

DATES FOR THE TERM

9 th September	Year R part-time
23 rd September	Year R full-time
24 th September	1 st Class photos - KM
25 th September	Red Class - Small Steps starts
30 th September	PTA AGM
1 st October	Individual photos
1 st October	Year 2 Harvest - 2.40pm
2 nd October	Parent Forum - 9.00am
2 nd October	Year 1 Harvest - 2.40pm
3 rd October	Year R Harvest - 2.15pm
9 th October	Yr R Phonics Workshop - 2pm
15 th /17 th October	Parents' Evenings - 3.30- 6.30pm
18 th October	Last day of term

21st - 25th October Autumn Holiday

28 th October	Term 2 begins
6 th November	Flu Vaccinations
7 th November	Open Evening (Yr R 20/21) 6-7pm
27 th November	Parent Forum - 9am
12 th December	Nativity (Year R) - 9.30am
13 th December	Nativity (Years 1&2) - 9.30am & 2.15pm
17 th December	Christmas Dinner
18 th December	End of Term

Staff Development Days for 2019/20

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

6th January 2020
1st June 2020
2nd June 2020

These dates are the same as Ditton Junior School.

Uniform

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!

Year R Booktime Coming soon.....

This year's book is *The Cave*, written and illustrated by Rob Hodgson and published by Frances Lincoln Children's Books. It's a quirky picture book that tells the tale of a curious, persistent and very hungry wolf and a secret little creature. *The Cave* is a laugh-out loud story with a very big surprise accompanied with glorious artwork, bursting with colour and warmth. *The Cave* teaches a very important lesson about perspective and not to judge others too quickly. There are a wide range of activity sheets to accompany the book, please see www.booktime.org.uk for more details.

Ditton Infant School



Newsletter 1

Autumn Term 2019

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.

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.

It is good practice to have more than one contact for each child attending school. This does not have to be a family member and could be a trusted friend. If you are the only contact for your child, please speak to friends or family and see if there is another person's phone number that you can add and let the office know in writing by 13th September. It is vital that we have this information if we cannot contact you for any reason.

Yours sincerely,
Mrs. C. S. Lewer
Headteacher

Staffing 2019/20

Deputy Headteacher Mrs Boxall (formerly Miss Robb)

Class Teachers

Mrs Boxall - Gold Class EYFS Leader

Miss McGinley - Silver Class

Miss Major / Mrs Mundy - Blue Class

Miss Stigle - Purple Class

Miss Seymour - Yellow Class

Mrs Kreiselmeier - Red Class

Additional Teaching Staff Mrs Tuft / 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

Mrs Brooker - Gold Class Learning Assistant and Midday Meals Supervisor

Miss Pole - Gold Class Learning Assistant and Sports Leader

Mrs Staines - Blue Class Learning Assistant and Midday Meals Supervisor

Mrs Dearing - Purple Class Learning Assistant and Midday Meals Supervisor

Ms Croker - Yellow Class Learning Assistant and Midday Meals Supervisor

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

Mrs Coles - Inclusion Assistant and Wellbeing Team

Mrs Fermor Speech and Language support

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

Mrs Boxall 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 wellbeing of a pupil. Please read the Child Protection 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>

Attendance

We handed out 21 100% attendance awards at the end of last term as well as 6 prizes for a termly attendance colouring competition. The winners were Ben, Ella, Leo, Betty, Miya and Tommy. 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.

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.

Water Race

Thank you to all those families who supported the end of term Water Race. I am delighted to inform you that we raised £1000! 😊

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.

Shared Golden Time

We are continuing to offer parents the chance to join their child for a shared Golden Time in Term 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 what they have been learning. 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.

Gold Class - 1st November - 2.30-3.00pm

Silver Class - 8th November - 2.30-3.00pm

Blue Class - 15th November - 2.40-3.10pm

Purple Class - 22nd November - 2.40-3.10pm

Yellow Class - 29th November - 2.40-3.10pm

Red Class - 6th December - 2.40-3.10pm

Cloakroom Areas

Teachers have been asked to monitor cloakrooms carefully as they are very small and become congested very quickly. This can present a risk in the event of a speedy evacuation from the building. Please make sure your child brings in their PE kit in a drawstring bag - no rucksacks. 1 keyring will be allowed on each book bag

Snack and Water

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. Children are encouraged to bring in a bottle filled with fresh plain water every day. Flavoured, fizzy water or squash is not permitted.

Parent Forum

If your child's class does not have a parent rep, please consider standing for this role. We meet once a term on a Wednesday morning to talk about parental views in general or on a specific theme e.g. lunchtimes. This term we will focus on the new plan for teaching Relationship Education, Sex Education and Health Education which becomes statutory next year. I am sure an existing rep will be able to talk to you more about their role. Please come to the school office if you are interested.