

# Deal Parochial Church of England (Aided) Primary School

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Tuesday 18<sup>th</sup> July 2017

## End of Term News Letter Summer 2017

Dear Parents / Carers

I am writing to wish you all a very happy and safe summer holiday.

I know we are all ready for a rest and a break, but I would ask you to reflect over a year that has been very busy and highly successful for our pupils and school community.

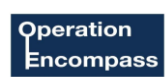
### Thank you for all your support.

With your tremendous support we have tackled the barriers that arise in all schools and worked together to overcome the things that can upset learning and children's feeling of wellbeing. I want to express my own thanks and that of all our staff for working with us, trusting and challenging our decisions, so that we achieve the very best for our pupils. Thank you. Additionally, I would like to draw your thoughts to some of the fabulous events and activities that have taken place across this academic year.

Our KS 2 visit to the Gurdwara in Gravesend, back in October; our fabulous Christmas Nativity from Year 2 and KS1; The Choir's performance at The Royal Albert Hall taking part in the Praise for Proms concert; the fantastic charity fund raising, working in collaboration with the NSPCC, in which we strongly reinforced the SPEAK OUT message to children, keeping children safe in their awareness of how to act and how to seek help, and collecting £2500.00! Our Safer Internet Week and class performances to parents; the introduction of tennis lessons for all pupils in KS1 & KS2 classes, with the gifted and talented tennis club and competitions that have come about from this; our increased sporting and competitive participation in many Dover/ Deal sporting events; our win in the Maths DLA competition and of course the very positive and rewarding OFSTED inspection and report.

We have updated our reading and maths provision with very exciting and challenging programmes of work and new teaching strategies and resources. Training for teachers has been a focus in order to further equip them to meet the new national curriculum and assessment without levels. We have secured a strong teaching team inducting three new teachers to this school over the year.

Finally, last week our annual Year 6 production took place at St George's Church. The performance was based on the C.S Lewis novel "The Magician's Nephew". I have been flooded with emails full of compliments, and positive comments about how professional and stunning the performance was. Yet again, Mrs Spencer pulled together a team of skilled and creative local people and parents to work alongside the year 6 pupils. The production created a magical world of theatre, with splendid costumes, musicality, dance, drama and amazing individual acts of courage and



strength of character. The year 6 pupils demonstrated great maturity in order to deliver a powerful performance. Congratulations and well done to everyone involved. Thank you to Mrs Spencer for her expert and talented vision and musical direction. Also, thanks to all our volunteer parents and to the St George's Church team who enabled the performance to run smoothly, working hard behind the scenes. Thank you to the orchestra, for our props and costume designers and to all the parents who have helped their children learn lines, offered encouragement, and for coming to support the school and the children in one of their finest hours!!

### **'A Musical Looking ahead' - Parochial School Choir**

Following the very exciting visit from the conductor Noel Treddinick and our wonderful trip to the Albert Hall back in March, St. George's Church has been approached by Noel to host a Prom Praise Concert at St. George's with his orchestra and our the Parochial School Choir on Saturday 7th October at 7pm. This is amazing and exciting news. We are in the planning stages but we hope that there would be an evening concert where our choir will perform alongside the orchestra and the orchestra will also be involved in the Sunday morning service on the 8th October. Please put these dates in your diary and look out for further details early in Term 1.

Also we have booked to record a whole school Singing CD on Wednesday 18th October. We did this 4 or 5 years ago and it is a great way of getting the whole school singing! There will be a special parent choir formed as well as a song or two from our amazing staff choir -who performed at the Music Evening back in May. Further details to follow but please again make a note of the date!

Mrs.J.Spencer

### **Looking ahead**

**Don't forget that on Friday this week, 21<sup>st</sup> July, all children must be collected from St Georges' Church, garden area at 3:15pm.**

All our pupils will be attending the Year 6 Leavers Service which will be led by Vicar Chris. We will be leaving school at 1:15pm; if you are able to offer help by walking down to the church with your child's class please speak to their class teacher. This is a very important service where we can say goodbye and bless the pupils and other members of staff who are leaving our school.

### **A fond farewell and thank you to staff**

Teaching and support staff who will be leaving at the end of this academic year are: Ms Cronin, Mrs Brincombe, Miss Deary & Miss Tancock.

All four staff are highly regarded, dedicated members of our team who have supported many pupils and families at Deal Parochial School for a number of years. They will be missed by all of us.



However, they are all moving on with new chapters in their lives, new challenges and exciting new opportunities. I am sure you join me in wishing them happiness and God's blessings on their future journeys.

A revised teaching assistant and cover plan will be drawn up over the summer holidays to accommodate these last minute changes to our staffing.

### **Spiritual Garden Holiday Homework task**

This has been sent home as a separate homework flyer to all families at the school. This work lies at the beginning of a project that I hope will involve all our churches, the Deal community, as well as all our families. Spirituality transcends all specific religious faiths; it is about our inner selves, our integrity, our hopes, our peace, and our very being. It is important that we take time to listen to our inner selves, to be able to have the emotional literacy to express this in many different ways and to have opportunities to go to a place that we can reconnect with our inner spiritual self. Through creating a spiritual garden I hope that we will offer our parents, pupils and staff such a place.

Our spiritual garden must express who we are, our dreams and hopes so that we have the liberty to take some time away from the hustle and bustle of everyday life.

Please encourage your children to draw, write, label and explore what they would like to have in their garden at school. Talk to them about what is important inside, how we find peace and tranquillity, liberty, respect and love. We can build our school values into different aspects of the garden – **Kindness, Trust, Friendship, Respect, Courage and Forgiveness**. My vision for the garden is that it is a welcoming place, where everyone can take five minutes out, in order to reflect. Wouldn't it be great, if when you enter the space, that our pupils can look around and find something that they have suggested in the design process so that they feel connected, valued and safe?

Next year, we will be exploring different aspects of spirituality and sending home fun tasks and opportunities to creatively share our thoughts and ideas. Please take part and contribute to this important project. Thank you in advance.

### **School Expansion Update**

Following the second public consultation, the Local Education Authority are now ready to proceed with the next stage of the expansion. This week, I am meeting with the building contractors to look at initial plans for the school. This is still at the very early, formative stages, where I am sure many differing opinions may be expressed and compromises reached. However, I do expect that building work will start at some point soon. I have no further information to currently share.



## Reading books – please send them into school

Mrs Messenger our Literacy Coordinator has requested that all school reading books are returned to the school, as a matter of importance. We are restructuring the library and our reading provision therefore it is essential that all the books are collected and re-organised over the summer holidays. This is the only time we can carry out this sort of plan. I apologise for any inconvenience. However, don't forget all pupils have the chance to use the Deal Library and take part in the Summer Reading Challenge that we have promoted recently.

Many teachers are taking the children to visit the town library this week so that our pupils are registered and will have direct access to changing their reading books and choosing from a wide selection of reading materials over the holidays whilst the school is closed. Please encourage a weekly visit and drop into our Deal Library.

## A moment for reflection

Loving Lord,

Thank You so much for holiday times and the wonder and excitement that they engender in all our hearts, and we just want to praise You for all the goodness and grace You generously pour out on us and all people,—and specially we thank You for the many blessings we gain from these important times of holiday fun and family reunion.

At this holiday season we particularly remember those that are alone, or ill or going through times of stress or difficulty, and pray that You would draw very close to each and every one. Let them know Your special peace in their heart and give to each one Your sufficient grace.

We thank You that You are a God that answers prayer and we give You all the praise and glory in Jesus name,

Amen

## Have a safe and happy holiday!

We will be looking forward to your smiles and friendly faces on **Tuesday 5th September 2017**, for a new academic year.

Kind regards

Justine Brown  
Head Teacher

