

Diptford C of E Primary School

Diptford

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10th November 2017

Whole School Newsletter

Dear Parents,

Welcome back to the 2nd half of the Autumn term. What a fantastic start we have had! We hope you are all refreshed and raring to go for another busy term in the lead up to Christmas.

Open Day



The new classroom has officially been opened which is an amazing space for our pre-school and reception children. Having this new classroom has also created three more learning spaces within the rest of the school; the library which has been moved into the hub, the den area for group work/art activities and the old library upstairs which is beginning to transform into a resources room and another additional space for learners and teachers to use. I would like to take this opportunity to once again thank all those people involved over the years who helped to get this project off the ground and who contributed their time, money and expertise. I would also like to thank all the staff and parents who have given up their own time more recently to ensure the school was ready in time for the children following the half term break, we really couldn't have done it without you!

Here is a video link to our open day celebrations:

https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=TGce-Wu_o_c&feature=youtu.be

School Spaces



Now that we have a four class structure and our own pre-school, we have spaces available in all classes, so please help us spread the word and tell people to visit us to find out more about the magic of Diptford!

Self-portrait exhibition in the den area

For those of you who couldn't make it to our open day, please feel welcome to pop into school at the beginning or end of the school day next week to view your child / children's self portrait. We really do have some very talented artists here at Diptford.



Bikeability

Congratulations to year 6 who successfully completed their bikeability training last week. We are very proud of you all and pleased you have gained new found knowledge to ensure you know how to stay safe when cycling.



New Speaker

Many thanks to our lovely parents; Helen, Ben, Ros and Alex who kindly fundraised to replace our broken speaker by running the Exeter half-marathon in super speedy times! Wake n shake is now back on to give us a healthy start to our days.

Pond

FODs have generously paid for our school pond to be cleaned and cleared out so that we have once again begin using it. The main pond works have been completed, but there is still some more cleaning / clearing work to do around the edge of the pond to ensure it is safe. FODs will be organising an event for this work to be carried out soon, your support with this project will be greatly appreciated by children and staff.

Flu Vaccine

Rec-Y4 Nasal Flu Vaccinations - On Thursday 16th November Nasal Flu vaccinations will take place for those children who returned a consent form. This will be undertaken by the Pharmacist and the Boots representative will be present.

Remembrance



Remembrance Day Service - **Sunday 12th November**

The whole school observed a 1 minutes silence in school this week in memory of the fallen. Eddy and Bobby in Year 2 will also be attending the Remembrance Service to present a wreath on behalf of our school this Sunday 12th November from 10.50am at the St Mary's Church in Diptford. Please come along if you would like to join the service.

Anti-bullying Week



Next week children from all classes will participate in a whole school assembly and lessons relating to the important message of anti-bullying. Anti-Bullying Week helps our school to shine a spotlight on bullying and encourage all children, teachers and parents to take action against bullying throughout the year. The theme of anti-bullying this year is '*All different, All equal*'.

To support this and help get the message across we would like to invite children and staff to participate in **odd socks day** next **Monday 13th November**. Odd Socks Day is designed to be fun! It's an opportunity for children to express themselves and appreciate individuality and uniqueness!

Here is the link to the anti-bullying alliance website which has some useful information and tips for parents and carers: <https://www.anti-bullyingalliance.org.uk/tools-information/all-about-bullying/what-bullying/anti-bullying-top-tips>

UK Parliament Week

Next week we are also participating in UK Parliament week. UK Parliament Week is an annual festival that engages people from across the UK with Parliament, explores what it means to them and empowers them to get involved. Children will participate in parliamentary themed lessons to learn more about our parliament and the work they do.

Children in Need



Next Friday 17th November is Children in Need day. The Diptford Diplomats have planned the following activities to celebrate Children in Need day and raise money for this worthy national charity.

Activities and events planned include:

- **Dressing up as bears in honour of Pudsey for the day** - think warm and cuddly or simply wear spots if you prefer for a suggested donation of £1.
- **Making a Pudsey out of coins on the playground** - please bring in spare change
- **Cake sale in place of flapjack Friday** *Please can parents donate cakes on Friday morning for the Diplomats to sell at break time and after school if there are enough. *Please can we remind parents that we are a **NUT FREE** school.
- There will be other activities running during break times too e.g. drawing Pudsey competition, pin the patch on Pudsey, and guess the number of spots on Pudsey.

Maths and Mince Pies Chat with Parents

On **Monday 4th December at 3.30pm** parents are invited to attend a maths and mince pies chat after school to learn more about how maths is taught and learnt at our school. Please put the date on your calendars.



Safeguarding and attendance figures:

The Designated Safeguarding Lead Officer for Diptford is Mrs Neil
Deputy Designated Safeguarding Officers are Mrs French and Mrs Siddons.
If you are concerned about a child in our school please speak to one of us.

If you are concerned about a child or young person in Devon, and want to speak to someone, contact the MASH team on 0345 155 1071 and give as much information as you can.

Parents can also access confidential support and advice through, Child line 0800 1111

Useful Links

For information and advice on how to protect your child from abuse on-line, follow the links below:

<https://www.thinkuknow.co.uk/parents/>

The following site also gives very good information for parents from the Devon Safeguarding Board

<http://www.devonsafeguardingchildren.org/parents-carers/>

E-Safety Safeguarding Question for Parents:

Have you checked your security settings on devices your child uses recently?

Other useful websites include:

<https://ceop.police.uk/>

<https://www.nspcc.org.uk/preventing-abuse/keeping-children-safe/online-safety/>

<http://www.saferinternet.org.uk/advice-and-resources/parents-and-carers/>

Attendance: If your child is unable to come to school for any reason, please ring the office to let us know by 9am.

The attendance figures for the last 2 weeks -

Reception 88.75%

Year 1 89.62%

Year 2 93.00%

Year 3 91.43%

Year 4 96.50%

Year 5 94.17%

Year 6 97.08%

Whole School: 93.13%

Expectation: 96%

Key dates: Please see the table below for current dates that I have for your diaries for the next academic year. I will update these regularly as events come in and intend on adding this to the end of the fortnightly newsletter with new dates / events highlighted in bold. *Please note that dates and times are subject to change.*

Date	Time:	Children:	Event:
November			
Monday 13th Nov	All day	All classes	Odd socks day!
13 th -17 th November	Daytime	All classes	British Values Week Anti bullying week and UK Parliament week
15 th November	4-5.30pm	Y3 -Y6	KEVICC Football League
17 th November	Daytime	All classes	Children in Need

21 st November	Daytime	All classes	Open the Book Assembly
22 nd November	4-6pm	Y3&4	Netball Tournament
28 th November	4-6pm	Y5&6	Netball Tournament
4 th December	3.30- 4.30pm	All parents	Maths and mince pies chat for parents
5 th December	Daytime	All classes	Open the Book Assembly
13 th December	6pm	All classes	Christmas Carol Concert
15 th December	<u>2.30pm</u>	All classes	Break up for the Christmas holidays
3 rd January	8.50am	All classes	School commences
12 th -16 th March	Daytime	All classes	Science & Engineering Week
23 rd March	Daytime	All classes	Sports Relief
29 th March	9.15am	All classes	Easter Assembly - parents welcome
23 rd May	Daytime	All classes	Sports Day
4 th - 8 th June	-	Y5&6	PGL Residential

Yours Sincerely

Dawn Neil
Acting Head of School



Facebook Page -If you are a Facebook user, please visit our page for up to date news on school events and activities.

FODs News and Events

Please visit:

<https://friendsofdiptfordschool.wordpress.com/>



Friends of Diptford School

Keep up-to date with events and fundraising by the Friends of Diptford School (FODS)

Bag 2 School is back

Bag 2 School collection bags have gone home.

Please fill with good quality used clothes and household linens, see link for a full list of items:

<http://uk.bag2school.com/what-we-collect>

FODS will be paid (by weight) for whatever we collect. **Collection date is 29 November** and bags need to be at school by 9am on this date.

You can get an additional bag from the school office or Diptford Post Office - or it's fine to use a bin bag.

We have two festive FODS dates for your diaries...

Parents Christmas Lunch at the Church House Inn - Fri 8 December

Join other parents a Christmas meal at the Church House Inn. Preschool age children are very welcome and as ever families are very welcome to join us after their children have moved on from Diptford.

Many thanks to Anna (Max's mum) for arranging this - please send your order to Anna at annak9@me.com by Friday 24 November and you'll need to pay by this date too.

Christmas Craft Day & Christmas Lunch - Thurs 14 December

This is easily the most fun FODS event of the year. It's a chance for parents to join the children for festive crafty fun.

We also need helpers to serve Christmas Lunch to the children and staff - after which there is the option to stay on to share Christmas Lunch with the other helpers (for which there will be a small cost). Many thanks to Mark for cooking for us.

Please sign up to help with craft and/or lunch here - the more the merrier, ho ho ho:

<https://signup.com/client/invitation2/secure/2102589/true#/invitation>

Please sign up, we need lots of people to run this (and it's fun!). Thank you

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