

Downe Primary



NEWSLETTER JULY 2024

MESSAGE FROM MISS DOLAN

Welcome to the final newsletter of this academic year and what another fantastic year it has been. The school year has been full of hands on learning and an array of school trips where our children are always fantastic role models.

I am particularly proud of all of our achievements in Statutory Assessments this year. 84% of our Year 1 children scored 32 or more in their phonics test. 92% of our Year 6 children met expected standards in reading, writing and maths this year. This is 32 % above national standards! Our attendance is also above national standards and we end the year on 95.4%.

This issue contains

- ActivKids UK
- Goodbye Year 6
- Goodbye Miss Dolan
- Hello Mr Ferguson
- New academic year information including term dates, attendance policy, break-time snacks, parking
- Local events

ActivKids UK

We raised an incredible amount of money and after the charity deductions the amount will be around £700 for sports equipment for the school. Thank you to everyone who sponsored the children. They done so well!



Goodbye Year 6

We wish you all every success in secondary school. We're so proud of everything you've achieved and hope that you will come back to let us know how you are doing!



Goodbye from Miss Dolan

The past 2 years have honestly been the best I have had as a school leader. Downe has always held a special place in my heart as it is the village in which I grew up myself. I have fond memories of sledging on West Kent Golf Course and waiting for ages for buses. Some things never change!

Downe Primary School really is one of a kind! The community which we have built is unique and something I am so proud of. The support you as parents have for the school is remarkable and the children are all delightful. Not all schools are like Downe and it is the staff, parents and children which have made it the best school to work in and I will truly miss being here. The fun, the laughs and the smiles. I will miss them all.

With changes incoming, I know that you will all make Mr Ferguson feel welcome and work with him to keep Downe Primary School the best it can be.



We will miss you



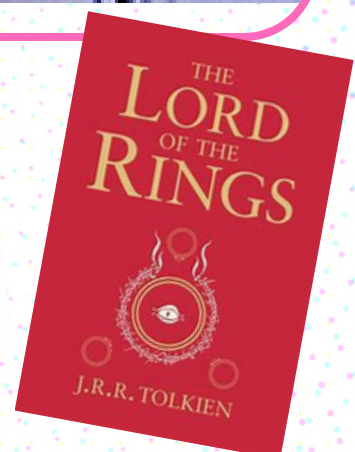
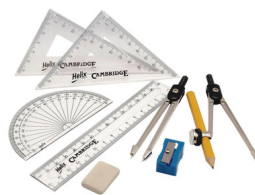
Hello from Mr Ferguson

Good afternoon everyone. I am thrilled to join Downe Primary School as your new headteacher. It is an honour to become a part of such a dedicated and vibrant community. I am committed to working collaboratively with all of you to create a nurturing and inclusive environment where every student feels valued and encouraged to reach their full potential. Together, we will build on the school's existing strengths and explore new opportunities for growth and innovation. I eagerly look forward to meeting each of you and embarking on this exciting journey together. Have a wonderful summer!

TEACHING IS A WORK OF HEART

Fun Facts

- **Favourite subject:** Maths
- **Hobbies:** Sport! Football, golf, cricket
- **Favourite football team:** Sunderland (Currently hold a season ticket)
- **Pets:** 2 cats called Felix and Simba
- **Favourite book:** Lord of the Rings
- **Favourite film:** Ghostbusters



New academic year information

Uniform Expectations

As we prepare for the upcoming school year, we wanted to take a moment to reiterate our new uniform expectations for September. We are confident that you are already aware of these updates, but would like to ensure everyone is fully informed. The branded jumpers and cardigans, which are part of our updated uniform, can now be conveniently purchased from Graduates on Orpington High Street. Additionally, we ask that you review the new uniform list carefully, as there are a few changes that need to be noted. School uniform plays a crucial role in fostering a sense of pride and unity among our children, and we are very proud of how smart they look. We strongly encourage all parents and children to adhere to these new standards from September onwards. Thank you for your cooperation and support.

Everyday Uniform

Item	Optional or required	Branding
White polo shirt	required	Non branded
Grey skirt or trousers	required	Non branded
Sensible, plain black shoes	optional	Non branded
Black trainers	optional	Non branded
Blue gingham dress (summer)	optional	Non branded
Blue jumper or cardigan	required	Branded

P.E Uniform (can be worn to school on PE/club days only)

Item	Optional or required	Branding
White polo shirt	required	Non branded
Plain navy or black tracksuit bottoms / shorts / leggings	required	Non branded
Plain white or black trainers	required	Non branded

Break-time Snacks

We would like to remind you of our school's healthy snack policy for break-time.

To promote a healthy lifestyle, we ask that children bring in only nutritious snacks, such as fruit, vegetables, or other suitable healthy options. Please note that junk food, including crisps and chocolate, is not allowed. As part of the 'Healthy Start' initiative, infants are provided with a piece of fruit or vegetable daily. Often, there are leftovers that can be shared with the juniors, but this is not always guaranteed. Therefore, we encourage all children to bring a healthy snack in case what is provided is not to their taste or is unavailable. Despite previous reminders, there have continued to be instances where children have brought unsuitable snacks or taken treats from their packed lunches for morning break. We strongly discourage this practice and kindly request that chocolate bars and sweets are not included in packed lunches. Thank you for your cooperation in ensuring our children maintain healthy eating habits.

Parking



Please could we request your cooperation in parking considerately outside the school during drop-off and pick-up times. We have received several complaints about parents taking up more than one space, partially blocking the road, and obstructing the school gates. Safe and considerate parking is crucial to ensure the well-being of all our children, staff, and fellow parents. Please be mindful of the parking spaces, avoid blocking the road, and ensure the school gates remain accessible at all times. Thank you for your understanding and cooperation.

Attendance Policy



We would like to inform you that our new attendance policy will be available to view very soon. We also want to update you on some changes to the government-issued rules surrounding term-time absences from school.

From August 2024, there will be a stricter approach in England to ensure every council follows the same guidelines. Schools must consider a fine when a child misses ten or more sessions (five days) due to unauthorised absences, including term-time holidays without the school's permission. Parents can be fined £80 if paid within 21 days, which doubles to £160 if paid late. The government hopes this will boost school attendance rates, which have dropped somewhat following the pandemic. Both parents could be responsible for paying a fine for a single child's absence, and in extreme cases, this could lead to larger fines or even a short jail sentence.

Additionally, there will be a strong focus on punctuality. It is important for children to arrive at school on time because every moment a child is late equals missed learning. Children who arrive on time start the day settled, relaxed, and ready to learn, while those who arrive late are often stressed and embarrassed and take a while to settle into their day. Late arrivals also cause disruption within the class, affecting everyone. Children arriving after 8:50 am will receive a late mark in the register, and those arriving after 9:30 am will receive a U mark, which counts as an unauthorised absence for the morning. Our Educational Welfare Officer regularly checks our registers and may contact parents should there be a high number of late marks. We also request that dentist appointments be scheduled during school holidays whenever possible.

As a school, we are unable to authorise any term-time absences. Additionally, any illness lasting five consecutive days or more will require medical evidence to be considered authorised. Any period of illness in the days directly prior to a school holiday will also be unauthorised unless medical evidence is provided.

From September, please notify the school office of any absence due to sickness or otherwise via email or phone call before 9:30 am. To request a period of absence for your child you must fill in an absence form available from the school office and return prior to taking your child out of school. Messages to teachers on **Dojo will no longer be an acceptable way to inform the school of a planned period of absence or illness.**

Our attendance at Downe Primary is good, and we are grateful for the cooperation from our parents. Thank you for your understanding and support in ensuring our children maintain regular attendance and punctuality.

Term Dates



Safe – Happy – Learning
www.thepioneeracademy.co.uk

The Pioneer Academy 2024/2025 TERM DATES

Autumn Term (72 days)

INSET day	Thursday 29 th August 2024
INSET day	Friday 30 th August 2024
Term starts	Monday 2 nd September 2024
Half Term	Monday 21 st October 2024 – Friday 1 st November 2024 (2 weeks)
Inset Day	Monday 4 th November 2024 (TPA Inset day)
Term ends	Friday 20 th December 2024

Christmas Break (2 weeks)

Spring Term (61 days)

INSET day	Friday 3 rd January 2025
Term starts	Monday 6 th January 2025
Half Term	Monday 17 th February 2025 – Friday 21 st February 2025 (1 week)
Term ends	Friday 4 th April 2025

Easter Break (2 weeks, 1 day)

Summer Term (63 days)

Term starts	Tuesday 22 nd April 2025
Half Term	Monday 26 th May 2025 – Friday 30 th May 2025 (1 week)
INSET day	Monday 2 nd June 2025
Term ends	Wednesday 23 rd July 2025

Summer Break (5 weeks)

Autumn Term 2025

INSET day	Thursday 28 th August 2025
INSET day	Friday 29 th August 2025
Term starts	Monday 1 st September 2025

Final Note

Lastly, from all the staff at Downe, we'd like to wish you all a restful and happy summer break. We'd also like to extend our heartfelt thanks for all of the gifts and cards we've received. We are incredibly fortunate to work at a school that not only has such lovely children but also supportive parents. Please find our staffing list for September below and we look forward to welcoming the children back on Monday 2nd September.

Willow	Mrs Howell (Monday and Tuesday) Mrs Powley (Wednesday, Thursday and Friday)
Sycamore	Miss Westlake (Monday, Tuesday and Wednesday) Mr Ferguson (Thursday and Friday)
Oak	Mrs Blundell (Monday, Tuesday and Wednesday) Mrs Sharpe (Thursday and Friday)
Cedar	Mr Knight
Teaching Assistants	Mrs Underwood Mrs Bunting Mrs Blackshaw
Administrators	Mrs Preston-Hicks (Monday, Tuesday, Friday) Miss Tinney (Wednesday, Thursday)

COMMUNITY NEWS/ USEFUL INFO



Bromley
Brighter
Beginnings

School Uniform for Every Child



Helping local families through the power of community

Bromley Brighter Beginnings is a volunteer-led registered charity that harnesses the power of community to provide essential baby, child and household items to families living in financial hardship across the London Borough of Bromley.

Around **20% of children** in this area are **living in poverty**. That's **6 in each classroom of 30**. Our mission is to **relieve the pressure of this poverty in a practical way**. Our School Uniform campaign supports families by providing preloved and new school uniform as well as shoes, bags and stationery items. We are looking for support from you, our generous community, to restock our school uniform supplies in time for the summer rush!

Donate preloved or new primary school uniform



Our School Uniform Wishlist and Donation Locations can be found on our campaign page

<https://www.bromleybrighterbeginnings.org.uk/index.php/campaigns/school-uniform/>

Donate via JustGiving

and help us buy other uniform items eg. logo branded & secondary school

<https://www.justgiving.com/campaign/bbbschooluniform>



Or to set up a regular monthly donation visit the homepage on our website

Fundraise for us

Host a fundraising event e.g. quiz night

Choose us to be your school or company's charity of the year

Collect sponsorship for your next challenge



<https://bromleybrighterbeginnings.org.uk/index.php/campaigns/school-uniform/#fundraising>

Follow our Facebook group

for all other supporter requests



<https://www.facebook.com/groups/BromleyBrighterBeginnings>

or visit our website for our Donations Wishlist of most requested items



<https://bromleybrighterbeginnings.org.uk/index.php/supporters/donating-items-2/>

Visit our website to find out more and to sign up to mailing list
<https://www.bromleybrighterbeginnings.org.uk/>



Registered charity in England and Wales no. 1162113
<https://linktr.ee/BromleyBrighterBeginnings>
Contact us at amy@bromleybrighterbeginnings.org.uk



COMMUNITY NEWS/ USEFUL INFO



ANIMAL TRAIL

20th July - 31st August

Join in our trail around the farm to find the animals
Collect your prize from the Tea Room
No booking needed

£5 per
entry

Open daily (except Tuesday)
from 1.30pm - 4.30pm

Foal Farm Animal Rescue
Jail Lane, Biggin Hill, TN16 3AX
www.foalfarm.org.uk



Summer Holiday Fun

Bromley's Holiday Activities and Food programme

[www.bromley.gov.uk/
HolidayActivitiesandFoodProgramme](http://www.bromley.gov.uk/HolidayActivitiesandFoodProgramme)



Ready Steady Grow

Pre-School

07876 480617

Mon - Thurs 9am - 4pm
Fri 9am - 12.15pm

www.readysteadygrowpreschool.co.uk

St Mary's Church
Worlds End Lane
Green Street Green
BR6 6AG

Term time only

Funding available

2-5 year olds



COMMUNITY NEWS/ USEFUL INFO



godstonefarm.co.uk   

Godstone Farm
Discover • Explore • Play

23RD JULY -
1ST SEPTEMBER

**SUMMER
OF FUN!**

Make the most of summer at Godstone Farm with daily foam parties, a super science zone and fun family lawn games. Don't miss out!

**PLUS ALL
THE USUAL
FARMYARD
FUN!**

The poster features a central green box with the text 'SUMMER OF FUN!' and a date banner above it. Below the box are illustrations of a cow, a pig, and a llama. The bottom section is red with white text and a yellow circular badge.



**PRIORY
★ LIVE ★
FESTIVAL**

IN ASSOCIATION WITH
 **MANAK
SOLICITORS**

SAT 10TH AUGUST
PRIORY GARDENS, ORPINGTON

FEATURING 90S INDIE HEADLINERS
SPACE + THE FARM

DANCE TENT | CHILL OUT GARDENS
STREET FOOD | BARS | KIDS ZONE

TICKETS AT
PRIORYLIVE.CO.UK

The poster has a dark background with colorful, abstract geometric shapes in shades of purple, blue, and orange.