

DATES FOR THE TERM

3 th Jan	Staff Development Day
4 th Jan	Staff Development Day
7 th Jan	Term 3 starts for children
9 th Jan	Parent Forum
5 th Feb	Safer Internet Day
12 th Feb	Parent Consultations
14 th Feb	Parent Consultations
15 th Feb	Term 3 ends
18 th -22 nd Feb	Half Term
25 th Feb	Term 4 begins
7 th March	World Book Day
13 th March	Parent Forum
15 th March	Comic Relief (non-uniform)
18 th -22 nd March	Book Week
25 th -29 th March	Mother's Day activities
5 th April	Term 4 ends
23 rd April	Term 5 starts

Staff development day 3rd June 2019

Peer Review

We recently held a Peer review with Ditton Junior School. Our focus was 'Are our more able pupils given opportunities to develop as independent, curious and active learners in Maths?' We had two Headteachers from local schools spend a day looking at the strengths within both schools and areas in which we could develop. There were many strengths seen in both schools and now teachers will work together to create a robust action plan with the support of an Improvement Champion, who is also a teacher from a partner 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.

Ditton Infant School



Newsletter 3

Spring Term 2019

Dear Parents/Carers,

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. More details to follow.

At Ditton Infant School we strive to achieve the best for all children, however we recognise that on some occasions you may feel that we could have done better. We would like to encourage you to come in and discuss any concerns with us either by calling or emailing the school office to make an appointment with myself. We would be grateful if parents do not use social media to raise complaints but instead, we encourage you to come in and speak with us so that we can understand your concerns and help solve the problem. Complaints on social media can be damaging for the school, its staff and most importantly the children.

Mrs. C.S. Lewer
Headteacher

Parent Questionnaire

Thank you for returning the Annual Questionnaire. We had a total of 65 responses, a significant increase from last year.

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.

Firstly, the school has no control over portion sizes at meal times. This is regulated by the school meal provider. I have asked Caterlink to give parents an information sheet about school meal guidelines but I am still waiting for this.

Secondly, we have tried and tested a number of whiteboard pens, but it has been increasingly difficult to get pens which are high quality and washable. Mrs Hamer continues to source pens from a wide variety of stockists. Feedback about progress and homework seem to be recurring themes so this will be the focus for our Term 3 Parent Forum on 9th January. Please send class reps your thoughts.

Thank you for your donations on Christmas Jumper Day. We raised £102 in total and this will be sent to Save the Children.



Parent Consultations

We will be holding two Parent Consultations from 3.30-6.30pm on 12th and 14th 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 Campbell 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.

Online safety

Please use the link below if you need support setting the parental controls on your internet at home.

<https://vodafonedigitalparenting.co.uk/tools-and-tips/parental-controls-home-internet-2>

The Apple store at Bluewater also run some free parent workshops.

Although the latest copy of digital parenting has not been updated since we last sent it out I have included the link below for all our new Year R parents

<https://parentzone.org.uk/projects/digital-parenting-magazine>

Eco-School Programme

We are excited to officially announce our involvement with the Eco-School programme. The programme itself delivers a simple framework which ensures that sustainability becomes a fundamental part of school life. It provides opportunities to enhance the curriculum, encouraging children to adopt green behaviours and attitudes which can be transferred into homes and the wider community. We have a newly elected Eco-Committee, currently made up of 2 children per class throughout Key Stage 1 and we are looking forward to welcoming children from both Reception classes later in the year. With support from the Eco-Coordinator, Miss Seymour, the children are responsible for leading the school through various activities. We are currently working on achieving our Bronze award which is the first step towards becoming a Green Flag Eco-School. You can find out more information about the Eco-Schools process by visiting <https://www.eco-schools.org.uk/>

Attendance

Next week, you will receive 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. **97%+ is now** the expected level of attendance and will be printed on green paper. **Please note the colour coding is different to what we have previously published to reflect our high expectations.** If your child's attendance was between 96.9%-95% you will have an orange printout as it means they are just below the expected level and if the attendance has dropped below 94.9% it will be printed on pink to alert you to the fact that your child may be considered a persistent absentee if it continues to drop below 90%. 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 together. 69 children attended school every day in Term 1 and Term 2 and were given a small attendance award. This is a significant increase since last year.

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.

Phonics Screen (Yr1 and Yr2 re-takes) 10th-14th June 2018

Yr2 SATS May 2018

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. This year you can visit www.kent.gov.uk/winter to find out if the school is closed. 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.**