



### Dates for the Term

4th Jan	Staff Development Day
5th Jan	Staff Development Day
8th Jan	Term 3 starts for children
10th Jan	Parent Forum - focus school lunches
22nd Jan	Clubs begin
5th Feb	Year R Stay & Play Session - 2.00-3.00pm
6th Feb	Parent Consultations Safer Internet Day
8th Feb	Year 1 Scooter training Parent Consultations
9th Feb	Year 2 Scooter training Term 3 ends
12th-16th Feb	Half Term
19th Feb	Term 4 begins
12th March	Book Week and Drama Workshop
14th March	Parent Forum
29th March	Term 4 ends
16th April	Term 5 starts

### Christmas Jumper Day

Thank you for your donations on Christmas Jumper Day. We raised £133 in total and this will be sent to Save the Children.



### Calling all volunteers

We are hoping to begin work on our wildlife garden this term. If there are any parents or other family members who would come and help install some fencing on a Saturday please let Mrs Lewer know.

Also, if anyone is interested in becoming a regular volunteer during the school day please make an appointment to see Mrs Lewer via the school office.

## Ditton Infant School



### Newsletter 3

Spring Term 2018

Dear Parents/ Carers,

I would like to welcome four new staff members to Ditton Infant School. Mrs Bannister and Mrs Azzopardi to Red Class, Mrs Hewlett, each afternoon in Yellow Class and Mrs Staines to Purple Class.

Over the coming two terms, we have many exciting events and activities planned. Scholastic Book Company will visit the school again in March to give you the opportunity to buy high quality, exciting books for your child. We will hold our Book Week the same week and are planning some activities which we hope will continue to develop a life-long love of reading and be the stimulus for some creative writing. Steve Wickenden will be visiting the school to deliver some drama workshops and there will be an 'Adventurous Animals' themed dress-up day. More details to follow.

I would also like to draw your attention to the following website <http://www.kentchildrensuniversity.co.uk/cukent/home/kcu-challenges>. The children's university has organised some seasonal challenges you can enjoy as a family.

Over the past few months we have needed to call on plumbers and electricians. If anyone is, or can recommend any local tradesmen/women please let the office know as we are keen to use local businesses as much as possible especially those who come highly recommended!

I look forward to seeing you all over the coming term. If you have a problem or wish to discuss anything, please do not hesitate to make an appointment to see me.

Mrs. C.S. Lewer  
Headteacher

### Parent Questionnaire

Thank you for returning the Annual Questionnaire. We had a total of 44 responses. I will be uploading an analysis of these responses to the website shortly but in the meantime, I thought it would be useful to address some of the comments which were included.

**Homework** - For some parents, there's always too much, for others not enough and for the rest it's just right. Therefore, we have chosen to take an open-ended approach to the activities suggested. We have the most dedicated and committed staff you could possibly ask for. We want planning of lessons and marking of work completed in school to be the number one priority so teachers can plan for students' individual needs and keep on top of their progress daily. Homework is looked at each week and celebrated and verbal feedback and a sticker is given. Most classes have a home learning display and children who go above and beyond or try hard at mastering a skill will have their work displayed.

**Information about progress** - We have Parent Consultation Evenings (Term 1 and Term 3) when next steps in learning are shared. If we were concerned about your child's progress the class teacher would contact you in the first instance and a meeting with Mrs Gillard would be arranged if needed. You are always welcome to ask your child's class teacher for any additional information if you have concerns between these meetings and the final end of term report in Term 6.

## Handwriting

As you may be aware we have worked with Ditton Junior School to ensure there is a continuous and progressive approach with some of our policies. We will continue to use a developmental approach moving from non-cursive (un-joined) to cursive (joined) as soon as children have developed basic handwriting skills and will re-send Letter-Join log-ins home for you to use out of school.



## Parent Consultations

We will be holding two Parent Consultation Evenings from 3.30-6.30pm on 6<sup>th</sup> and 8<sup>th</sup> February. Teachers will be available to discuss your child's progress to date and talk to you about their next steps in learning. You will receive a target sheet similar to the one you received in Term 1.

Mrs Gillard will also be available to talk to parents if their child has an additional educational need. Please let her know if you would like an appointment.

I will be sending out the next 'Guide to...' later this week. This time you will receive a guide to Facebook. Again this is more to support parents and staff rather than children at the school. However you may find it useful for any siblings attending secondary school.



## Parking outside the School

In the interest of everyone's safety, it is essential all parents take extreme care when parking outside the school. No parent should be parking on the zig-zag lines or parking across the drives of residents. There is a fabulous free car park for use each morning and afternoon at the Community Centre which can be used on a daily basis. The community warden will be monitoring the situation carefully over the coming weeks as we have had a number of complaints from local residents. Can you also please ensure that you turn off your engines while sitting in your cars as this is bad for both the air quality and the environment.



## Attendance

You will now have received the colour coded termly printout of your child's attendance. This is so you can see the impact of your child being absent from school and how absences mount up. 95%+ is the expected level of attendance. If your child's attendance was between 92%-94.9% you will have an orange printout as it means they are just below the expected level and if the attendance has dropped below 91.9% it will be printed on pink to alert you to the fact that your child may be considered a persistent absentee. If a child's attendance continues to fall I will be inviting parents to come and chat with me. We are here to help where we can with any issues and if your child has been particularly unwell we can discuss ways the school nurse may also be able to help.

53 children attended school every day in Term 1 and Term 2 and were given a small attendance award.

We will not authorise and strongly discourage holidays to be taken in term time but are aware that some families continue to do so. I would like to draw your attention to the times when Phonics Screens and SATs are taking place as it is **important** that children are in school during these times and the lead up to these weeks where teachers will be planning revision sessions to target any existing gaps in concepts.

- May 2018 - Year 2 SATS
- 11<sup>th</sup>-15<sup>th</sup> June - Phonics Screen (Year 1 and Year 2 re-takes)

## 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 texts/emails. This year you can visit [www.kent.gov.uk/winter](http://www.kent.gov.uk/winter) 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 website 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.**