

# Deal Parochial Church of England (Aided) Primary School

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Newsletter 1 - September 2016

Dear Parents / Carers

## WELCOME BACK TO SCHOOL

What a fabulous start to our new academic year.

All the children arrived smiling on our first day back, looking tremendously smart in their new school uniforms. Thank you.

It was so lovely to welcome you all back to school, I look forward to catching up with all the holiday news over the next few days.

For my part, my family and I enjoyed a wonderful holiday in Ireland. At the start of this I went to Miss Mann's wedding celebrations. Miss Mann, now known as Mrs Dickinson, looked so beautiful and happy. The married couple had a great day, and we danced through the evening to many of Mrs D's favourite cheesy dance numbers!!

I am looking forward to the year ahead. We are expecting an inspection this year and would of course want the best outcome for the children, our community and the school.

Our data and standards are strong and there have been many improvements over time that we are proud of. Please do not hesitate to contact staff should you have any areas of concern so that we can address them promptly. We are constantly evaluating and reviewing our provision and I would like to know what you consider to be the strengths and areas for development. Working in partnership always moves us forward so that everyone's interests are taken account of.

Working together we are developing a strong sense of shared ownership and achievement as a family and team. Thank you.

You will be invited to contribute towards a parent questionnaire later this term. Many thanks for your continued support and enthusiasm towards getting the best for our pupils and all our families.

The term starts with many exciting new opportunities and dates to share with you.

Every class will have the opportunity to receive tennis coaching for one term at some time throughout the year. This term Year 6 will be walking to the Tennis courts at Tides Leisure centre. They will take an early lunch so that they can start at 1 pm and train for one hour. Pupils will need their PE kits in school for the Friday sessions.

Qualified tennis coaches will lead the sessions supported by Mrs Hodgson (a parent volunteer), the class teacher and TA.

In order to provide this great opportunity for children's sport interest and life chances we are asking parents/ carers to contribute only £1 a week towards the cost of the hall and coaches. You can pay the full £6 at the beginning of the sessions or send in £1 every week.

Tennis is such a good sport for developing individual skills, fitness and self-esteem, so please support the school in this new initiative. I am certain the children will relish the opportunity of making use of our town's sporting facilities that you we lucky to have.

### A small change of routine for parents and children in KS1

Robins, Barn Owls, Gold finch classes. All children are asked to walk straight into the classrooms between 8:40 – 8:50 am. Registration continues to be at 8:50am. There are no changes to the school times.

We have decided to continue the good practice set up in the reception class so that children in KS 1 can filter into their classrooms in the mornings and not stand outside on the playground waiting for the whistle to be blown.

The reception class children, (now Year 1) are accustomed to doing this and it will create greater consistency, ensuring that they have a relaxed, positive start to their day. Thank you.



## Meet your child's teacher

Wednesday 14<sup>th</sup> September - KS2./ Thursday 15<sup>th</sup> September - KS1. at 3:30 pm in your child's classroom.

On Wednesday 14<sup>th</sup> and Thursday 15<sup>th</sup> September parents/ carers of pupils in KS2 / KS1 are invited to come to their child's classroom and meet the teacher. The teacher will give short presentation about the teaching and learning taking place, outline behaviour and learning expectations for the year and give you the opportunity to familiarise yourselves with the new teachers. A more formal parent/teacher consultation evening will be held at the end of term 1. Please come along. Pupils can wait in an area supervised by a member of staff.

### Tuesday 20<sup>th</sup> September

Year 4 are visiting Canterbury Cathedral for a School Educational Day. A letter will follow.

### Thursday 22<sup>nd</sup> September

KS2 visit to Guru Nanak Darar, which is a Gurdwara in Gravesend. The date is to be confirmed.

This is the biggest Sikh temple in Europe and is a spectacular religious place of worship. Last year we took KS2 pupils to visit a Jewish Synagogue, and this was very highly praised. This year we are off to extend our British values and broaden our understanding of our cultural diversity in the UK by having a guided tour around the Gurdwara. More details to follow.

### Tuesday 11<sup>th</sup> October – Individual School portrait photographs

Monday 17<sup>th</sup> & Tuesday 18<sup>th</sup> October – Parent /carer teacher consultation evenings – an appointment is required – an opportunity to sign up by email and sign-up forms will be placed outside classrooms nearer the date.

Wednesday 19<sup>th</sup> October – End of term school disco. KS1 & KS2. This is the last day of term 1. The last two days are teacher training days and the school will be closed.

### Term 2 – Monday 31<sup>st</sup> October - ALL PUPILS TO BE IN SCHOOL

Additional dates will follow so please continue to read the newsletters and look at the website.

There has been a change to one INSET date.

All pupils are to return to school on Wednesday 4<sup>th</sup> January 2017.

### School Dinners

Children in Foundation, Year 1 & 2 are entitled to a Universal school meal. This is a reminder to parents of children now in Year 3 that you now have to pay for a school meal for your child unless you are in receipt of Free School Meals (please enquire at the school office if you think you may be entitled). The cost is £2.30 a day and cheques (minimum cheque amount £11.50 please) should be made payable to "Whole School Meal C.IC." or you can pay online [www.wholeschoolmeals.co.uk](http://www.wholeschoolmeals.co.uk).

### A moment of reflection

#### **Lord God,**

At the beginning of this new term teach us to

**be your hands and feet where we are,**

At the beginning of this new term teach us to

**love as you love us**

At the beginning of this new term teach us to

**pray for those in need**

**So that You are honoured and glorified**

Amen

By Annie Barnsdale

My very warmest wishes to you all, at the beginning of this academic year.

Justine Brown

