

Deal Parochial Church of England (Aided) Primary School

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Newsletter March 2019

Dear Parent & Carers

Thank you to all our families who enthusiastically took part in the World Book Day Dressing up event. There are pictures on our web site of all the fabulous costumes and crazy characters that came into our school last week. We all enjoyed sharing our ideas and having a good natured chuckle together, staff included! Also, you will find us in the Deal addition of the East Kent Mercury Newspaper.

We are dividing the money collected on Red Nose Day. Half will go towards the Red Nose charity and the other half raised will support our school links with St Andrew's Church charity. We are joining the church in supporting the development of a small northern town in Madagascar. We will be sharing information about Madagascar in an assembly and, as a school community will continue to find out more over time so that the children learn about "majority world" issues and how we can help.

The curriculum expectations from OFSTED are at last changing for what many education professionals consider is for the better. We welcome the changes at Deal Parochial School as it matches my passion that the curriculum should be broad and enriching for all children and not too narrowly focused on achievement that is measured through tests.

We are currently reviewing our broader curriculum provision in order to ensure that it meets the needs and interests of this community as well as preparing young people to be best equipped for the future. One new aspect of the curriculum that we are beginning to explore is that of developing Global Citizenship. This is cross curricular, providing opportunities to transfer geography, history, PSHE, RE, the Arts and core subject skills through a thought provoking and stimulating curriculum. We aim to develop children's "Courageous Advocacy" so that they can become "Agents of Change".

As a school with a distinctive Christian ethos we start with a theological reference and aim:

1 John 3:18 (CEB) "Little children, let's not love with words or speech but with action and truth".

Through the opportunities that the curriculum provides we hope that pupils develop transformational relationships, starting with themselves, families, school, local communities, nationally and internationally.

As Martin Luther King said;

"Before you finish eating breakfast this morning, you've depended on more than half the world."

Dr. King said these words nearly 50 years ago. On Christmas Eve in 1967, just a few months before his murder, he stood in the pulpit of the Ebenezer Baptist Church in Atlanta and described his profound vision. You might be interested to read more about this inspirational thinker.

With this as a source of inspiration to our learning at Deal Parochial School, we hope that pupils learn to understand how we are all interconnected and interdependent. The skills pupils will develop through the opportunities are endless. The core skills staff have identified are – creative thinking, reasoning, communication, perspective, empathy, critical thinking as well as more meaningful knowledge of the world, and I hope it provides a sense of purpose, engagement, excitement and pride. We hope that you can encourage your children's learning through challenge, discussion and taking part in the events that the pupils will carry out through the curriculum over the course of each year. Thank you.

Family Dog Workshops held at the Dogs Trust, Canterbury

Family Dog Workshops for parents/carers of a child aged between 3-16 years old with a clinical diagnosis of autism. If you are considering getting a dog to help your child, looking for help choosing & handling a dog or if you already have a pet dog but would like training ideas and support, this may be for you.

This is a series of three one day workshops running on 25th, 26th & 27th June at the Dogs Trust, Canterbury.

To find out more and book: www.dogsforgood.org/family-dog



Key events and dates coming up

Monday 18th March - Revd Flewker, vicar for St Leonard's Church to lead Collective Worship – 10:10am – 10:30am. Parents are welcome to join us in reflection and prayers.

The EYFS / Seahorses class are holding a 'Jack in The Beanstalk' afternoon, class parents and carers are invited to roll up your sleeves and join in the learning at 2pm in the main hall.

Thursday 21st March – **World Poetry Day** – We will hold a poetry awareness assembly, Year 4 will perform a poem and staff will also be reciting a selection of poems for children to enjoy. Pupils will also watch one of our much loved and highly regarded poets and author Michael Rosen through the wonders of the internet. Year 4 – Starfish class will be going to Hornbeam Primary School in the afternoon to perform their chosen poem to other Year 4 pupils from Kingsdown, Sandown and Hornbeam in order to share the joy of performance poetry.

Monday 25th March – Vicar Chris from St Georges's Church – leading collective worship. 10:10 – 10:30am. Parents are welcome to join us in reflection and prayers.

Tuesday 26th March - **Yr 5 trip to Canterbury - Philharmonic Orchestra** – A Virtual Tour. To find out more visit; virtualorchestra@philarmonia.co.uk

Wednesday 27th and Thursday 28th March – **Parent, teacher consultation evenings**. Don't forget to sign up for appointments outside the classrooms from Monday 18th March. There will be some governors available at the meetings in the school library with Tea & Coffee available. We will be circulating a parent questionnaire in order to collect your views and inform our policy and provision making. The questionnaires will be circulated at the parent teacher consultations and will only take you a maximum of 10 minutes to complete. Your voice helps us to tweak, change and retain the provision that you value.

I would hope that any individual concerns would be addressed through our usual means, which is by way of arranging an opportunity to meet and discuss issues with either myself or the class teachers.

Friday 29th March - Pfizers Science Curriculum Day.

Tuesday 2nd April – Easter Service to be held at St Andrew's Church Deal. To start at 10:30. You are invited to attend. Please leave the main front seats for the children to use. The back 4 rows and the right side isles are available for families to be seated – space is limited but we would love you to come. This year we are hoping to deliver the Story of Easter through acting the Stations of the Cross, with hymns from Mr Greenhalgh accompanying the service.

Thursday 4th April – DISCO. After school: EYFS/KS1 at 3:30pm, KS2 at 5pm. The PTA is selling tickets in advance for this event. All pupils must return a consent form stating who will be collecting them.

Friday 5th April – **Last day of Term 4**. Merit and Head Teacher Cup Assembly. Invitations will be sent to parents of children receiving certificates. Pupils will be given their palms to take home as a reminder of the meaning of Easter.

So what are we doing this year for our annual EASTER Competition? You might well ask!

We thought that we would tune into the Global issues and Courageous Advocacy that our pupils are talking about. A very current concern is the pollution caused by plastics. So we are asking you to be creative with all your throw away plastic and products to create a **Recycled Cross / Easter message**. You can design and make an Easter cross using any everyday, clean products.

Get sticking, weaving, nailing, knotting, tying, cutting and sewing for our Easter cross competition and display. The crosses can be a 2D picture or 3D standing model.

Prizes will be awarded to each class for the most creative, demonstrating your art & craft and design & technology skills.

Please bring your models into school on **Monday 1st April** so that we can display them around the school.



Due to the fact that Easter weekend falls right at the end of the school Easter holidays we are going to celebrate the Resurrection of Jesus from the tomb when the children return back to school on Tuesday 23rd April.

We will put out our large wooden cross at the front entrance to the school so that we can decorate the cross with flowers as we did last year. It looked so stunning. This can then be a bright and cheerful school entrance; welcoming the start to Term 5.

Please bring flowers, ribbons, prayers and decorations to add to the cross over the course of the first couple of weeks back. Thank you.

Please check the blog section of our web site for the most recent **sporting accomplishments** and reports. You will see great news regarding tennis, Rapid Fire Cricket – Year 1 & 2 tournament; our boys' football team who have reached two finals, and the Dover School Games Swimming Gala for which we had three medal winners from our school. Well done everybody and thank you to staff and parents for all your continued contributions and effort.

A Moment for Reflection

This day may we know:
The compassion of God the Father,
The strength of God the Son,
The humility of God the Holy Spirit.
AMEN

Keep dry and warm and welcome each new day with laughter in this wonderful spring weather.
Kind regards
Justine Brown
Head teacher

