Captains have taken on the responsibility of sweeping through the playground at the end of break times to try and return hoodies/jumpers/coats etc. to the respective children to try and support everyone. They have asked that we send a polite reminder to ensure all uniform is clearly and obviously named (including coats, hats, water bottles) to help make this job easier for them. Your co-operation is much appreciated.

## Sports Report from Mrs Stowell



### Sports Crew

On Monday 11<sup>th</sup> November, children from year 6 attended the Sports Crew training at Priory school they will be using these skills to run playtime games for year 3 and 4 and sports events in school.

*'Twelve of us went to the sports crew training course. We played loads of games. We had to show a lot of teamwork to beat the challenges. We had to find what the top thing we thought a leader needed. We learned about MR NEDD (Name the game, Explain the game, Demonstrate the game and Do the game). We had to explain our games and demonstrate them.'*

Josh Year 6 Sports Crew

*'We learnt some new games to play with year 3 and 4 at lunchtime. We got our bronze badge, a sports crew top and we all really had fun!'*

Raff Year 6 Sports Crew

### Skipping Workshops

All the children have enjoyed taking part in a skipping workshop where they have learnt new skills and tricks to improve co-ordination and balance and keep them fit. Our sports crew will be running some skipping competitions later in the term for children to practice at lunch and break times.



### Clubs and Competitions

North Downs children have been busy training in clubs and practicing for a number of inter school events. Sadly the two cross country events were cancelled due to the heavy rain but instead we organised our own inter club competition:

#### Results

##### Year 3 and 4 girls

1<sup>st</sup> Reya

2<sup>nd</sup> Clemmie

3<sup>rd</sup> Willa

##### Year 3 and 4 boys

1<sup>st</sup> Harry

2<sup>nd</sup> Freddie

3<sup>rd</sup> George B

##### Year 5 and 6 Girls

1<sup>st</sup> Poppy

2<sup>nd</sup> Imogen

3<sup>rd</sup> Lily

##### Year 5 and 6 Boys

1<sup>st</sup> Jack MM

2<sup>nd</sup> Jack K

3<sup>rd</sup> James W

### Key Stage 1 Athletics Festival

On Tuesday 12<sup>th</sup> November seven children from Year 2 took part in a Key Stage 1 Athletics Festival at the Priory school. The children worked round a circuit of indoor athletics activities such as javelin, ladders and standing long jump, followed by an obstacle and shuttle relay. They improved their skills, had fun and demonstrated great future talent!

### Girls Rugby Festival

Eighteen year 5 and 6 girls took part in a rugby festival at Dorking rugby club on Friday 8<sup>th</sup> July. They were taught skills in lots of fun and active practices and then played tag games against all the schools. Our two teams did well and the improvement in skills and game play was excellent. We hope some the girls will go on to join Dorking rugby club!



### Year 5/6 Girls Football Tournament

On Thursday 7<sup>th</sup> November our girls football team took part in the Dorking schools football tournament at Meadowbank Stadium. They finished fourth out of seven teams with two wins, two draws and two defeats. They played such good football and were unlucky in the games they did not win. Their coach Jack, said that 'their behaviour and attitude on the day were fantastic and they were a real credit to their school'.

Wishing you an enjoyable and relaxing weekend.

JWongbss