

MESSAGE FROM MR FERGUSON

As we approach the end of another term, I am thrilled to take this opportunity to share with you all the successes we've achieved together as a school community. It has been a wonderful term filled with growth, learning, and engagement, and I am pleased to report that our school community has expanded significantly, with our numbers now standing at an impressive 75 students. Our ongoing parent tours have been instrumental in showcasing the vibrant environment we have fostered here, and I would like to extend my gratitude to all who have participated in helping us welcome new families.

One of my highlights of this term has undoubtedly been Neurodiversity Week, during which we honoured and celebrated the unique attributes and perspectives of every individual within our community. This event served not only to raise awareness but also to instil a culture of acceptance and inclusivity. It has been heartening to witness the children, parents, and staff come together to learn from one another, fostering an environment in which all feel valued and understood. In our quest to support you as parents and carers, we have organised a series of workshops aimed at enhancing the educational experience at home. These workshops, run by our dedicated staff, have aimed to demystify our curriculum and provide you with strategies to support learning beyond the classroom. The feedback we've received indicates that these sessions have been both informative and empowering, helping you to better engage with your child's education. Additionally, we cannot forget the creation of our sensory outdoor area. This new space has already had a significant positive impact on our pupils, particularly during morning sensory circuits. The area has been instrumental in supporting the regulation of our students, providing Maple class with an enriched learning environment tailored to their specific needs. The joy and engagement we see in our children's faces as they explore this space is a testament to its importance in our broader educational strategy.

As we head into the two-week break, I hope everyone takes the time to recharge, enjoy the improving weather, and make the most of the Easter holiday. May it be an egg-cellent time filled with joy and laughter for you and your loved ones.

Thank you for your continued support and collaboration. Here's to an even more successful term ahead!

Neurodiversity Week

At Downe we held neurodivisity week as part of celebrating diversity and our unique strengths and differences in our school. Mrs Townsend created a fun pack week full off sensory circuits, makaton lesson, yoga sessions, and mediation. Pupil's created wonderful posters on a brain template illustrating what makes them unique, including their strengths, differences, and learning styles. Pupils also made calming bottles. Makaton Assembly was held where children shared the Fight Song.















Neurodiversity Week

What is Neurodiversity?

Neurodiversity means that people's brains work in different ways. Some people think, learn, and experience the world differently—that's what makes us special!

Being neurodivergent means your brain processes things in a unique way.

Different Types of Neurodivergence

- ✓ Autism Spectrum Disorder (ASD)
- ✓ Attention Deficit Hyperactivity Disorder (ADHD)
- ✓ Tourette Syndrome
- ✓ Dyslexia
- ✓ Dyscalculia
- ✓ Dyspraxia

Neurodiversity Terms to Know

Neurodiversity

Neurodiversity refers to the natural diversity of human minds. It is a biological fact that we are diverse in our minds just like we are diverse in our ethnicity, gender, sexuality, etc.

Neurodiversity acknowledges the whole spectrum of neurodiversity from neurodivergent individuals to neurotypical individuals.

created by Judy Singer

Neurodivergent

Neurodivergent is an umbrella term for individuals who have a mind or brain that diverges from what is typical. It can be acquired or genetic, an innate part of you or not.

Neurodivergence just means having a mind that functions differently to what is considered the norm including learning, processing, interpreting, feeling, etc.

created by Kassiane Asasumasu

Neurotypical

Neurotypical refers to having a mind or functioning that falls within the society standards of what is deemed "typical", "common" or "normal".

Neurotypical is the opposite of neurodivergent, someone who diverges, and it is not a negative word at all but a neutral word.

Neurodiverse

Neurodiverse is a term to describe a group of individuals who represent the spectrum of neurodiversity which includes neurotypical and neurodivergent individuals.

Remember, an individual cannot be neurodiverse. Individuals who aren't neurotypical would be neurodivergent.



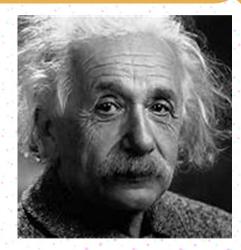




Famous Neurodivergent People

Albert Einstein- Physicist

- •Einstein struggled with reading and writing as a child, but his dyslexia contributed to his ability to think in images.
- •He visualized complex physics problems, leading to groundbreaking theories like relativity.
- •His unique approach to problem-solving changed the way we understand the universe.





Greta Thunberg - Environmental Activist

- •Greta has Asperger's, a form of autism, which she calls her "superpower."
- •Her intense focus and deep passion for climate change activism have helped her become one of the most influential voices in the fight against global warming.
- •She has spoken about how her autism helps her see things in "black and white," allowing her to focus on facts and advocate with clarity and determination.

Tom Holland- Actor

- •Tom Holland has dyslexia, which made school challenging for him.
- •However, his ability to think creatively and express himself through acting helped him excel.
- •He has become one of the most popular young actors in Hollywood.





Simone Biles - Olympic Gymnast

- •Simone Biles has ADHD, which she has openly discussed.
- •She credits her ADHD with giving her high energy, resilience, and the ability to train for long hours without losing enthusiasm.
- •Her hyperfocus helps her perform intricate gymnastics routines with precision.

Gingerbread in Willow

Willow class has grown this term and welcomed two more children. The class has been working collaboratively to combine ingredients to decorate gingerbread men and pancakes and all sorts. The children also experimented with colour mixing to make different shades of pink as part of expressive art and design. One of the focus story was 'the Three Little Pigs and they designed and built houses with a range of materials.



Trip to Kew Gardens

Cedar class had an incredible experience this week where they attended Kew Gardens as their exit point for their learning on Roots, Shoots and Fruits. You represented the school beautifully and are a credit to our whole community









Easter Bonnet Parade

A wonderful display of Easter bonnets at our Easter Bonnet Parade.

It's a colourful tradition which goes back to when people would wear new clothes to church at Easter, including a fancy new hat - or bonnet. It symbolises new beginnings as Christians believe Easter is a time for renewal

There is also a famous Easter bonnet parade held in New York in America every year, where people showcase their weird and wonderful bonnet designs.



Uniform Expectations

We are very proud of our uniform as it represents our school and our values. We are adding this as a reminder to ensure that parents have plenty of time to make the necessary arrangements for all children to wear full uniform from January 2025. We appreciate your support with this on a daily basis.

Every Day 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





Attendance



We've seen a recent increase in parents picking up their children early for reasons and appointments not authorised by the school.

We'd like to remind parents that children should only be collected early with preapproval from the school and with valid reason. To clarify, non urgent dental appointments made during school time will not be authorised and we encourage parents to make all routine appointments either out of school hours or during the school holidays.

Medical evidence will be required for early collections for records purposes.

We'd like to thank parents for their continued support in maintaining the excellent attendance record we hold at our school.





Key Dates for Summer Term

<u>Date</u>	<u>Event</u>
Tuesday 22 nd April	Wraparound Care Parent Meeting 2:45pm
Wednesday 23 rd April	SATS Parent Meeting 3:30pm
Monday 28 th April	Oak Swimming Lesson 1-3pm
Tuesday 29 th April	Residential Visit Parent Meeting – 3:30pm
Friday 2 nd May	Willow visit to Rare Breeds Farm
Wb Monday 12 th May	Key Stage 2 SATS
Monday 12 th May	Oak Swimming Lesson 1-3pm
Wednesday 14 th May	Oak visit to Transport Museum
Monday 19 th May	School Football Match
Monday 19 th May	Oak Swimming Lesson 1-3pm
Friday 23 rd May	Mr Ferguson – Parent Quiz Night 6-8pm
Monday 26 th May – Friday 30 th May	Half Term
Monday 2 nd June	Staff INSET Day
Tuesday 3 rd June	Year 4 Multiplication Check
Thursday 5 th June	Willow visit to Fire Station
Wb Monday 9 th June	Year 1 Phonics Screening Week
Monday 16 th June – Friday 20 th June	Year 5 and 6 Residential Visit
Wednesday 25 th June	Sports Day 9:15am
Friday 27 th June	Screening for NCMP and Vision for Reception
	and Year 6
Sunday 6 th July	Summer Fayre and Duck Race
Tuesday 8 th July	Key Stage 2 Results Day
Wednesday 9th July	Reserve Sports Day
Friday 11 th July	Open Afternoon Perspective Parents 1:30pm
Tuesday 15 th July	Whole School Picnic 1:30pm
Wednesday 16 th July	Meet New Classes 2-3pm
Thursday 17 th July	Key Stage 2 Production
Friday 18 th July	Reports to go home
Monday 21st July	School Board Meeting
Tuesday 22 nd July	Open Evening Perspective Parents 3:30pm
Wednesday 23 rd July	Year 6 Leaver's Assembly 9:15am
	Last Day of Summer Term









Safe - Happy - Learning

The Pioneer Academy 2024/2025 TERM DATES

Autumn Term (72 days)

INSET day Thursday 29th August 2024
INSET day Friday 30th August 2024
Term starts Monday 2nd September 2024

Half Term Monday 21st October 2024 – Friday 1st November 2024 (2 weeks)

Inset Day Monday 4th November 2024 (TPA Inset day)

Term ends Friday 20th December 2024

Christmas Break (2 weeks)

Spring Term (61 days)

INSET day Friday 3rd January 2025 Term starts Monday 6th January 2025

Half Term Monday 17th February 2025 – Friday 21st February 2025 (1 week)

Term ends Friday 4th April 2025

Easter Break (2 weeks, 1 day)

Summer Term (63 days)

Term starts Tuesday 22nd April 2025

Half Term Monday 26th May 2025 – Friday 30th May 2025 (1 week)

INSET day Monday 2nd June 2025 Term ends Wednesday 23rd July 2025

Summer Break (5 weeks)

Autumn Term 2025

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

COMMUNITY NEWS/ USEFUL INFO









COMMUNITY NEWS/ USEFUL INFO





5th : Dawn Chorus 6:30-8:00 Ages 8+ £4 Bug Club 13:30-14:30 Ages 5+ £5.50

6th: Pond Dipping 10:00-11:00 £6 Bug handling/hunt 13:00-15:00 £10

7th: Owl Pellet 10:00-11:00 5+ £8 Pond Dipping 14:00-15:00 £6

8th: toddler explorers 10:00-11:30 £5.50 Toddler Bug handling/ hunt 13:00-15:00 £10

> 9th: Badger Walk 10:00-11:00 £4 Bug Hotel Building Ages 5+ £6.50

10th: Toddler Story Time 10:00-11:30 €5.50 Nest Building 13:00-14:00 Ages 5+ €7

11th: Eco Craft 10:00-11:30 £7 Ages 5+ Pond Dipping 14:00-15:00 £6 Night Newt Walk 19:30-21:00 5+ £4

12th Bug Club 13:30-14:30 5+ £5.50 Scavenger Hunt 14:30-15:30 5+ £5 Bat Walk Priory Garden 19:30-21:30 5+ £4 13th Bear Hunt story time 10:00-11:30 Pond Dipping toddler 13:00-14:00 £5.50 Spider Hunt 13:00-14:00 £5 Ages7+

14th; Snail and Slug trail 10:00-11:00 £5.50 5+ Bug handling/hunt 13:00-15:00 £10

15th: Toddler Explorers 10:00-11:30 £5.50 Pond Dipping Toddlers 13:00-14:00 £6

16th: Flower walk 10:00-11:00 Ages 5+ £4 Badger walk 13:00-14:00 Ages 5+ £4

17th: Eco Craft 10:00-11:30 £7 Ages 5+ Pond Dipping 13:00-14:00

18th: Bug handling/hunt 10:00-12:00

19th: Dawn Chorus Keston 6:30-8:00 £4 Bug Club 13:30-14:30 Ages 5+ £5.50 Bat Walk Keston 19:30-21:00 £4 5+

20th: Gruffalo Story Time 10:00-11:00 £5.50 Easter egg/wildlife hunt 13:00-14:00 £6

Gruffalo trail running everyday 10:00-15:00



BEECHE Centre High Elms Country Park Shire Lane BR6 7JH Book online

https://bromleyparks.co.uk/ bookings/

01689 860571 BEECHE@idverde.co.uk



COMMUNITY NEWS/ USEFUL INFO





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

Pick up your entry form from reception Find the animals in the Easter Egg pictures Collect your prize from the Tea Room No booking required





and Easter Egg Hunt!

Good Friday, 18th April 2025, 10.30am to 12 noon.

Cudham Church,

Church Approach, Cudham, Sevenoaks, Kent, TN14 7QF Children, come along and have great fun getting messy!

No charge - donations welcome on the day!

Enjoy art and craft activities on the theme of:

Easter!

Light refreshments and hot cross buns provided!

Don't forget to bring an adult or carer;
they have to have fun too!

Contact Denise Angell on 07957 206901 or
denise.angell@virginmedia.com to book (for catering purposes) or more details.

HAPPY EASTER AND HAPPY HALF TERM FROM ALL THE STAFF AT DPS





