

Ditton Infant School



Dates for the Term

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11 th September	Year R part-time
20 th September	Parent Forum - 9.00am
25 th September	Year R full-time
26 th September	1 st Class photos - KM
29 th September	Yellow Class - Caterlink Added Benefit day
3 rd October	Individual photos
6 th October	PTFA Coffee Morning
10 th October	Year 2 Harvest - 2.40pm
11 th October	Year 1 Harvest - 2.40pm
12 th October	Year R Harvest - 2.30pm
17 th /19 th October	Parents' Evenings - 3.30- 6.30pm

23rd - 27th October Autumn Holiday

30 th October	Term 2 begins
9 th November	Open Evening 6-7pm
13 th November	Whole School Nasal Flu Vaccinations
13 th November	Anti-bullying Week
17 th November	Children In Need Day
22 nd November	Parent Forum
4 th December	Year 2 Christmas Fair
5 th December	Year 1 Christmas Fair
6 th December	Year R Christmas Fair
14 th December	Nativity (Year R)
15 th December	Nativity (Years 1&2)
19 th December	Christmas Dinner
20 th December	End of Term

Staff Development Days for 2017/18

Please note that the school will be closed on the following days for staff training:

4th January 2018
5th January 2018
25th May 2018

These dates are the same as Ditton Junior School.

Open Days & Parent Information Evening

Due to the popularity of our Open Days last year we are changing the format slightly. We are holding a number of Open Mornings throughout November to give prospective parents a chance to have a tour of the school whilst it is operating on a normal school day. In addition, we will be inviting all parents who have children born between 1st September 2013 and 31st August 2014 to our **Parent Only** Information Evening on Thursday 9th November at 6pm. If you know of a parent whose child is in this age group and is considering sending their child to Ditton Infant School, please ask them to check our website for details and contact the school office to book a place on one of the available dates.

Newsletter 1

Autumn Term 2017

Dear Parents,

Firstly, I would like to extend a warm welcome to all our new children, their families and our new members of staff. I must also share some wonderful news about Mrs Smith - baby Ruby was finally born in the holidays weighing in over 10lb. Both mum and baby are doing very well but as she has relocated over the Summer with her husband she will not be returning to Ditton Infant School. Mrs Mundy has also had some wonderful news and is currently on Adoption Leave. She is looking forward to returning to work later in the academic year.

Terms 1 and 2 will be very busy with Harvest and Christmas celebrations as well as Open Events for prospective parents who will be looking around the school ready for the 2018 round of admissions.

I look forward to working in partnership with you and the community and please do not hesitate to make an appointment to come and see me if you have any questions about your child's education or wellbeing.

Yours sincerely,
Mrs. C. S. Lewer
Headteacher

Staffing 2017/18

Deputy Headteacher - Miss Robb

Inclusion Manager - Mrs Gillard

Class Teachers

Miss Robb - Gold Class, EYFS leader

Miss McGinley - Silver Class

Miss Major - Blue Class and KS1 leader

Miss Seymour - Purple Class

Mr Pollard - Yellow Class

Mrs Randall - Red Class

Mrs Stafford - Additional Teaching Staff

Support Staff

Mrs Seers - Midday Meals Supervisor

Mrs Carter - Silver Class Learning Assistant and Midday Meals Supervisor

Mrs Brooker - Silver Class Learning Assistant and Midday Meals Supervisor

Mrs Cox - Gold Class Learning Assistant and Midday Meals Supervisor

Miss Pole - Gold Class Learning Assistant and Lunchtime Play Leader

Miss Carpenter - Purple Class Learning Assistant and Midday Meals Supervisor

Mrs Fermor - Blue Class Learning Assistant

Ms Bada - Blue Class Learning Assistant

Mrs Mundy - Blue Class Learning Assistant and Midday Meals Supervisor (currently on leave)

Mrs Dearing - Yellow Class Learning Assistant and Midday Meals Supervisor

Miss Croker - Yellow Class Learning Assistant

Mrs Espadas - Red Class Learning Assistant and Senior Midday Meals Supervisor

Mrs Savoury - Red Class Learning Assistant

Mrs Bridle - Wellbeing Team and Midday Meals Supervisor

Mrs Coles - Wellbeing Team

Office Staff

Mrs Gordon - Office Manager & Clerk to the Governing Body

Mrs Hamer - Office Administrator

Mr Buffini - Caretaker

Mrs Lawry - Cleaner

Safeguarding Information

Miss Robb and myself are the Designated Safeguarding Leads for Ditton Infant School. Mr Kevin Long also has a role as our Safeguarding Governor.

The School Designated Safeguarding Lead (DSL) is the first point of contact for any member of the school staff who has a concern about the safety and well-being of a pupil. Please read the Safeguarding Policy on the school website for more information.

I am also the Designated Lead for Online Safety and I will be adding hints and tips for the promotion of online safety to each term's newsletter. I often liken online safety to teaching young children about road safety. You start educating young children about the potential hazards of roads long before they are left to cross them independently and the same applies to teaching young children about online safety so it becomes embedded in their lives from a young age. It is not about restricting children, but educating them about the risks as well as the benefits so they can feel confident and happy online. If we merely say "No" to children they will continue to take risks and make mistakes (often through naivety) and not tell us when they experience problems or concerns.

It is about being educated ourselves to be able to support and help young people. We need to be aware of the risks and how to support children - where to sign post etc. Even if we don't understand the internet we need to acknowledge the role it has to play in children's lives and modern Britain and prepare them to use it safely and responsibly.

The following link will provide you with some useful tips.

<http://www.thinkuknow.co.uk/parents/parentsguide>

Over the next 4 terms each family will receive a paper copy of 'A guide to.....' and the first leaflet relates to Snapchat. Links to these handy guides can also be found on our 'safe surfing' page on our website.

Behaviour and Effort Awards

We will be continuing our 'Good as Gold' initiative as each class has a '7 step' approach for monitoring behaviour. This culminates in children's names being recorded in the 'gold book' when they have reached the top of the behaviour chart. They will then be presented with a certificate in Monday's assembly (we will not be sending separate letters to parents from this term) When a child's name has been in the book 5 times they are rewarded with afternoon tea with a senior member of staff. Staff have met to agree what constitutes behavior above and beyond what we normally expect as we appreciate there was some inconsistencies last year. The aim is to have one Afternoon Tea per term so it remains a very special event.

I will also be rewarding effort on a weekly basis by awarding a Headteacher's 'Star of the Week' certificate for children who demonstrate improvement in their work across the whole curriculum.

Snacks

Children at Ditton Infant School benefit from the free fruit and vegetable scheme for schools. We hope the children enjoy the variety of fruit we have delivered each week. However, if your child would like to bring in a small named piece of fruit they are welcome to do so. Please only send in fruit in its natural form as we do not wish children to be consuming processed fruit snacks at school. E.g. Fruit Winders or pureed fruit pouches.



Children should also bring in a bottle of plain water (not fizzy or flavoured) every day. Please make sure the bottle is named.

Times of the school day

Just a reminder that the school day begins promptly at 9.00am, although children can start coming into the classroom from 8.50am. Children who are continually late will be missing valuable learning opportunities and this will undoubtedly affect their progress.

From 9.00am all access to the school site must be via the office entrance at the front of the school. Children arriving after this time will be recorded as late and if they arrive after the register has been closed at 9.15am they will lose their morning mark and it will be recorded as an unauthorised absence.

Supporting your child with learning at home

Our Learning at Home Policy can be found on the school website. All home learning letters and newsletters will be sent electronically but if you require a paper copy please come to the school office so we can arrange this for you.

We hope all parents will spend time hearing their child read or sharing books with them. Research shows parental support at home really makes a big difference and our wonderful results from last term's assessments are not only a testament to the good teaching children receive at Ditton Infant School, but also the support parents have given to their children over the last year.

Do spend some time browsing our school site as it contains lots of additional information and copies of class newsletters.

This year we will repeat our Phonic Workshop for Year R during Term 2. More details to follow.

Attendance

Please see the school website for our updated Attendance Policy which came into effect in June 2017. This has been written by the local authority in line with the updated code of conduct for issuing penalty notices. In summary, unless your child is unwell a Headteacher must give permission if you are planning to take your child out of school during term time. Your child **may** be allowed to miss school for:

- a death in the family or funeral
- doctor, hospital or dental appointments.

Your child **will not** be allowed to miss school for:

- shopping trips
- waiting in for a delivery
- family birthdays
- visits from relatives
- family outings
- not having the correct school uniform
- family holidays.

If you **do not** get permission and you take your child out of school, this will be recorded as an unauthorised absence.

Uniform

The children have returned to school this term looking very smart in their school uniform which is a proud reminder of belonging to the school community. Please ensure all items are named and that children have the appropriate garments for our ever-changing British weather! Once our stock of yellow jumpers has reduced we will be supplying grey jumpers and cardigans with the school logo which can be purchased in addition to the yellow version.

