



Downham Church of England Voluntary Controlled Primary School

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4th January 2012

Headteachers' Termly Newsletter

Dear Parents,

Welcome back to the new school term. We hope you had a fun-filled break with family and friends. We would like to take this opportunity to say thank you to you for all the kind wishes, cards and gifts we received over the Christmas period in school.

The spring term looks as busy as ever with lots of exciting opportunities for the children. A reminder that new clubs commence on 9th January so please ensure you have returned permission slips for the children by then. You will have received a newsletter from your child's teacher this week. We hope you find this information useful in supporting your child's learning at home.

The Ned Show

On Thursday 12th January all children will be participating in an assembly called The Ned Show. (Never give up, Encourage others, Do your best) This forms part of our PSHCE curriculum and is based on yo-yo skills. There will be no charge to the children for this show however there will be the opportunity to purchase NED items after school between 12th and 18th January should you wish. We have already seen the benefits of our skipping day, especially at breaks and lunchtimes and hope that this will inspire the children in a similar way, whilst reinforcing an important message.

School Priorities

We continue to work on our priority of developing children's writing in this school. This is a very important area of our school improvement plan and we have already seen good results. We are holding 2 information sessions for parents on writing this term. These will give you the opportunity to find out how we teach writing in school, how we level children and what you can do at home to help develop your child's writing. The first session is on **Thursday 19th January for key stage 2 parents, the second is on Thursday 2nd February for KS1 parents.** Both sessions will be in the hall and commence at 2.30pm. It would be helpful to know numbers so that we can prepare resources to take away so please fill in the attendance slip below if you are able to attend.

Church School Distinctiveness

As a church school, when we receive an OFSTED inspection this is always closely followed by an inspection by the diocese. In light of this we would like to request parental views on the Christian distinctiveness of our school regardless of your own religious beliefs. We would be grateful if you could fill in the attached questionnaire and return by e mail or hard copy as soon as possible in order that we can take your views into account.

Attendance and Holiday Requests

Congratulations to all the children who had 100% attendance in the Autumn Term. They received a certificate this week. Can we take this opportunity to remind you that taking holiday during the school

term is detrimental to your child's education. Holiday requests are discouraged and not authorised during May and school assessment periods.

Dates for your diaries:

Tues 10th Jan - 2.30pm - Great British Kids to present to parents in hall.

Fri 13th Jan - 1pm - Year 6 boys football at Mayflower

Tues 17th Jan - PTA disco

Wed 18th Jan - Swimming recommences

Thurs 19th Jan - 2.30 - Key Stage 2 Parent writing information session

Fri 20th Jan - 1pm - Year 3/4 tag rugby competition at Mayflower

WC 23rd Jan - "No name-calling" week.

Fri 27th Jan - 9.30am - Central League netball at Mayflower

Thurs 2nd Feb - Class ES visit to Braintree Victorian Museum

Thurs 2nd Feb - 2.30 - Key Stage 1 Parent writing information session

Wed 8th Feb - Year 3/4 sports hall athletics - Billericay School. 2pm

Wed 8th Feb - Choir music festival rehearsal - 9.30 - 12pm St John's School.

Wed 8th Feb - Orchestra music festival rehearsal - 1.45 - 3.30pm St John's School.

Wed 8th Feb - 9.15am - Class ES Assembly

Fri 10th Feb - Non pupil day

Tues 21st Feb - 3.30 - 6pm - Parents' Evening

Thurs 23rd Feb - 5-7.30pm - Parents' evening

Mon 19th March / Tues 20th March - Music Festival - evening performance at the Towngate Theatre.

WC 26th March - VIP afternoons - more details to follow.

Wednesday 28th March 6pm Easter Service at Emmanuel Church

Yours sincerely

Helen Craig Sue Wilson

Headteachers

Return slip for writing workshops

Please return to the school office

Childs name and class:

Your name:

I/We will be attending the meeting on Thursday 19th January for key stage 2 parents at 2.30 pm in the school hall the

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