



### Dates for the Term

12 <sup>th</sup> -16 <sup>th</sup> Feb	Half Term
19 <sup>th</sup> Feb	Term 4 begins
5 <sup>th</sup> -9 <sup>th</sup> March	Mother's Day Activities
6 <sup>th</sup> March	Maths Workshop for Yr2 Parents - 2.30pm
12 <sup>th</sup> -16 <sup>th</sup> March	Book Week/Author Visit
12 <sup>th</sup> March	Dress as an animal of your choice
14 <sup>th</sup> March	Parent Forum
26 <sup>th</sup> March	Taster Sports Session
28 <sup>th</sup> March	Change for Life Workshop
29 <sup>th</sup> March	Term 4 ends
16 <sup>th</sup> April	Term 5 starts

### Staff Development Days

2017/18	25 <sup>th</sup> May 2018
2018/19	3 <sup>rd</sup> & 4 <sup>th</sup> Sept 2018 3 <sup>rd</sup> & 4 <sup>th</sup> Jan 2019 3 <sup>rd</sup> June 2019

A full list of term dates for 2018/19 can be found on our website.

### Positive Posts

Thank you to those parents who wrote a positive post after their Parent Consultation. We have displayed these in our display book in the entrance hall for visitors to look at and read.

### Transition to Year 3

The children will continue to visit Ditton Junior School in small groups with Mrs Gillard each Friday and at the end of Term 4 the Year 3 teachers will be coming to read the children a story.

## Ditton Infant School



### **Newsletter 4**

**Spring Term 2018**

Dear Parents/Carers,

After the success of 'Father's Storytime Week' last year we have decided to deliver a similar week of events for mums, nans, aunties, or female friends. During the week beginning 5<sup>th</sup> March you will be invited to join your child for a story and craft activities. The session will end with the children demonstrating massage on their guest.

Don't forget to support the school by shopping at Tesco Lunsford Park or Tesco Express and putting a token in our 'Bags of Help' collection box. You will have already had an email about our Den Building Project.

I would like to thank Gallaghers for their kind donation of £1000 towards our Wildlife Garden and AB Foods for some whiteboards, office furniture and flip charts.

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

### Internet Safety

This term we will be distributing the third leaflet in our guide to social networking series. A guide to.....Twitter   
We hope you are finding these useful.

The children made some online safety posters during 'Safer Internet Day' on 6<sup>th</sup> February. We showed the children a selection during assembly and have displayed them around the school.

### Book Week 12<sup>th</sup>-16<sup>th</sup> March

Miss Major is currently organising an exciting Book Week. The theme will be 'Adventurous Animals' and we will be running drama workshops for each year group and holding a dress up day on Monday 12<sup>th</sup> March where children can dress as an animal of their choice. We will also be holding our annual Scholastic Book Fair. More details to follow soon.

### Parent Forum

Your Parent Forum Representatives are:

Gold Class - Mrs Brooks

Purple Class - Mrs Edney

Blue Class - Mrs Alford & Ms Forest

Red Class - Ms Adams

We currently do not have a representative for either Silver or Yellow Class so if you are interested please let me know.

Our next Parent Forum Meeting is on 14<sup>th</sup> March. There will be no particular focus for this meeting, just pass on any comments to the class representatives - good or bad!! We are a listening school and are keen to hear your views.

### Key Stage 1 SATS

These assessments will take place in May. We always encourage excellent attendance but it is vital that children attend school as regularly as possible and do not miss the starts of school days as teachers will be planning activities to address any gaps and revisiting areas covered earlier in the Key Stage to ensure children are as secure as possible with the concepts.

### Phonics Screening

Year 1 and some Year 2 children will be taking the phonics screening the week commencing Monday 11<sup>th</sup> June 2018.

### Grapes

We have noticed that some children are bringing large grapes into school. If your child does bring grapes in for snack or as part of their packed lunch please can they be cut in half to minimise the choking hazard.

### Charity Event

Last year two of our past pupils lost their father and in memory of him some of his colleagues are 'Running for Ray' with donations going to Mind's Bluelight Programme which gives support to emergency workers. If you would like to donate to this worthwhile cause please visit Run4Ray on the 'Just Giving' website.

### Attendance

The Department for Education (DfE) has a target for attendance of pupils in school that they say should not be less than 95%. This represents a target of no more than ten days absence over a year. Therefore, when a child is ill for a week that very quickly moves towards not meeting that target. It also highlights the issue of taking a family holiday in term time. A week off represents 5% of the school year. Research shows that if a child misses more than ten days in any school year it can affect their expected outcomes by as much as 3 months of learning in any year!

We would very much want to support you and your child, so if there are on-going medical needs please let us know and we can involve the school nurse if appropriate.

We will be running an Easter Attendance Competition from 5<sup>th</sup> March until the end of Term 4. Just like the Christmas tree, children will be asked to colour a part of the egg at home for each day they attend school. Those children who have coloured 18 or more sections will be entered into a prize draw.



### Severe Weather Arrangements

I hope we have seen the last of the snow but in the event of further bad weather, 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.**