

## DATES FOR THE TERM

10 <sup>th</sup> September	Year R part-time
19 <sup>th</sup> September	Parent Forum - 9.00am
21 <sup>st</sup> September	Jeans for Genes Day
24 <sup>th</sup> September	Year R full-time
2 <sup>nd</sup> October	1 <sup>st</sup> Class photos - KM
2 <sup>nd</sup> October	Individual photos
9 <sup>th</sup> October	Year 2 Harvest - 2.40pm
10 <sup>th</sup> October	Year 1 Harvest - 2.40pm
11 <sup>th</sup> October	Year R Harvest - 2.15pm
16 <sup>th</sup> /18 <sup>th</sup> October	Parents' Evenings - 3.30-6.30pm

### **22<sup>nd</sup>-26<sup>th</sup> October Autumn Holiday**

29 <sup>th</sup> October	Term 2 begins
8 <sup>th</sup> November	Open Evening 6-7pm
12 <sup>th</sup> November	Nasal Flu Vaccinations
12 <sup>th</sup> November	Anti-bullying Week
14 <sup>th</sup> November	Parent Forum - 9am
13 <sup>th</sup> December	Nativity (Year R) - 9.30am
14 <sup>th</sup> December	Nativity (Years 1&2) - 9.30am
18 <sup>th</sup> December	Christmas Dinner
19 <sup>th</sup> December	End of Term

### **Staff Development Days for 2018/19**

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

3<sup>rd</sup> January 2019  
4<sup>th</sup> January 2019  
3<sup>rd</sup> June 2019

These dates are the same as Ditton Junior School.

### **Shared Golden Time**

At a recent Governors meeting we discussed opportunities for parents to come into school to see their child's classrooms. We are therefore going to trial offering parents the chance to join their child for a shared Golden Time in Terms 2, 4 and 6. Each class will have one allocated week during this term where a parent can join them for the final part of Friday afternoon. We will have to limit this to one parent/carer each time due to the size of the classrooms, but it will give you a chance to see the displays in class and your child can share their work. Parents can then take turns to attend during the year if they wish to. This will not be an opportunity to talk about your child with the teacher as they will be busy supervising the activities. We will maintain our usual safeguarding guidelines and ask that no photos are taken during this time and any mobile devices are not used during these sessions. More details will follow.

# Ditton Infant School



## **Newsletter 1**

**Autumn Term 2018**

Dear Parents,

Firstly, I would like to extend a warm welcome to all of our new children, their families and our new members of staff.

Having walked around the school I am pleased to report that the children have settled in well and are familiarising themselves with new staff and routines. The children have returned to school this term looking very smart in their jumpers and cardigans with the school logo and are 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!

Our wildlife garden is now completed and we will be having a grand opening this term. A local company called Blu3 came in over the summer to lay a membrane down and bark the whole area. The children have made a thank you card to give to the company.



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 2018/19**

**Deputy Headteacher** Miss Robb

#### **Class Teachers**

Miss Robb - Gold Class, EYFS Leader

Miss McGinley - Silver Class

Mrs Tuft / Mrs Azzopardi (Miss Major on maternity leave) - Blue Class

Miss Seymour - Purple Class

Mr Pollard - Yellow Class

Mrs Kreiselmeier - Red Class

**Additional Teaching Staff** - Mrs Bannister / Mrs Gamble / Mrs Hampshire

**Inclusion Manager** - Mrs Campbell

#### **Support Staff**

Mrs Seers- Midday Meals Supervisor

Mrs Carter - Silver Class Learning Assistant and Midday Meals Supervisor

Mrs Cox - Silver Class Learning Assistant and Purple Class Midday Meals Supervisor

Mrs Brooker - Gold Class Learning Assistant and Midday Meals Supervisor

Miss Pole - Gold Class Learning Assistant and Sports Leader

Mrs Staines - Purple Class Learning Support Assistant

Mrs Dearing - Blue Class Learning Assistant and Midday Meals Supervisor

Mrs Savoury - Year 1 Learning Assistant and Wellbeing Team

Mrs Fermor - Yellow Class Learning Assistant and Speech and Language support

Mrs Mundy / Miss Croker - Yellow Class Learning Assistant

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

Ms Bada - Red Class Learning Assistant

Mrs Coles - Inclusion Assistant and Wellbeing Team

#### **Office Staff**

Mrs Gordon - Office Manager

Mrs Hamer - Office Administrator

**Caretaker** Mrs Lawry

**Clerk to the Governing Body** Mrs Stryzyk

#### **Office Opening Times**

Just a reminder that the office is open from 8.00am - 4.00pm on school days. Please make sure you telephone during these times as we cannot guarantee there will be a member of staff available to answer your call before or after.

### Safeguarding Information

Miss Robb and I 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>

### Home Learning

We would like our children to read regularly at home, preferably every night, but if you can spend at least **three sessions** each week sharing a book with your child it will really help them to make progress. Please use the reading record book to comment on your child's reading. You can also use this as a contact book if you need to pass a message on to your child's class teacher. Your child will also bring home a termly newsletter and a weekly homework letter giving some suggestions of things you can do at home to support your child's learning. You can do as much or as little as you like and these will be shared each Friday giving you plenty of time to complete these activities around clubs your child may do outside of school.

### Website

Each Friday I write a blog to go on the website but we have also started to email this via parentmail so we can keep you updated about events that have happened during the week. The website has a fantastic gallery of pictures showing the breadth of our curriculum provision and it is where you can also find resources to support your child's learning, copies of newsletters and policies. Please spend some time browsing and let us know if you think there are ways we can improve it!

### Year R Booktime

Coming soon.....

This year's free book is Little Monkey by Marta Altes and is sure to be popular! There are a wide range of activity sheets to accompany the book, please see

<https://www.booktrust.org.uk/what-we-do/programmes-and-campaigns> for more details.

### 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.

### Open Mornings & Parent Information Evening

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 1<sup>st</sup> September 2014 and 31<sup>st</sup> August 2015 to our Parent Only Information Evening on Thursday 8<sup>th</sup> 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.

### Attendance

We handed out 20 100% attendance awards at the end of last term as well as 6 prizes for a termly attendance colouring competition. The winners were Max, Willow, Shelley, Ida, Henry and Josh. Well done to you all!

Please remember that headteachers are no longer able to authorise holidays and any other leave will only be authorised in exceptional circumstances. We work closely with Ditton Junior School on attendance and follow the same policy which you can find on our website.

<http://www.ditton-inf.kent.sch.uk/wp-content/uploads/Attendance-Policy-April-2018.pdf>

Children who are absent for one or two weeks from school miss out on chunks of learning and it can really affect their progress and make it much harder for them to catch up. We understand that children often pick up bugs and other illnesses when they first start school, but any other absence should be avoided in order for your child to reach their full potential.

If attendance becomes a concern, we may request that medical evidence is brought into school before we authorise absence. We are also able to refer families to the School Liaison Officer.

However, we are also happy to work with families to improve or maintain attendance and if you have problems getting your child to school please speak to me and I will see if there are ways in which we can support you.

### Snack

All 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.