

Dear Parents, Carers and Children

As we reach the end of another busy and successful fortnight, it is wonderful to look back and celebrate all that has been achieved since the start of term. This newsletter shares some of the many highlights from the past two weeks and reflects the energy, effort and positivity that have characterised the start of the academic year. We have been delighted to see pupils making the most of the exciting opportunities available to them, including our Year 5 and Year 6 children who recently attended an inspiring writing day at Wentworth Golf Club. Thank you so much to Mrs Chase for organising.



There is still plenty to look forward to over the coming weeks. Next week, our Year 5 pupils will be visiting Wisley and we are keeping our fingers crossed for some sunny autumn weather. We are also excited that Year 4 will be heading off to High Ashurst for their residential adventure in the week before half term, an experience that always provides wonderful opportunities for learning, teamwork and personal growth. We are also looking forward to welcoming parents and carers to our Parent Teacher Consultations next week. These meetings provide a valuable opportunity to celebrate your child's successes, discuss their progress and strengthen the partnership between home and school that helps every child to thrive. Thank you, as always, for your continued support.

The sports season is about to get underway too. Mrs Stowell remains Sports Coordinator for the Dorking Schools Partnership but has handed the baton of Sports Lead at North Downs to the lovely Mr Crosbie. He and Mrs Fraser will be organising and planning events for North Downs, the first of which is a cross-country event just before the half term break. Information is being sent home today so do look out for it!

Nut Free Policy

At North Downs, like all other school, we have a no nut policy at school. PLEASE **do not** give your child nuts for their snack or lunch, and please do check the ingredients of cereal bars etc. Some of our children at school have a **severe** nut allergy - thank you for your support in this matter.

Attendance Matters

A huge well done to all our pupils and families for supporting strong attendance this term. Every day in school counts, and regular attendance helps children make the most of every learning opportunity. Special congratulations go to our attendance stars since the start of term:

- Penguins – 99.5%
- Macaws – 98.1%
- Toucans – 97.7%

These are fantastic attendance figures and reflect the commitment of our children and families. Thank you for helping us ensure that every child is able to be the best they can be, every day.





Christ Church Cafe

Run by the Church for the community



Christ Church Cafe

is open on the

2nd and 5th Wednesday

of the month during school term time



2:15pm - 4:15pm

In Christ Church Community Hall



Come and relax and chat
in our Cafe for all ages
with toys, books and
colouring available for
children

Retirement News!

After an incredible **24 years** of at **North Downs**, we are getting ready to say a very fond farewell to **Mr Berwick**, who will be retiring next month.

Throughout his time at North Downs, Mr Berwick has been an invaluable member of our school community. From keeping the school safe, to always being on hand to fix, organise and help with whatever was needed. From putting up all of the fairy lights at Christmas to setting up for Maypole on The Green...a tradition that brings our school community together. As he prepares for his well-deserved retirement, we would like to take this opportunity to thank Mr Berwick for his hard work, dedication, kindness and all the countless ways he has contributed to North Downs. **We will miss you Harves!**

Swimsense

After school clubs run both Mondays and Thursday in the pool at Brockham. There are sessions for all abilities across the afternoon and some spaces for private lessons.

Most classes are already full but we recognise that there is a demand for more places from children at Leigh and Betchworth. The main issue for children coming over from the villages is the timings so we are making an **ADJUSTMENT TO THE START TIME** for all classes on both days.

MONDAY'S AND THURSDAY'S FIRST SESSION WILL NOW BE AT 3.30pm.

There are currently spaces in what will be the 3.30 pm on a Thursday both in non swimmers and in improvers.

We also have one or two spaces for private lessons on a Monday.

Please contact Emma for availability. Fees are £10 per child per session.

emiller5253@gmail.com

Diary Dates

Tuesday 6th October - Parent Teacher Consultations
Thursday 8th October - Parent Teacher Consultations
Friday 9th October - Year 5 trip to Wisley
Monday 12th October - Individual Photos at Brockham
Tuesday 13th October - Individual Photos Leigh & Betchworth
Wednesday 14th October - Year 4 Residential to High Ashurst
Friday 16th October - Year 4 Return from High Ashurst
Friday 16th October - Break up for Half Term
Monday 2nd November - Children return to school
Monday 16th November - National Anti-Bullying Week
Tuesday 8th December - Year 2 Nativity
Wednesday 9th December - Junior Christmas Carol Evening
Thursday 10th December - Year 1 Nativity
Friday 11th December - Year R Nativity
Tuesday 15th December - School Christmas Lunch
Friday 18th December - Break up for Christmas
Monday 4th January - INSET Day
Tuesday 5th January - Children return to school
Friday 12th February - Break up for Half Term
Monday 22nd February - Children return to school
Thursday 25th March - Children break up for Easter

Polite reminder...

If your child is absent, please notify the school as soon as possible by emailing attendance@northdowns.surrey.sch.uk or by leaving a message on the absence line.

Wishing you all a relaxing and enjoyable weekend.

J. Douglas