

Downe Primary



NEWSLETTER MARCH 2024

MESSAGE FROM MISS DOLAN

It's been a successful term full of new learning and lots of activities. As always the children have been a credit to the school when out and about on trips and visits.

The Summer term is my favourite term of the year. As the weather starts to improve we can get outside and enjoy our wonderful school grounds and local environment. Please see the attached list of dates so you are aware of all of the things we have coming up.

I wish you all a restful and relaxing Easter Break filled with lots of chocolate! We look forward to welcoming the children back to school on Monday 15th April.

What's In This Month's Issue?

- Eco Council update
- Programming in Cedar
- Cross Country running Oak
- Hindu festival of Holi
- Wellbeing Week
- New school dinner menu
- Road safety
- Attendance reminder
- Snacks at breaktime
- Term dates
- Useful info

ECO COUNCIL UPDATE

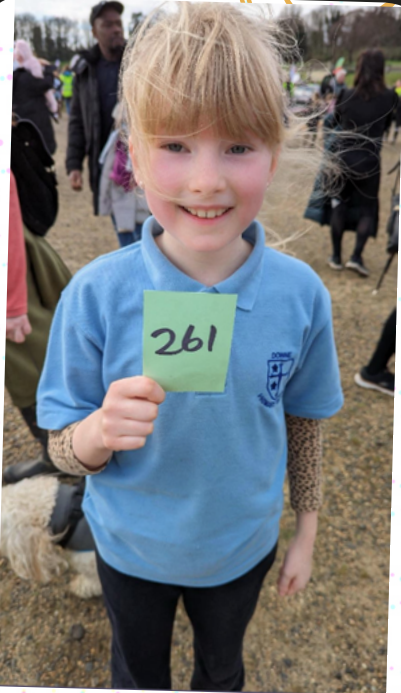
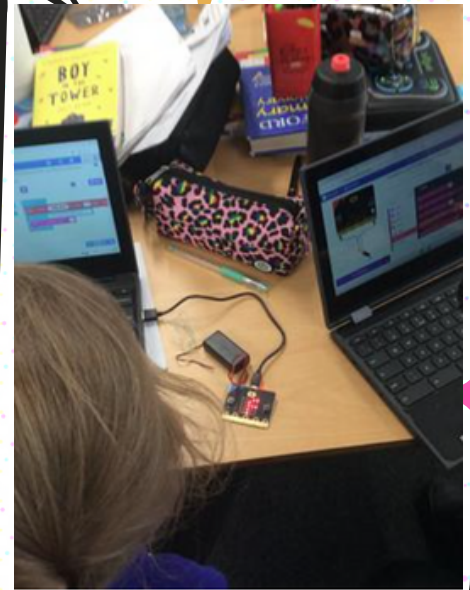
Thank you to those who have already submitted their Big Plastic Count results. Please use the link on your class story to submit your results. If you weren't able to join in this week you can still take part up until the 31st March - just count all your plastic waste for a week and submit the results.

Our ECO council participated in a litter pick and was great to see them taking care of our environment. Well done to all involved! If your child would like to be part of the ECO council please speak to Miss Dolan.



PROGRAMMING IN CEDAR

Last week in Cedar class, students had the opportunity try programming with the aid of BBC's microbits. Microbits are pocket-sized programmable computers designed to introduce children to coding and digital creativity. With these versatile devices, the children honed their algorithmic thinking skills and crafted sequences to achieve different outcomes. The experience was met with excitement and enthusiasm showcasing the potential of technology to inspire and empower young minds. We're proud to offer such enriching experiences that foster a love for learning and innovation in our children.



CROSS COUNTRY RUNNING

Children from Oak class showcased their athleticism and teamwork at the Inter-Schools Cross Country Championship held in Crystal Palace Park on March 9th. Facing a challenging 1700m course, they joined over 60 other schools in a test of endurance and determination. Despite the competition, our students embraced the opportunity with enthusiasm, enjoying a day filled with camaraderie and sportsmanship. Congratulations to all who participated, demonstrating the spirit of our school and their commitment to excellence, both on the field and in the classroom..

HINDU FESTIVAL OF HOLI

The children gathered for a special assembly to delve into the vibrant traditions of the Hindu festival of Holi, celebrated on March 25th. Holi, known as the festival of colours, symbolises the arrival of spring and the triumph of good over evil. During the assembly, the children learned about the significance of Holi, its customs, and the joyous rituals of smearing coloured powders and water on one another. Engaged and enthusiastic, the children embraced the opportunity to explore and celebrate cultural diversity, immersing themselves in the rich tapestry of traditions that make our world so unique and colorful.



WELLBEING WEEK

As we gear up for Wellbeing Week, scheduled from Monday May 20th, we're calling on our wonderful parent community to lend a hand in making this event truly impactful. We know that some of our parents are passionate yogis or have expertise in other areas related to wellness. We would love for parents to volunteer to help during this week, sharing their knowledge and experiences to benefit our children and staff alike. Please contact Miss Dolan if you're able to help.

NEW SCHOOL DINNER MENU

After the Easter break, we're excited to announce that our school will be transitioning to a three-option school menu provided by our catering partner, Nourish. Recognising the importance of choice for our children, we've collaborated with Nourish to offer a more diverse selection of meals. Following a productive meeting, it was decided that each day will feature two main meal options along with the choice of a jacket potato alternative. This move aims to cater to varying tastes and dietary preferences, ensuring that every child can enjoy a meal at lunchtime. We'll be sharing the updated menus with you as soon as they become available, so stay tuned for more delicious options coming your way!

ROAD SAFETY AT DOWNE

As a reminder to all parents and guardians, it is crucial for the safety of our children that they are walked to the gate and escorted out of cars during drop-off times in the morning. Recently, there have been concerning reports of children being dropped off, and cars driving off without ensuring their safe passage across the road or into the school gate. We cannot stress enough the importance of exercising caution and vigilance in these moments. Please take the time to park responsibly, ensure your child exits the vehicle safely, and supervise them until they are safely within the school grounds. Additionally, it's essential to remind children about road safety practices, such as looking both ways before crossing the road, using designated crossing points, and avoiding distractions like electronic devices while walking near traffic. Let's work together to prioritise the safety of our children on their journey to and from school.

ATTENDANCE REMINDER

Regular attendance is vital for academic success and overall student well-being. Attending school consistently not only ensures that children keep up with their studies but also fosters important social connections and helps them develop essential life skills. We kindly remind parents and guardians to prioritise good attendance for their children. In the event of an absence, please remember to notify the school office before 9:30 am every day, providing a reason for your child's absence. This helps us keep accurate records and ensures that any necessary support can be provided promptly.

Furthermore, we've observed a recent increase in the number of children arriving late to school. Punctuality is equally crucial, as it ensures students can fully participate in lessons from the start and minimises disruptions for both themselves and their classmates. We urge parents and guardians to make every effort to ensure their child arrives on time each day. Consistently being punctual not only instills a sense of responsibility but also maximises learning opportunities. Both regular attendance and punctuality are key factors in laying the foundation for our children's academic and personal success.

SNACKS AT BREAKTIMES

As a friendly reminder to our parents, we encourage you to consider the nutritional value of snacks sent in with your children for break times. While we appreciate the importance of providing them with a tasty treat, we've noticed an increase in the consumption of sugary and salty snacks, such as cookies and crisps. We kindly ask that you opt for healthier alternatives, such as a piece of fruit, vegetables with hummus, savory muffins or a small portion of cheese and/or crackers. These choices not only fuel their bodies with essential nutrients but also support their concentration and energy levels throughout the day. Thank you for your cooperation in promoting healthy eating habits among our children.

SCHOOL SUMMER TERM DATES

FIRST HALF TERM

| | |
|--------------------------------------|-------------------------------------------------------|
| Monday 15th April | First day back |
| Thursday 18th April | Cedar golf lessons start for 5 weeks |
| Monday 29th April | Movie Night |
| Thursday 2nd May | Oak class to Gatwick Airport for an aviation workshop |
| Monday 13th-Thursday 18th May | KS2 assessment week - Year 6 |
| Thursday 16th May | Year 2 scooter workshop in school |
| Friday 17th May | Willow to Rare Breeds Farm |
| Monday 20th-Friday 24th May | Health and Wellbeing Week |
| Monday 20th-Friday 24th May | Year 2 assessment week |
| Wednesday 22nd May | Cedar to see The Lion King at the Lyceum Theatre |
| Thursday 23rd May | FDS Family Race Night in Village Hall from 6pm |
| Friday 24th May | Circus workshops for all classes |

SCHOOL SUMMER TERM DATES

SECOND HALF TERM

| | |
|-------------------------------------------------|---------------------------------------------------------|
| Monday 3rd June | Staff training day |
| Monday 3rd - 14th June | Year 4 multiplication check |
| Tuesday 4th June | Whole school beach trip to Hastings with Aquarium visit |
| Thursday 6th June | Cedar TPA Athletics at Norman Park 9-3pm |
| Monday 10th June | Movie Night |
| Wednesday 12th June | Year 6 Citizenship workshop @ Bromley Football Club |
| Wednesday 3rd July | Sports Day 9:30-11:30am |
| Thursday 4th July | Cedar to Chessington World of Adventures |
| Sunday 7th July | Summer Fair and Downe Duck Race |
| Monday 8th July | Reserve Sports Day |
| Friday 12th July | Family Picnic @ 1:30pm |
| Monday 15th July | Movie Night |
| Tuesday 16th July and Thursday 18th July | End of year production @ 6pm |
| Friday 19th July | Year 6 BBQ - timing TBC |
| Wednesday 24th July | 9:15am Year 6 leavers assembly 1:15pm - End of term |

COMMUNITY NEWS/ USEFUL INFO

Reducing Parental Conflict

There is strong evidence that conflict between parents, whether together or separated, can have a significant negative impact on a child's mental health and long term life chances. Not all conflict is damaging, but where this is frequent, intense and poorly resolved it can harm children's outcomes. We offer a range of help, advice and tools for parents who want to reduce parental conflict and minimise it's negative impact on their children.

For more information on healthy relationships please visit our website: www.bromleyparentinghub.org.uk



Reducing Parental Conflict workshops

3 FREE workshops for parents to focus on ways to create positive family relationships.



Session 1:
The importance of
Healthy Relationships
9th of May 2024
10-12pm

Session 2:
Communication
16th of May 2024
10-12pm

Session 3:
Is change needed?
23rd of May 2024
10-12pm



To book onto our Reducing Parental Conflict workshops or for further information please call: 020 8461 7259 or email: parenting.courses@bromley.gov.uk

Positive family relationships help an individual cope with stress, engage in healthier behaviours, enhance self-esteem, leading to improved wellbeing. Please read our parent testimonials:

"Although they felt informal and comfortable, they were absolutely full of practical skills and useful information"
Joshua's mum

"The course gave me the opportunity to reflect on my own behaviour and outlined the path for improvement. I fully enjoyed it"
Harry's dad



Please scan the QR code to access a video on how parental conflict can impact children



COMMUNITY NEWS/ USEFUL INFO

BYMT
BROMLEY YOUTH MUSIC TRUST

Thursday
18th April 2024


THE BIG DISNEY SING!

An event for anyone who loves to sing, singing a selection of Disney songs.

4.15-5.45 – Years 3, 4 & 5 (performance at 5.30)
6.00-7.30 – Years 6, 7 & 8 (performance at 7.15)

At Bromley Youth Music Trust, Southborough Lane, BR2 8AA
Sign up at <https://tinyurl.com/BigDisneySing>

Cost per child: £4 cash or card, payable on the door.



BYMT
BROMLEY YOUTH MUSIC TRUST

TRY OUT WEEK
SATURDAY 27 APRIL – FRIDAY 3 MAY 2024

If you already play an instrument or enjoy singing come and try out a BYMT group, ensemble or choir from 27 April-3 May.

To find out which group is right for you, speak with your music teacher, call the BYMT office on 020 8467 1566, scan the QR code or visit:

www.bymt.co.uk/groups



TASTER EVENT!

WWW.BYMT.CO.UK
BROMLEY YOUTH MUSIC TRUST | SOUTHBOROUGH LANE BROMLEY | BR2 8AA
020 8467 1566 | CONTACT@BYMT.CO.UK

