

Deal Parochial Church of England (Aided) Primary School

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March 24, 2022

Newsletter - End of term 4

Dear families

This fabulous sunshine is a welcome lift for all of us. Let's hope the sun continues for a few weeks and warms us up, ready for the Easter holidays!

Don't forget that THE CLOCKS GO FORWARD, for British Summer time on Sunday this weekend.

Enrichment events taking place next week

Following our whole school class science workshops and presentation assemblies about air pressure, we are now taking the school project to another level of experience for the children. Some children have been working with Mr Knight building our own DP prototype model of a Hovercraft.

Next week, Yr 6 are taking part in a fabulous STEM opportunity. They are visiting the Hovercraft Factory in Sandwich, where they will have a factory tour that will guide them through the manufacturing process of this much specialised form of transport.



On Thursday we have an additional Hovercraft demonstration. The Hovercraft Company have kindly agreed to come to our school field and give the pupils a demonstration. It can't get better than that surely!??

I hope it inspires some of our pupils in their possible future careers, especially those who have an interest and aptitude towards the practical manufacturing industry, or the design and production side.

Easter is coming

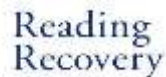
This year the school Easter holidays come early. The Christian celebrations for Easter have not started and Lent continues into the Easter holidays.

The whole school will walk to **St Andrew's Church in Deal on Thursday March 31st**. We will leave school at 09:15, for the service to start at 10:00.



Father Paul will be leading the service, assisted by our Year 3 pupils.

Father Paul will be providing an insight and experience of an Anglican Church service. This will include some High Church traditions for the children to see, such as having incense burning, and



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will talk the children through the sacramental rituals and blessings. We understand that not everyone is a Christian at this school, but it will be an interesting learning point about what happens in a church service.

Our pupils are only ever invited to join in, no one is expected to profess a faith or feel obliged to take on Christian traditions, and it is purely invitational and educational.

Next week we will share the build up to Easter through the Christian lens, hearing some of the different Bible stories. We will wait to celebrate Easter in terms of the Resurrection on the first day back to school after the Easter holidays, as Easter Sunday is not until, Sunday 17th April. We are back to school on Tuesday 19th April.

Possible holiday clubs

Our governing body have agreed for our school to go ahead and apply for some new local authority funding through the Holiday Activities & Food Programme, (HAF). We are excited by the prospect to be able to coordinate a Summer holiday club that can take place within our school grounds. We hope that this will help many of our local children and families look forward to some fun enrichment activities that are close to hand and something different, in order to help the long summer break pass happily. I will let you know if our application is accepted by the LA, fingers crossed that it is. I am grateful to the fabulous Mrs Beckett in our school office who is championing this project and using her very creative administration skills to join up the dots and contact external agencies. It is a tremendous amount of work, but we feel well worth it.



Year 6 residential success.

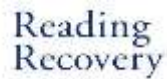
I would like to publically express my thanks to Ms Watson, Mrs Neustader and Ms Pettit for enabling the Year 6 residential trip.

We arrived safely back to school yesterday afternoon, tired, some of us feeling rather stiff in the old joints, but extremely happy.

The trip to the adventure park in Ashford was amazing. The children were impeccably behaved, they demonstrated all of our Christian values – friendships, trust, courage, respect, forgiveness and kindness during our 3 nights and 4 days excursion.



We have faced our fears, spent nights away from home and tried new foods and experiences. Their teamwork and collaboration stunned the adventure camp team coordinators. We received many complimentary comments about their attitude and team skills. I am so proud of the Year 6 children and staff for their 110% commitment and loyalty to our DP extended family. Thank you to all our families for trusting us,



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thank you to staff for your support and unfailing energy and care and thank you to our Year 6 pupils, who are AMAZING!

We will be asking our current Year 5 pupils and families to start considering next year's residential and hope to get one booked asap.

Looking ahead - important dates and events for the diary

Last day of term is **Friday 1st April**. We will finish at the usual home time.

Term 5 starts Tuesday 19th April.

Attendance

The good news is that as a school we are slowly improving our low attendance percentage figure. All schools are set a target by the Department of Education to aim for 97% attendance. We are currently running at 94.7% (nearly 95%). It is an ongoing focus for OFSTED, which views that attendance to school and education is a safeguarding and right of every pupil.



Thank you to everyone, for your concerted efforts, especially during this time of change and the continued underlying threat of COVID. Thank you, for getting back into the habit of regular and punctual attendance. Please contact me if you are struggling to maintain a healthy attendance figure of about 95%. The attendance data does not include any absences for COVID. During the COVID outbreak the attendance codes were altered by the government so that we did not have to include these in the absence data. However, we are now required to closely monitor and track absences and be accountable.

Assessments and national screening

Key Stage 1 Year 2 SATS - take place across the month of May.

KS 2, Yr 6 SATS - Monday 9th MAY - Thursday 12th May.

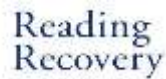
Yr 1 Phonic Screening will take place across the week of Monday 6th June.

Yr 4 Timetables screening check. June 10th – 22nd June



Term 5 is a busy time as it presents us with the standard national tests – SATS, the Yr 4, timetables screening and the Yr 1 phonic screening. Schools are required to send the assessment information into the DFE. Please ensure that attendance is as good as it possibly can be.

Please do not book any holidays during term time. Our pupils are struggling in many aspects of the curriculum and continue to require catch up and reinforcement opportunities.



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This can't all happen overnight. We know that all the disruption to the last two years will take time to process both emotionally, socially and in the academic standards that the DFE expect. We are really proud of our pupils and want to give them the very best chance to do their best and succeed. Please help us by sending your children into school every day.

Within the school days we plan fun and relaxed events in order to level out the focus on academic standards. Swimming was completely inaccessible during COVID, but I am sure you all agree is an essential lifesaving skill and is back on the school timetable for Term 5 at Tides.



Year 3 and 4 - Please make sure you send in the consent forms and contributions asap. as swimming commences in the first week back.

Dates for the diary

Friday 27th May – Queen Elizabeth's Jubilee celebration event – family picnic

Summer Fayre – we hope that this is going ahead, and plans are underway. Our date for this is Saturday June 25th. Save the date and join in please.

Additional bank holiday - to mark the Queen's Jubilee – Monday 6th June 2022. School closed.



Quick reminders

If you find any Pupil of the Week, little metal, yellow badges at home would you kindly return them to school so that other children can receive them. Thank you.

Please remember that our school colour is green. Children can wear green hair ribbons, clips etc. Please do not use other colours. Thank you.



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A moment for reflection

The Israelite prophet Micah said:

"What does the Lord require of you? Only to act justly, love mercy and to walk humbly with your God."

God of mercy and source of justice,
pour on your people such love and compassion that

we cannot remain silent,
we cannot tolerate injustice and poverty.

As your grace fills our hearts
so may we be stirred into action
to demonstrate your love for all the world
and for all creatures that live and move on this earth.

Amen

Thank you for your continued support.

We will send out any information about local community events that are taking place over the Easter holidays next week.

Keep safe and enjoy the wonderful sunshine.

Kind regards

Justine Brown

Head Teacher

