



Downham Preparatory School and Montessori Nursery

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Newsletter to Preparatory & Nursery School Parents – Tuesday 12th March 2024

UPCOMING DIARY DATES

Wednesday 13th March	U11 Mixed Netball v Glebe	2:00pm
Thursday 14th March	Bee Netball (SSP) Y3&4	1:00pm
Friday 15th March	U9 Football & Netball v Thetford (Away)	2:15pm
Friday 15th March	Comic Relief Red Nose Day	
Tuesday 19th March	Bee Netball (SSP) Y5&6	9:30am
Friday 22nd March	Prep School – Last Day of Term	
Friday 22nd March	St Winnold's Day Parade	
Friday 22nd March	Easter Egg Hunt/Egg Rolling/ NO SPORTS LESSON	
Wednesday 27th March	Nursery - Last Day of Term	

Nursery Parents' Meetings

Friday 15th March	Mrs Hmaied	1:30pm onwards
Friday 22nd March	Miss Stannard	1:30pm onwards

Dates for your diary – Google Calendar

Please may we remind you that all dates for your diary can be accessed via Google Calendar.

This will allow you to add it to your own devices and easily see events that are happening in school. We will provide dates, reminder notifications and information about what may be required for specific events. Please check back regularly for updates.

Please use this link if you have an Android or Google phone, or if you are using a computer: -

<https://calendar.google.com/calendar/embed?src=6e4c485bfb5bf1e8cb3e021bd38c4e6786d0eba84c19ff00141eb3fe4757de2d%40group.calendar.google.com&ctz=Europe%2FLondon>

Please use this link if you have an Apple iPhone: -

<https://calendar.google.com/calendar/ical/6e4c485bfb5bf1e8cb3e021bd38c4e6786d0eba84c19ff00141eb3fe4757de2d%40group.calendar.google.com/public/basic.ics>

Nursery Parents

We have a child in our Nursery here at Stow, who unfortunately has a serious nut allergy. Therefore, please could we ask that you are careful about what you send in your child's packed lunch box, and avoid peanut butter sandwiches and other items containing nuts. Thank you for your co-operation.

Spellings

Spellings this week will be revision for a test next week, so no new lists to be sent home today. Please help your child to revise at home, using the look, cover, write, check, method, especially words in their correction books.

Nearly-new Uniform Sale

Our Friends of the School are organising a Sale of nearly-new items, to be held on Thursday 14th and Friday 15th March, from 3:15 – 3:50pm. It will be held outside if it is dry, or in the Science Room if wet.

If anyone has any items of uniform that are in good condition, and maybe just too small for your child, including summer dresses, please send in your donations to the office from today. Thank you.

Reminder - Gardening Club & ASC Club Reminder

Parents of those children attending Gardening Club and ASC Club are cordially invited to a tea party on Monday 18th March from 4.00 - 4.45pm in the school hall.

Reminder – KS1 Geography Trip to Hunstanton

KS1 parents should all have received the letter about the Geography trip to Hunstanton Beach next week on Thursday 21st March. Children will need to be in their sports kit, with trainers. Please also bring wellies, which the children will wear on the beach. Children will also need to bring a waterproof coat. They will require a packed lunch, with plenty to drink. No chocolate or fizzy drinks please. A credit will be given if your child usually has a hot lunch. The cost of the trip is £10.00.

If you haven't yet returned the form, giving us the telephone number where you can be contacted in an emergency on the day of the trip, together with the £10 cash, please could you do so as soon as possible. Thank you.

St Winnold's Day Parade – Friday 22nd March

For those of you who may be new to Downham Market, or not familiar with some of its traditions, please see below. St Winnold's Parade is really quite special and unique, and is well worth watching. St Winnold is closely associated with Downham Market and he features on the town's sign. For many years a huge horse fair, one of the biggest in the country, was held on the feast day of St Winnold. The annual St Winnold's Parade sees Downham Market commemorating the granting of its market charter in 1046. A procession of local dignitaries around the town takes place including ponies and traps, all led by a Shire horse, which is truly magnificent.

Pupils in Classes 3 & 4 have been invited to take part in the parade and will be preparing some Art work to take with them. The office will send out a separate letter to those pupils involved, with further details.

Easter 2024

Easter Egg Raffle - Lucky Squares

We have a large Easter picture covered in squares. Children can buy a square and will win an Easter Egg/prize if they pick a winning square. The squares cost 50p each and are on sale every morning before school, outside the entrance to the walkway. The last day to buy a square will be Thursday 21st March. The winner will be announced on Friday 22nd.

The **Nursery** will have their Lucky Squares board on display by their entrance. The last day to buy from their square will be Tuesday 26th March, for the draw on Wednesday 27th.

Funds raised go towards buying the prizes for the lucky squares and the eggs for the egg rolling competition and egg hunt in the school garden. The draw takes place on the last day of term.

Easter Egg Roll (Prep school)

We will be holding the traditional Easter egg rolling competition on Friday 22nd March. Below is some helpful information for those of you who have only recently joined the school and are not familiar with this event.

Each child brings in an uncooked hen's egg in a box and leaves it in their form room when they arrive in the morning. Please do not paint the egg or dip it in vinegar. Please put the child's name on the box and name or initials on the egg. Each class roll their eggs down a slope until only the 'champion' egg survives. The winner from each class then takes part in the final to find the 'champion' egg for the whole school. The winner of each class wins a small egg as a prize, and the overall champion wins a larger egg.

Egg Hunt (Prep school)

We also have an Easter Egg Hunt. We hide Easter bunnies, made of card, in the garden for the children to find. These are then exchanged for a small chocolate egg. This will also be held on Friday 22nd March.

Egg Hunt (Nursery)

The Easter Egg Hunt for the Nursery pupils will take place during the week commencing Monday 25th March.

Easter Bonnet Competition – Reception only

We hope the Reception children will be inspired to make an Easter Bonnet/Hat. Prizes will be given for the most original homemade hats. Please bring them to school on Thursday 21st March. Judging will then take place on Friday 22nd March, after which the prizes and bonnets will be sent home.

Please note: There will be no Sports lesson on Friday 22nd March.

Football Report – by Mr Tierney

On Friday 8th March the weather finally decided it was going to let us have a fixture this term. We played an Under 9 Football match against Fairstead House School, at home. However, we faced a very strong Fairstead team. Fairstead House played very well throughout the game, moving the ball well and being very clinical, which, unfortunately, resulted in defeat for us. The boys worked hard throughout the game. They were obviously disappointed, but took the defeat graciously and learnt from the experience. Hopefully we can turn that defeat into a win when we face Thetford Grammar on Friday this week. Man of the match, voted by Fairstead House, was Billy Burton. Well done everyone.

Cross-Country Report – by Mr Lane

The sixth and final Ryston Runners Cross Country Grand Prix event took place at Shouldham Warren on Sunday 10th March.

Unfortunately, it clashed with Mothering Sunday, so, understandably, it proved difficult to persuade pupils to come. We also had to contend with light rain for this one. However, 4 pupils did make it.

In the Under 9 Girls' race Freya completed a very good season, finishing in her highest ever position of 11th in 4 mins 13 seconds, only 1 second off her fastest ever time. Frankie finished 15th, equalling her personal best time of 4 mins 37 seconds.

The Under 9 Boys' race had our other two competitors. Benjamin finished in 11th, in a time of 3 mins 37 seconds and Alfie in 16th, in a time of 3 mins 52 seconds.

With regards to the Schools Trophy Competition, at the start of the event we were 4th, only 2 points behind Hillcrest in 3rd. Alas, with only 4 runners, we couldn't amass enough points to overhaul them, and therefore we finished 4th out of the 15 Schools that took part. Considering how small our school is, that's still quite an achievement.

I attended the awards ceremony that followed the completion of the last race, which took place at the newly refurbished Shouldham Bowls and Social Club. All runners that completed at least 3 of the runs gain a memento of the Grand Prix Series – a lovely wooden coaster. That means Violet and Ezra gained one of those as well as the four that ran in the last event.

Well done to those 6 pupils, and to all the pupils that took part in a race this season!

New Pupils

We extend a warm welcome to Joey who has just started in class 5.



End of Term dates

The last day of term for Preparatory School pupils will be Friday 22nd March 2024.

The last day of term for Nursery pupils will be Wednesday 27th March 2024.

Nursery pupils return on Tuesday 16th April. Prep School pupils return on Wednesday 17th April.