

Deal Parochial Church of England (Aided) Primary School

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Dear Families

It has been a very positive and successful term for us, not only in teaching and learning, but also in the re-opening of competitions that we have participated in.



Our students came third in a recent Dover football tournament out of 16 schools across Dover. We have also won a local Deal inter-school sports competition, a tennis tournament, kwik cricket and girls football!

During all these events our pupils have behaved impeccably, competed with high standards and extremely good sportsmanship.

I would like to thank all the sports staff here at Deal Parochial School, and a huge thank you to all our families who really do help us with the transport and clubs. We could not take part without your help. And of course the great GROWTH MINDDSET and resilience that our pupils have demonstrated. They are thriving on the friendly competition and increasing in confidence and self-esteem. Well done to everyone who has taken part – we are so proud of you!

We have many more competitions coming up in term 2.

Changes to the school gate times. It is not back to normal, but we are trying to address the balance and re-establish some pre-COVID whole school routines and opportunities.

We have all become accustomed to having a longer and staggered start for arriving and collecting.



However, as the country returns to more normal routines, we too will need to resume the timings of the school day. I am guessing that this may be a little inconvenient for some. Please try your best to get started earlier in the morning and manage as best you can. Punctuality really helps children settle in to the morning and gives them time to chat with friends and acclimatise to the day before lessons and learning picks up pace. Teachers often find time to hear 1-1 readers and carry out some short reinforcement learning that helps a child in their confidence and self –esteem.

From Tuesday 2nd November the school gates will be opened from 08:40 am and will close at 08:50am.

Afternoon pick up times will also return to the pre- COVID arrangements.

**KS1 gates will open at 15:05hrs and
KS2 gates will open at 15:10hrs**

We also hope to re-start meeting in the school hall for assemblies, collective worship and singing.

We will, of course use our common sense and look to the local trends for COVID, we will be cautious and carry out risk assessments before going ahead with any changes. We will review them as we move along.

I would like to acknowledge and say thank you to all our DP community of families for working together and supporting all the changes over the last 20 months. We are now trying to sift through the changes and decide how to move the school forward. We certainly have missed our worship and singing together.

Teacher consultation evenings



We are still hoping to carry these out face to face. They are planned to take place the 2nd week in term 2 –giving you time after the half term holiday to book a slot to meet your child’s teacher. The dates for these are

Wednesday 10th November and Thursday 11th November.

Further information will follow, but please save the date. The value of meeting your child’s teacher is immense.

Family Tennis events. Come along and join in after school this week.

These are taking place after school from 15:15 – 16: 30hrs. Family members are invited to bravely step on to our tennis courts and join in playing tennis with their children. Mrs Hodgson will be offering some short matches, some fun challenges and some tennis skills training.



There are medals to be won! If you haven’t signed up already it is not too late, but please let Mrs Hodgson know in advance so that she can organise the games and activities.



Tuesday - Yr 5 and 6 tennis club members.

Wednesday – KS1

Thursday - Year 3 & 4

The Walk with Little Amal

On Thursday our year 5 pupils are catching a coach to Canterbury where they will assemble with other school children and walk, holding their creatively made welcome banners. The walk is arranged in order to celebrate the arrival of the Little Amal Puppet into the district - One Little Girl. One Big Hope. The Walk is one of the most innovative, adventurous and ambitious public artworks ever attempted and we are so pleased that Deal Parochial School is taking part. The walk follows Little Amal, a young refugee girl,



who represents the 32 million children who have been forced to leave their homes and are often separated from their families and friends.

Little Amal is not so little – a 3.5 metre-tall puppet who has walked from Syria – Turkey border, across Europe and into the UK to find her mother. Along the way she has stopped in cities and towns, where she has been welcomed into communities through music, dance, drama, art and puppetry. It is now our turn to welcome and celebrate the arrival of Little Amal.

On Wednesday evening she is visiting Pencester Gardens in Dover between 6pm and 8:15pm when she is walking to Dover Castle. You are all invited to go and cheer her along and join in.

Changes to teaching of phonics

Staff are busy training to use a new resource in our teaching of Phonics. All of us will be carrying out at least 5 hours of training over the next week. We will be purchasing new reading books and ensuring that children are taught to recognise and know letter sounds and graphemes so that they can use them in their reading books that they bring home. This is a national drive from the DFE and OFSTED in order to enhance the consistency and accuracy in phonics teaching and learning across the country. It has greatest impact for the EYFS, Yr 1 and 2 children. As our new phonic systems unfold and the teaching is adapted, we will try to keep you informed on how you can help your children at home and work alongside us.



Harvest Service.

We are celebrating the season of harvest and giving thanks during our weekly collective worship. Year 6 pupils have been doing a great job in leading worship over the course of term 1.

Would you please donate items for the Deal Food bank as our contribution towards thinking of others in need during this Harvest season?



Items such as pot noodles, ketchup, coffee, custard, puddings and fruit juice are all gratefully received. However please do not send in any fresh food.



Thank you for your continued generosity and kindness.

Next term we will be walking to St Leonard's Church for the first time in two years, since the pandemic started, we also hope to be holding the Christmas nativity play at St George's Church.

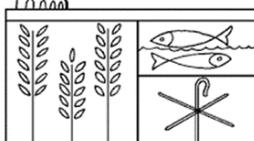
Save the Date

Our much loved Christmas Fair will be held on site on **Friday 10th December** and our Parent Teacher Association will be drumming up support for this. More news to follow.

A moment for reflection

**Creator God,
you make all things
And give us the earth and the seasons,
the rain, the sun and the wind;
Make us thankful people with generous hearts, Ready to share your goodness and
love
With all creation;
Through Jesus Christ our Lord Amen.**

YOU give them
something
to eat. Mt 14:16



I hope that everyone has a restful, and enjoyable half term holiday. Remember children do not start school until **Tuesday 2nd November 2021**. The school is closed for teacher training and development.

Kind regards

Justine Brown
Head Teacher

