

Diptford C of E Primary School

Diptford

Totnes

Devon

TQ9 7NY

Tel: 01548 821352

Email: admindiptford@thelink.devon.sch.uk



13th January 2017

Whole School Newsletter



Dear Parents and Carers,

Happy New Year and welcome back to the start of the Spring Term. It has been lovely to see the children so rested and ready for the challenges of the new term. Also sent out via email with the newsletter this week are Class Curriculum Journeys for this half term.

Willy Wonka's Moved in !

All the children and staff thoroughly enjoyed their first day back at school after the Christmas holidays! To their surprise, they discovered that the shed has a new tenant in residence and it is none other than Mr Willy Wonka himself! Mr Wonka had written the children a letter to explain that he would be letting out the shed for the rest of the school year, as he needs extra invention space for his factory. Mr Wonka went on to tell them that his rent would consist of 5 Golden Tickets paid over the course of his Tenancy as long as they in turn agreed to help share their learning with the Oompa Lumpa's . Willy Wonka reported that he was concerned about their education at the factory, particularly their writing skills.

As an extra special treat, Mr Wonka put on a fabulous day of activities for the children, they designed their own sweets and chocolate bars, investigated thermal insulators and made containers to help prevent ice cream from melting and they wrote poems inspired by

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their imaginary journeys down chocolate rivers to try and help improve the Oompa Lumpa's vocabulary.

All children and staff look forward to working with Mr Wonka and the Oompa Lumpa's during the rest of the school year. Hopefully, the pupils will earn the Golden Tickets and receive a fizzbanging surprise for their efforts as promised by Mr Willy Wonka!

Bird Box and Insect Hotel

FODs have kindly funded a special bird box which has a secret camera installed. Mr Nute has put this up on the corner of the main building. We will continue to monitor the bird box from the TV located in the Den area, to see if we have any birds taking up residence here at our school over the coming weeks and months. Mr Nute has also installed a bug hotel somewhere in the school grounds. Can anyone spot where it is?

Homework and Spellings

Below is a reminder of homework expectations for each class. Please do not hesitate to see your child's class teacher/s if you have any questions relating to homework.

Class 1:

Reading - Year 1 - To read at least 10 mins daily.

Reception - Share a book for at least 10 mins daily- either children reading or they are read to.

Spellings Year 1- On going word list has been sent out with a list of exciting activities. Parents have been informed by Miss Higgs that this will be assessed at half term.

Reception- Phase 2 and 3 tricky words flashcards are sent out with a list of exciting activities as an on-going homework task. Parents have been informed that this will be assessed at half term.

Class 2:

Each week children in class 2 will be set:

Maths - a MyMaths challenge which is usually linked to the work we are doing in class.



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Spellings - A set spelling list will be stuck into the children diaries and tested on a Friday morning every other week. On the week when a list isn't set, children are asked to practise the high frequency words or Year 3 / 4 Statutory word list which was provided last term.
Reading - children should be reading every day: please record book, number of pages and any comments in their dairies.

Class 3:

Every Wednesday the children are set MyMaths homework which relates to the maths they have been learning about during the week. This is expected to be completed by the following Tuesday. Should the children wish to practice another area of MyMaths we strongly encourage them to try additional activities and or lessons on the site.

We also expect the children to be reading regularly and answer one or two of the guided reading style questions stuck into their Reading Diaries.

Spelling homework gets set every Wednesday and is due in the following Tuesday.

The children are given a slip outlining their homework tasks every Wednesday and are asked to stick these into their Reading Diaries each week.

Staffing News

Sadly, Mr. Nute has decided to resign from his position at our school due to increased family commitments. I am sure you would join me in thanking Mr. Nute for all his hard work, in particular the significant contribution that he has made to raising the profile of PE in the school.

Mr. Nute will be leaving at the end of the Spring term. Therefore, we are currently looking at our recruitment options in order to minimise any disruption to the children's learning. We will endeavour to update you and keep you informed of any decisions that are made.

Parking outside school

Please can we remind and ask all parents not to park in or obstruct the school bus / taxi bay outside the school to ensure the safety of all children. As always, please take great care when driving or walking into school with your children at the start and end of the school day. Your vigilance and support with this matter is greatly appreciated.

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School Admissions for children starting school September 2017

The application for places in primary schools for the 2017/2018 academic year opens on **15th November 2016** and closes at midnight on **15th January 2017**. Parents are invited to apply between those dates and express three preferences via an online application facility at www.devon.gov.uk/admissiononline. Applications cannot be made online after the closing date, hard copy forms will have to be requested via the Helpline on 0345 155 1019.

Start of day and lateness

Please can we remind you all that our school day starts at **8.50am**. 'Wake n shake' is part of our school day / learning time and is not an optional activity. If you are late for any reason please sign in with Mrs Vickers in the school office.



Facebook Page – Our school now has a Facebook page, if you are a Facebook user, please visit our page for up to date news on school events and activities.

Safeguarding and attendance figures:

Safeguarding:

*Please be mindful of where and how you are parking at the beginning and end of the school day to ensure the safety of all children and adults at these times of day.

The Designated Safeguarding Officer for Diptford is Mrs Neil.



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E-Safety Safeguarding Question for Parents:

Do you allow your child to watch 'YouTube' videos? If so, have a chat to your child about the 'YouTube' videos that they watch.

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 97.25

Year 1 92.14

Year 2 99.21

Year 3 94.05

Year 4 89.29

Year 5 98.81

Year 6 91.67

Whole School: 94.55

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.

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JANUARY 2017			
Monday 16 Jan	4.00 - 5.00 pm	(Round 4)	KEVICC Central Football League
Tuesday 17 Jan	10.00 - 12.00	Year 4 & some Year 5	Badminton Competition
Monday 30 Jan	Daytime	Year 6	Bikeability
Monday 30 Jan	4.00 - 5.00 pm	(Round 5)	KEVICC Central Football League
Mon 30 Jan (*Date changed from 31 st Jan)	3.30 - 4.30 pm	Parents	E safety Workshop
FEBRUARY 2017			
Wednesday 01 Feb	10.00 - 12.00	Year 5 & 6	Handball Festival A
Monday 06 Feb	3.30 pm	Parents Yr 5 & 6	Heatree Centre Presentation
Friday 10 February	HALF TERM		
Tuesday 21 Feb	3.30-6.00pm	All school	Parents Evening
Wednesday 22 Feb	3.30-6.00pm *Class 3 from 1.30pm on this day.	All school	Parents Evening
MARCH 2017			
Monday 06 March	4.00-5.30 pm	(Round 6)	KEVICC Central Football League
Wednesday 08 Mar	4.00 - 5.30 pm	Year 3 & 4	Handball Competition
Wednesday 15 Mar	4.00 5.30 pm	Year 5 & 6	Handball Competition
Friday 31 Mar	All Day	All school	Where a Hat Day
Friday 31 Mar	AM Time TBC	Parents & Children	Easter Church Service
Friday 31 Mar	LAST DAY OF TERM		
APRIL 2017			
03 Apr - 17 Apr	EASTER HOLIDAY		
Tues 18 April			NON-PUPIL DAY

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Wed 19 April			START OF SUMMER TERM
MAY 2017			
Thurs 11 - Fri 12	Provisional date	Year 3/4	Year3/4 Residential
JUNE 2017			
Mon 12 - Fri 16	Provisional Date	Year 5/6	Year 5/6 Residential
Wed 21 June	Daytime	All children	Sports Day
JULY 2017			
Thurs 6 July	3.30 - 5.30 pm	Year 6	Parents Evening
Mon 10 July	1.30/2.00 pm	Whole school	Dress rehearsal school play
Wed 12 July	2.00 pm	Whole school	Afternoon School Production
Wed 12 July	6.00 pm	Whole school	Evening School Production
Friday 21 July			Last day of Term

Yours Sincerely

Dawn Neil

FODs News and Events

For details about FODs activities and events or to get involved please sign up for email updates from FODS here: <https://friendsofdiptfordschool.wordpress.com/> .

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