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22nd July 2021

Dear Parents and Carers

Term dates and Inset days 2021 – 2022

23rd July – Last day of term

2nd & 3rd September – Inset Days

6th September – Start of term for children in Year 1 to Year 6

22nd October – Inset Day

25th to 29th October – Half Term

1st November – Inset Day

4th January 2022 – Inset Day

Staffing news

This term, we welcome new colleagues Mrs Kinga Regulska and Mrs Hannah Pollard to our Midday Meals Supervisor team.

On Friday we are saying farewell to the following colleagues:-

Miss Emily Clevett, has worked at the school for seven years as a highly valued member of our teaching assistant team. Miss Clevett has worked across the whole school and is always smiling. Miss Clevett finishes her University teaching degree next year and we are hopeful we will see her again soon.

Mrs Kim Howarth has worked at Downview for 16 years, she has taught across the school, mostly in Key Stage 2 but has also taught classes on supply in all year groups. Mrs Howarth is retiring after a wonderful teaching career at Downview. Her amazing artistic skills and great sense of humour will be remembered with fondness.

Finally, after a long and illustrious teaching career, the last 22 years of this at Downview, Mrs Fiona McKenzie is retiring. Mrs McKenzie has taught thousands of children and supported many colleagues during this time. Her many achievements include leading great teams in key stage one, leading various subject areas notably PE in which she has managed many sporting events including Dancehouse, legendary Sports Days and Area Athletics Championships; gaining enjoyment from the children's numerous successes. Mrs McKenzie will always be remembered for her calm and kind nature, her whacky dressing up outfits and her saying and rhymes – "ooh la la, chocolat" being a firm favourite.

Our colleagues will be sorely missed, having touched the lives of hundreds of children and many staff over the years. I am sure you would all like to join me in wish them well in their next adventures.

In September, we are looking forward to welcoming Miss Megan Remnant who is joining our teaching assistant team.



Welcome Videos and Moving on Packs

Yesterday the children watched their new year group / class video. They were very excited to see their new learning environment and have a brief introduction to the staff team. These will be uploaded to Google classroom for your children to share with you. Every child also has a paper Moving on Pack to take home and these will be available on the school's website in due course.

Reports

Please return your reply slip as soon as possible.

Children's books

Please return these if you haven't already before Friday.

Sponsored Reading Race

I am pleased to advise £3221.45 was raised during Book Week by the children taking part in the sponsored read. This will go towards paying for the author visits and purchasing books for the school curriculum.

Lunchtimes

If your child has a hot meal at lunchtime they may bring in a carton of juice or squash to drink with their meal should they wish to. Milk and water will of course always be available as an alternative. **May we also remind you not to send in any sweets or chocolate in your child's lunchbox or any products containing nuts as we have children in school with severe nut allergies.**

Chartwells Hot Meals

If your child/children are in Year 2 moving into Year 3 in September then Chartwells hot meals will have to be ordered and paid for online. Also for all other year groups please remember to change your child's class at the start of the new academic year.

Thank you so much for your tremendous support throughout this challenging year, your kind messages have kept us going through some difficult times.

Finally, I am sure that you will join me in thanking the entire school staff for the exceptional job they have done during this unusual year. They really have been inspirational.

I do hope that the lovely weather continues and that you all have a wonderful summer holiday. I hope you enjoy the opportunity to spend time with friends and family and to return to a more normal existence. We also wish our wonderful year 6's an amazing time at their secondary schools.

I look forward to seeing you all return in September for an exciting year of learning.

Look after yourselves and stay safe.

Yours sincerely

Mrs Mandy Williams
Headteacher