



Downham Preparatory School and Montessori Nursery

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Newsletter to Preparatory & Nursery School Parents – Tuesday 19th March 2024

UPCOMING DIARY DATES

Tuesday 19th March	Bee Netball (SSP) Y5&6	9:30am
Thursday 21st March	KS1 Geography Trip to Hunstanton	
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	
Friday 19th April	Year 5 Trip to Duxford	

Nursery Parents' Meetings

Friday 22nd March	Miss Stannard	1:30pm onwards
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Summer Term Dates: -

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

Staff News

Mrs Savage has unfortunately been frequently absent this term due to ill health. She will be leaving at the end of this term to take up a post with shorter hours and closer to her home, as she currently has a long drive.

We would like to send Mrs Savage our good wishes in her new post and hope her health recovers soon.

Mrs Covell has been working part-time, but will now be working full-time after Easter. Mrs Covell worked for many years with Mrs Sharpe teaching Key Stage 2 English. She currently teaches English Reading Comprehension to Years 5, 6 & 7. Mrs Sharpe and Mrs Covell will both be teaching English to Years 5, 6 & 7 after Easter.

Mrs Savage has also been teaching History, Geography and RE to some classes. These lessons will now be taught by Mrs Lillie, Miss Tighe and Mrs Skelton.

New timetables for next term will be sent out later this week.

New Staff

We are very pleased to welcome a new apprentice into the Nursery – Miss Sophie Andrews. She will be working in the baby room with Miss Lovick.

Staff Training

Mrs S Brown has recently completed an online Level 1 Course in Child Protection.

Miss A Rutherford has successfully completed an NSPCC Learning course on “Keeping Children Safe Online”.

New Pupils

We would like to welcome Joey, who is settling into Class 5, and Jacob, who will be joining Class 3 at the beginning of next term.

Reminders - Prep School

Please return your menu choices to the office ASAP if you haven't already done so.

Please return your child's report to the office ASAP if you haven't already done so. There are still a few outstanding. Thank you.

Please remember there are no After-School Clubs this week.

Clubs for next term will commence the week beginning Monday 22nd April.

Reminders – Nursery

Please remember there will be NO hot lunches in the Nursery next week (Mon 25th – Wednesday 27th), nor on the first day back on Tuesday 16th April. Please remember to send your child into school with a packed lunch on those days.

Swimming

There will be no swimming lessons during the Summer Term as we are very busy with end-of-year tests and assessments, History trips, sports matches and tournaments, Sports Day and rehearsals for the school show.

Autism Awareness Week

World Autism Acceptance Week is from 2nd – 8th April. There are a lot of interesting activities taking place over the next couple of weeks. For more information, please click on the link below.

https://www.norfolk.gov.uk/article/57277/Events-and-activities?fbclid=IwAR3hajpuqqjzPwtpFRMI-xf7FZ_y7cu-c3WMTvINnVL2M3C6DloxiC8-So4

Easter Egg Raffle - Lucky Squares

Prep School - Please remember the last day to buy a square will be Thursday 21st March. The winners will be announced on Friday 22nd.

Nursery - the last day to buy will be Tuesday 26th March, for the draw on Wednesday 27th.

Easter Egg Roll (Prep school) - Friday 22nd March

Please bring your egg in a box and leave it in your form room when you arrive in the morning. (Please do not paint the egg or dip it in vinegar.) Please put your name on the box and name or initials on the egg.

Easter Bonnet Competition – Reception only

We hope the Reception children have been busy making an Easter Bonnet/Hat. 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.

ASC & Gardening Club

The ASC & Gardening Club held a tea party last Monday and it was a huge success. Many thanks to all the parents and friends who came along and enjoyed themselves.



Disney in Concert

On Friday 10th & Saturday 11th May, Downham Amateur Dramatic Society are performing a concert of Disney music, with a live band and a cast of local performers. This production is being staged to raise funds to revive Downham Amateur Dramatic Society (DADS) and enable them to continue creating performance opportunities in the local area.

Among the cast are Miss Rutherford and Mrs Skelton from our staff! They would welcome smiling Downham Prep faces in the audience, so please book your tickets now.

Tickets available from: www.desilvathatrical.co.uk



Red Nose day

Last Friday saw a sea of red as pupils arrived in school, all dressed ready for Comic Relief. Thank you to all those parents who sent in a donation. We have received £66 so far. If you didn't donate and still wish to, please send in your money before Friday. We will then send it all to Comic Relief.



Netball Reports - by Mrs Rockcliffe

1) U11 Netball v The Glebe – Wednesday 13th March

Last Wednesday we travelled to Glebe House School at Hunstanton with 2 mixed 5-a-side Netball teams. The time was divided up into 7 x 7ths. The team rotated around positions every time play stopped, giving each player a go at shooting, defending and playing centre court.

Team 1 - Ivy, Callum, Freddie, Steviena and Sam.

The team showed some great passing and moving. They struggled with focus and attention at times, allowing easy passes to get past them. We also need to do some more work on man-to-man marking. Glebe broke ahead at the beginning, leading 4-0. Throughout the match Downham played well as a team bringing the score back to 5-4. The final score was 8-5 to Glebe.

Glebe awarded Callum player of the match - well done. And well done to Mr Tierney for umpiring his first netball match.

Team 2 - Armaan, Emily, Veeve, Blake, Megan and Sienna.

The team started well, but were a little nervous. The defence played well, but we needed more jumping in the circle.

Emily made some great passes and managed to get us up and running with a great goal. Well done! Veeve and Armaan showed some great defensive moves and made some crucial interceptions. Glebe did however have a couple of good shooters, and started to pull away.

The team's passing and footwork got better as the game went on and Blake managed to score another good goal. The final score was 15-2 to Glebe.

Glebe awarded Sienna player of the match, well done.

All the children tried hard and gained a lot of experience from the games.

2) Year 3/4 Bee Netball SSP Development tournament - Thursday 14th March

Last Thursday we took 2 teams to play in the Partnership's primary school Bee Netball tournament, in order to develop their netball skills. In Years 3/4 this is known as Fliers and the children play adapted rules to introduce them to netball. The idea behind the development tournaments are that no scores are kept and it's all about having fun and developing skills.

Team 1 - Billy, Maddie, Isabel and Archie played 8 games in total. They started a little cautiously in the first game, but linked some great passes and the final score was a 1-1 draw. After this they found their groove and played really well as a team. Maddie was super scorer and Billy, Isabel and Archie moved the ball around the court well. They won all the other matches convincingly and didn't concede another goal all afternoon. A very pleasing set of games.

Team 2 - Evie, Oscar, Freya and Ellie again played 8 games. Mr Tierney was very impressed with how they played as a team. They began very confidently with Oscar and Freya being the main goal scorers. After a few matches they began to get tired and made some silly mistakes. However, they gave the Downham 1st team their toughest match and everyone tried their best. Well done to all our players.

3) Mixed-age Netball vs Thetford Grammar School - Friday 15th March

On Friday afternoon a mixture of pupils from year 4-7 played in a Netball fixture against Thetford.

We started well and the ball was very much 50/50 possession. Thetford managed to get a goal and lead the first quarter 1-0. After a little change around, we started the second quarter much stronger and Ivy scored a good equaliser.

The third quarter saw Thetford get a few goals ahead. Unfortunately, they did have an incredibly tall Goal Shooter and, whilst Sophie and Callum showed great defensive skills, they just couldn't compete.

The fourth quarter was very difficult as we were caught in a great rain & hail storm, but the children kept playing on and managed to score another goal. The final score was 6-2 to Thetford, but I was really pleased with the great effort and attitude by all the children. Ivy received Player of the Match from Thetford. Well done to everyone.



Football Report - by Mr Lane

The Under 9 Boys' Football team travelled to Thetford Grammar School last Friday for a 7-a-side match. We started very brightly and had the first shot on goal, but it was unluckily deflected by a defender for a corner. The first half was relatively even, with regards to position and shots, but Thetford were just that much more clinical with their finishing and led 3-0 by the end of it.

The second half started, and Thetford added another two goals quite quickly, which could quite easily have seen our boys' heads drop, but instead, this next period of play was our best of the match. We managed to score a goal and the boys were elated. That was our first goal of the season and we then went on to score two more, to get the score back to 5-3. However, back came Thetford with their two goals. We kept trying and managed to score again towards the end of the match, to make it 7-4. Having got that goal, we pushed forward again, trying to get another, but that left us a bit susceptible to the Thetford counter attack and so their two very good players combined to score again.

So, it was another defeat, but some great positives to come out of it, in the way we never gave up and scored 4 more goals than last week! I was really impressed with their attitude.

Player of the match was Samuel, who scored all 4 goals. Well done to all the boys!

Netball Report – U11 SSP Tournament – by Mr Tierney

This morning we took our Under 11 Netball team to the U11 SSP (School Sports Partnership) Netball tournament at Downham Alive Leisure. We competed in a series of group matches where we played some very good games. We won the first game against Hillcrest Storm 1-0, with Freddie scoring. The second match against Upwell we won 2 -0, with both goals from Ivy. The third match against Nelson Pulse was a 1-0 win, with Sam scoring the goal. Those wins saw us go straight through to the final. We then played Nelson Lightning in the final where, after a very exciting game, we came out 4-0 winners, with Freddie scoring a hat-trick and a goal from Sophia. The team played very well in every game, moving the ball thoughtfully around the court.

So, we won the whole tournament and were presented with a gold medal each!! Well done team; a very well-deserved win!



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.