



DOWNHAM PREPARATORY SCHOOL AND MONTESSORI NURSERY

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Newsletter to Prep & Nursery School Parents 10th March 2020

Coronavirus Precautions

We have a lot of children at our school whose parents are doctors, nurses, ambulance drivers and healthcare workers. It is essential that these parents have childcare for their children to enable them to go to work. We have taken advice and we are following the measures, put in place 2 weeks ago, by a number of other schools, to prevent contagion.

- The children wash their hands frequently; before eating, after using the toilet, after coughing or sneezing. We have shown them how to wash their hands thoroughly for 20 seconds, (whilst singing Happy Birthday twice).
- All children should have a packet of tissues in their pocket. If they haven't, they should cough into their elbow, never their hands.
- They have been told not to touch their faces.

Today:

- We have asked them not to play games which involve holding hands.

Yesterday, several schools put into place a new precaution, i.e. asking parents to take their child's temperature before school every morning. If the temperature is more than 37, or the child has a cough or cold, they should be kept at home. We would ask our parents to follow the above procedure.

We want to take every measure we can to keep our school germ-free and open until the Easter break.

If your child is unwell when they are at school, we will take their temperature and contact you.

We have deliberately not used the word coronavirus with the children as we do not want to panic them. We have talked about spreading coughs, colds and chest infections and keeping ourselves healthy.

Travel:

We are currently waiting for further advice. However, if you travel abroad, please look at the government website for the latest advice on what to do on your return to the UK.

See the latest [information and advice for the public on the outbreak of coronavirus](#) from the Department of Health and Social Care. This covers the current situation in the UK and abroad, and provides specific advice for travellers returning to the UK from:

- mainland China; Hong Kong; Macao; Cambodia; Iran; Italy; Japan; Laos;
- Malaysia; Myanmar; Singapore; South Korea; Taiwan; Thailand; Vietnam.

The [National Travel Health Network and Centre \(NaTHNaC\)](#) has also produced general advice on preparing for foreign travel and how individuals can help reduce the spread of respiratory viruses during the COVID-19 outbreak.

Nursery:

Please be aware that if the government subsequently make the decision to close all schools, then we would not be able to offer holiday care during the Easter period. We will, of course, inform you as soon as we are given any further information.

Listening to Children Read

If you could spare some time on Wednesday afternoons to listen to the children in Class 2 read aloud, please speak to Mrs Law in the school office. We welcome parents from all classes.

Parent helpers require a DBS (Disclosure and Barring Service) check, which the school will organise.

Under 11 Netball Match

On Friday 6th March, we travelled to Thetford for an U11 netball fixture. Unfortunately, we were missing a few of our older girls that day and, as Thetford are short on girls' numbers, they had already messaged asking if they could play a number of Year 7's in their team.

We started well with Esther scoring 2 very quick good goals. They also had a very good GA and they soon matched us with the first quarter finishing 2-2.

We struggled in the 2nd quarter with our passing and we are far too polite with any free balls, so they were soon being gathered up by Thetford.

In the 3rd quarter, Esther moved to defence which stopped their very strong GA shooting and scoring any more. However, sadly, with a very tall defence, we just couldn't get it to our shooters.

The final score was 11-2 to Thetford. So, although disappointed, the girls played very well and it wouldn't have done them any harm to play against bigger, stronger opposition. I believe when we host them back here in a couple of weeks, with a full team, it should be a very good game.

Special mention to Ava and Paula (Yr4) who stepped in for absent players and played very well.