

Deal Parochial Church of England (Aided) Primary School

Ms J Brown BEd Hons NPQH
Headteacher
Tel: 01304 374464
Fax: 01304 370900
email: secretary@deal-parochial.kent.sch.uk



Gladstone Road
Walmer, Deal
Kent CT14 7ER

Website: www.deal-parochial.kent.sch.uk

Newsletter Term 5

Dear Parents / Carers

The summer term seems to be whizzing past at quite a pace.

Just some house keeping reminders to start off with.
Please remember to send sunblock into school labelled with your child's name. Out weather is very unpredictable and teachers will be taking the children outside to make the most of outdoor learning opportunities during the summer months. Thank you.

Just a few points that I have noticed have slipped:

Long hair must be tied back off children's faces. Pupils can wear hair accessories that are green.
Trainers are not acceptable footwear; children should be wearing black shoes as part of our school uniform.
Boy's socks should be black or grey.

Healthy Eating Awareness Assembly

Miss Cronin will be delivering an interactive presentation next Monday 22nd May. The theme for this term is the amount of salt in food. She will be providing guidance on the recommended daily amounts of salt and how much salt can be found in different food. She will also provide information on how to reduce salt intake and some of the impacts that too much salt intake can have on our bodies.

Attendance Update

- **Our current attendance figure is 94.8%,**
- **Authorised absences are 4.7%**
- **Unauthorised absences are 0.5%**
- **The school target and national expectation for attendance is 96%**

The number of children with attendance below 95% is 76. This represents 36.9%.

The number of children with attendance below 90% is 33. This represents 16%. The national average is 9%.

Attendance continues to be a concern for our school governors and to the Local Education Authority. This was highlighted in the OFSTED section 8 inspection carried out on March 1st 2017.

As a school we therefore need to take decisive action.

We recognise the need to work along side our families so that we can determine any barriers, and send out clear messages of our expectations. It is a safe guarding concern if children are not attending school regularly.

I am sure you appreciate that these are not principles and thresholds I am choosing, but are clear messages from the Department for Education.

I would truly appreciate your support in tackling this. We need to work together, create a sensible dialogue and trust. Schools can link families up to many external agencies which offer a huge range of support. We are not setting out to make judgements about families, merely to ensure that all children receive the best possible opportunities for their education. Their time in school can never be reclaimed. There will be times when I will need to show compassion, understanding and sensitivity to individual family circumstances.



This was discussed at great length at the recent full governing body meeting. I am fully aware our lives do not take a straight forward path, and please be re assured that respectful and considerate support is always the preferred option in helping families and pupils in order to improve poor attendance, or accepting and understanding a parent's difficult decision to keep a child off school due to extraordinary circumstances. This empathy will continue to be significant part of our school Christian ethos.

However, at the last full governing body meeting, the school governors reviewed the most recently updated Kent model attendance policy that is strongly recommended. After a robust debate, it was agreed to adopt the policy at this school. This includes some additional options should there be continued and sustained concerns regarding an individual's attendance. Most significantly, we have agreed to include the option of issuing a penalty notice. This was discussed at length. Governors all agreed that we should exhaust all other supportive options, before taking this decision. Penalty notices are issued by the local authority following a request submitted by the school.

The new policy outlines the procedures and will be posted on the school website as from Friday 19th May 2017. As part of this review I looked into the attendance policy and actions that are in place at other local Deal Primary Schools. Through adopting the new guidelines we will be more in line with our neighbouring schools.

Finally, I am most grateful to all our families who communicate their child's absences punctually, and who always do their best to ensure that their child attends regularly.

Thank you for your support and cooperation.

Other events and dates coming up:-

Monday 22nd May - Robins class are going to the Deal RNLI for a class visit.

Wednesday 24th May – A memorial football competition is being played by Y5 & Yr6 players. This is in remembrance of Mr Graham Stabbs, a local head teacher who passed away in 2014.. He was instrumental in setting up and running the Dover Cup for our primary school children.

Wednesday 24th May – Our annual Musical Evening will be taking place at St George's Church – Deal. At this event pupils have the opportunity to show case their skills and talents in music. All parents and friends are invited to come along and show their support. It is very important that children / budding musicians of the future, have the opportunity to play in front of a live audience and experience the pre-show nerves, and the wonderful exaltation of applause. Please come along.

Doors open at 18:15 for the performances to start at 18:30.

Thursday 25th May – The whole school will be walking to St Andrew's Church in Deal to attend an Ascension Service. This Service is slightly different to other church services that children take part in; as it is a full traditional Order of the Eucharist led by Father Roger. We will be singing hymns learnt during our own Sung Worship and the Year 6 pupils will be reading The Intercession Prayers they have written. We attend this service annually so that pupils have the opportunity to deepen their understanding of the Anglican Church.

All parents and family members are warmly invited to attend. The service will start at 10:30am and will last about an hour. I would be most grateful for some volunteers to accompany the teachers and children in the walk to and from the church. Please let your child's class teacher know if you are able to help us out. Many thanks.

Time for reflection.

Lord, make my heart a place where angels sing!

John Keble 1792

Kind regards
Justine Brown

