

DATES FOR THE TERM

29 th October	Term 2 begins
31 st October	Phonics Workshop - 2pm
31 st October	Halloween Parties
1 st November	RBLI Poppy Workshop
8 th November	Bag2School collection - 9am
8 th November	Open Evening 6-7pm for prospective parents Year R 2019
12 th November	'Let's Get Better' Attendance coffee afternoon - 2.30pm
12 th November	Nasal Flu Vaccinations
12 th - 16 th Nov	Anti-bullying Week
14 th November	Parent Forum - 9am - focus on Online Safety
16 th November	Children In Need - wear something spotty for £1.00
23 rd November	Year R Height & Weight checks
w/e 23 rd Nov	After-school clubs finish
30 th November	Ditton Junior School Open Morning
30 th November	Non-school uniform day - bottles and chocolate for tombola stalls
4 th December	Year 2 Christmas Fair - 3.10pm
5 th December	Year 1 Christmas Fair - 3.10pm
6 th December	Year R Christmas Fair - 3.00pm
12 th Dec - 9.30am	Year R Nativity Dress Rehearsal
13 th Dec - 9.30am	Year R Nativity
13 th Dec - 2.15pm	Years 1&2 Nativity Dress Rehearsal
14 th December	Years 1&2 Nativity - 9.30am/2.15pm
18 th December	Christmas Dinner & Christmas Jumper Day
19 th December	Christmas Party in afternoon
19 th 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:

3rd & 4th January 2019

3rd June 2019

These dates are the same as Ditton Junior School.

Junior School - Transition to Year 3

Please remember that parents of Year 2 children need to apply for a Year 3 place at a Junior School. There will be a chance to visit Ditton Junior School on 30th November. If you wish to take your child straight to Ditton Juniors we will be asking you to sign a slip so your child can be registered there (further details to follow). We will then have staff available to walk your child back to us across the field once the tour is finished. The online application form can be found at www.kent.gov.uk/primaryadmissions and is open from 5th November 2018 until 15th January 2019.

Entry to Reception September 2019

Year R applications must also be completed online by 15th January 2018.

Please visit www.kent.gov.uk/primaryadmissions for the online application form.

Ditton Infant School



Newsletter 2

Autumn Term 2018

Dear Parents,

Thank you to all of you who attended the recent school Parent Consultations. The teachers enjoyed sharing with you how your child has settled into their new class and their targets for the coming term. We will soon be sending out our Annual Parent Questionnaire so please take some time to complete these and return them to school. If you do have any concerns or worries please do remember my door is always open and I will always try to see you or speak over the phone as soon as I can. It's much easier to address issues as soon as they arise.

We will finish the term with our traditional Christmas celebrations and Christmas Jumper Day

Keep up to date with school information by checking the web site www.ditton-inf.kent.sch.uk

I also write a weekly blog which is updated each Friday on the homepage and sent home via Parentmail.

Yours sincerely,
Mrs. C.S. Lewer
Headteacher



Christmas Fairs 4th/5th/6th December 2018

Please do come and join us at the Christmas Fairs. We hope to make the afternoon as enjoyable as possible and it is the perfect time for you to socialise with other parents and staff. Of course, a Christmas Fair would not be complete without a very special visitor ... and Santa will be visiting our special Christmas Grotto.

We will be having a non-uniform day on 30th November but instead of bringing in money we would like each child who chooses to wear their own clothes to bring in a donation for our chocolate and bottle tombola stall. Please make sure all donations are still within best before date!

The PTFA welcomes any offer of help either to prepare before the event, set up or be stallholders on the day. Please contact them if you are able to help.



Charity Events

16th November - Children in Need - 'Let's get Spotty' for a £1
18th December - Save the Children Christmas Jumper Day for a £1 donation to coincide with Christmas lunch.

Shared Golden Times

We will have to limit this to one parent per child 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 phones or mobile devices are used during this time.

Gold Class - 2nd November - 2.30-3.00pm
Silver Class - 9th November - 2.30-3.00pm
Purple Class - 16th November - 2.40-3.10pm
Blue Class - 23rd November - 2.40-3.10pm
Yellow Class - 30th November - 2.40-3.10pm
Red Class - 7th December - 2.40-3.10pm

Online Safety

The focus of our Term 2 Parent Forum on 14th November will be online safety and how we can work together to ensure our children learn to behave safely while online at home and at school. We will review our policy with you and talk about the scheme of work we currently provide. Please let us know if there is any additional information that you think we could add to our website or email out to families.

Christmas Nativity Dress Rehearsals

We will be holding two dress rehearsals for our Christmas performances. We warmly invite parents with younger siblings to these performances. Due to space restrictions we will be unable to let any younger children attend the other performances. This will also allow the performers the best chance to show off all their hard work Thank you in advance for your co-operation.

Year R - 12th December at 9.30am
Years 1 & 2 - 13th December at 2.15pm

Severe Weather Arrangements

In the event of bad weather such as snow or high winds, it may be necessary to temporarily close the school or open a little later. If the weather causes concern overnight, please remember to check your emails or look at the website to find out if the school is closed. You can also listen to the local radio stations to find out what is happening;

BBC Radio Kent Heart FM KMFM

If the weather deteriorates during the school day, the above radio stations and Parentmail will be used to convey any messages. Parentmail is a very useful tool for us when contacting parents via email or text. If you have not yet signed up, please consider this, as it enables us to pass on information to you more quickly. Telephone calls will be made to parents or emergency contacts, if necessary. No child will be allowed to leave the premises without an adult who is on the home time collection slip or has previously been agreed by the parent.

Attendance

At the end of Term 1 our attendance was 97%. 111 children had 100% attendance. At the end of Term 2 we will be sending home your child's attendance printout. It will be colour coded as follows:

Green - 95+% (no concerns as this is the expected %)
Orange - 93-94.9% (monitor)
Red - below 92.9% (possible meetings with parents)

Please remember we are here to help you with any issues relating to attendance so if you think you would benefit from a meeting with me, Mrs Campbell or the school nurse please let the school office know.

Parents are still choosing to take their children out of school for holidays and I would like to remind everyone about the school Attendance Policy which is the model recommended by the local authority and incorporates information about Penalty Notices for unauthorised absence. This can be found on the school website.

We will be working with the attendance service in Term 2 on a project called 'Let's get better'. The aim of this is to reduce the % of children who are absent from school for minor illnesses. If your child has a cough, cold, headache or tummy ache then we would ask that you do send them to school where staff will monitor them. If your child deteriorates during the day, please feel reassured that we will send your children home. Please ensure that we have the correct emergency contact details for you especially if mobile numbers have changed.

School Clothing

It is important now that winter weather has arrived that all children come to school with suitable outdoor clothing and appropriate footwear. All children need a warm waterproof coat, ideally with a hood, together with a hat, scarf and gloves on very cold days. Please make sure all items of winter clothes are clearly marked with your child's name.



Parking

Please remember the car park is for staff use and in the interests of safety, parents should not be using this to drop off or collect children. Since returning this week we have had complaints from two residents as parents are blocking their drives particularly at the end of the day. Please be mindful if you have to park in Pear Tree Avenue and as always I strongly urge you all to use the Community Centre car park where possible.

Eco-School News

We are delighted to inform you that we have begun work on an eco-award. The project will run over this year and into next year and will be led by Miss Seymour and our newly elected eco-council. They will have their own section on the website and have a board in the hall which is regularly updated with our action plan and minutes of meetings.