



Newsletter for May and June 2018

It was lovely to see so many of you at our Easter assembly. All of the children performed very well whether they were speaking, singing or playing an instrument and they should be proud of themselves.

Once again, the year seems to have flown by and the summer term is here already. Let's hope that the weather is kind as we prepare for Sports Day and other end of term events.

Parent Consultations Class 1

Parent Consultations for those in Class 1 had to be postponed last term. I am pleased to say that new dates have been arranged. Mr Sexton will be available on Wednesday 16th May from 3.30 to 5.30pm and again on Thursday 24th May also between 3.30 and 5.30pm. If you wish to make an appointment, please ring Annette in the school office and she will book a place for you.

SATs tests

Key Stage 2 SATs tests for children in Year 6 take place in the week beginning 14th May. Parents who are able to attend the information session this week, will appreciate how challenging these can be for some children. They have worked hard, however, and are well prepared. We know they will do their best which is all we ask of them. Please help by ensuring your child has a good night's sleep each night and a good breakfast in the morning. This will ensure they are at their best. Please note that results are not due in school until July - we do our best to get them to parents with end of year reports at the end of term.

As always, there will be other routine testing going on in school during May which teachers use to support their assessments and in June there is the statutory Phonics Screening Check for children in Year 1 and for those in Year 2 who did not meet the standard last year. If you have questions about these, please speak to your child's class teacher.

Art Enrichment Day

We are planning to have an Art Enrichment Day in school on 24th May, co-ordinated by Mr Bonham. Each class will be involved in creating work based around different artists from the twentieth century. We will arrange to display some of the work in school before the end of term. Originally we had intended for this to take place during the spring term but when the school had to close for 3 days due to the weather it was necessary to postpone the event.

End of Term Arrangements

There are one or two changes this year that I would like to mention. As many of you know, Class 4 has been involved in 'The Noted Liar' project with other Cluster schools. There was a performance in school just before Easter and there will be another, more ambitious event at Kings Lynn Corn Exchange in July. Because of this commitment and because children in Year 6 have transition arrangements at their various secondary schools on different days, we have had to make changes to the end of year events in school. In place of two Key Stage 2 productions, there will be one Key Stage 2 concert on Monday 23rd July at 6pm. Two tickets will be allocated to each family with children in Key Stage 2. We hope you will be able to join us for that. As there will be no buffet afterwards for the children in Year 6, I have asked the Friends to fund a special treat for them on Friday 20th July and they will be going to Pizza Express in Ely for a celebration lunch. Many thanks to the Friends for agreeing to this.

For the last few years, because we said goodbye to Year 6 before the end of term, we have been able to have a whole week when we welcomed the new Reception children into school. This year, because of different transition arrangements at Downham Market Academy and the other schools our year 6 children will be attending, we shall have to make some changes. Our new Reception children will be invited into school on the afternoons of Wednesday 11th to Friday 13th July.

There are other dates to be aware of which can be found at the end of the newsletter.

Reminders:

We all want the best for your child and try to ensure that all the children perform to the best of their ability. For that reason, it is important for us to work together. If you need to speak to your child's class teacher they will do their best to make themselves available. It is usually easier to speak after school when children are not arriving. If you need to inform them about something concerning your child or are worried about something, please do speak to them. It is better to sort difficulties sooner rather than later.

Holidays in Term Time

Please do not book holidays in term time as they will not be authorised. The *Request for Leave of Absence* form asks you to state the 'exceptional reason' for an absence request. Unfortunately, the fact that the holiday is cheaper during term time does not count as an exceptional reason. Please refer to next year's holiday dates - listed below - when planning your holidays.

Mobile Phones

Generally, we do not allow children to bring mobile phones to school as they are not necessary for this age group. If there is a need to contact a parent, this is always done through the school office with the knowledge of the class teacher. If you do feel that an older child (Class 4) needs a phone after school for some reason, please ensure that the class teacher is informed **in writing** so that the phone can be locked away for the duration of the school day. Thank you for your support with this.

Please remember also that the use of mobile phones is not permitted in the Foundation Stage area.

Tesco Bags of Help Scheme

Tesco's customers are given a blue token when they buy their shopping. They can use this in-store to choose a local community project to receive a grant and the project that receives the most votes in its area will receive a grant of up to £4,000. The Denver Playing Fields Association will soon be having a voting unit in the Downham Market store and would be grateful to receive all your blue tokens!

Dates for Your Diary

Summer Term 2018

- Thursday 26th April at 9.15am: SATs information session for Parents/carers of children in Year 6.
- Monday 30th April: First week of clubs - details have been sent home.
- Monday 7th May: School closed for Bank Holiday.
- Tuesday 8th May at 3.30pm: Friends meeting in ICT suite.
- Week beginning 14th May: Key Stage 2 SATs.
- Monday 21st May: Class 2 visit to Ely Museum - details to follow.
- Thursday 24th May: Non-Uniform Day in aid of School Council funds
- Friday 25th May at 2pm: Annual Sponsored Walk in school. Parents/Carers welcome to watch.
- Monday 28th May - Friday 1st June: Half Term break.
- Monday 4th June: Children return to school.
- Week beginning Monday 11th June: Statutory Phonics Screening check for all children in Year 1 and those who did not meet standard in Year 2.
- Wednesday 27th June at 1.15pm: Annual Sports Day.
- Friday 29th June: Reserve Sports Day.
- Tuesday 3rd July: Note Liar performance at Kings Lynn Corn Exchange.
- Wednesday 11th July - Friday 13th July: New Reception children in school pm.
- Wednesday 11th July at 2pm: Meeting for parents/carers of children in Reception in September.
- Friday 20th July: Year 6 to Pizza Express in Ely for lunch.
- Monday 23rd July: Key Stage 2 Concert at 6pm.
- Tuesday 24th July at 2pm: Awards Assembly in school hall.
- Tuesday 24th July: Last day of summer term.
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Academic Year 2018-2019

- Children return to school for the next academic year on Thursday 6th September 2018.
- School closes for half term break on Wednesday 17th October and children return to school on Monday 29th October.
- School closes for Christmas on Tuesday 18th December and children return on Thursday 3rd January.
- February half term is 18th-22nd February inclusive.
- School closes for Easter break on Friday 5th April and children return on Tuesday 23rd April.
- Summer half term is from 27th May to 31st May inclusive.
- End of summer term 2019 is Wednesday 24th July.