



Downham Preparatory School and Montessori Nursery

The Old Rectory, Stow Bardolph, Nr Kings Lynn, Norfolk, PE34 3HT
(01366) 388066 office@downhamprep.co.uk www.downhamprep.co.uk

Newsletter to Prep & Nursery School Parents 18th November 2020

Dear Parents,

Christmas Presents

Due to Covid regulations, Father Christmas will not be allowed to come into school this year. He will, however, be arriving at school, with presents for all the children. Pupils in the Nursery, Reception and Years 1&2, 3&4 will be able to watch him out of the windows. He will leave his presents for all the children, in all classes, to be distributed by the teachers at the end of the Christmas (Bubble) parties.

If you would like your child to receive a present from Santa, would you please send in a donation of £5.00 towards the cost. Please place the £5.00 in an envelope, clearly marked with your child's name, class and the words 'Christmas Present donation', and post it in the black letter box near the office door by Wednesday 2nd December. If you do not wish your child to receive a Christmas present, please inform the school office. Thank you.

Christmas Parties

Prep school children will have their Christmas parties within their bubbles, on the last day of term, Wednesday 16th December.

Nursery staff are organising fun activities and games on Wednesday 16th, Thursday 17th and Friday 18th, to ensure that all children can enjoy the parties, no matter which days they attend.

Party Food

Due to Covid regulations we will not be asking parents to donate party food this year. On party days the school will provide muffins, popcorn and party snacks for the children to eat at break times.

If your child usually has a packed lunch, please send it into school as normal.

If your child has a hot lunch, these will be provided as normal.

Christmas Cards

The children really enjoy bringing in Christmas cards for their friends and teachers, but this year we will have to change our arrangements. Each 'Bubble' will have their own posting box, inside their entrance door. These will be put out on Monday 30th November. The children can post their cards from Monday to Thursday. On Thursday afternoon, the cards will be taken away to be given out to the children on the following Monday – after they have been kept for the statutory 72 hours. The last day for posting will be Thursday 10th December.

NB: The children can post cards in their box for children and teachers in other 'Bubbles'.

Christmas Performances – Costumes

Please could all costumes and Christmas jumpers be brought to school by Wednesday 25th November. We have to keep them for 72 hours before we can use them for our dress rehearsals.

Projects

If you have any of the following items that you are able to donate, please could you leave them under the shelter, by the round brick flower planter, (in front of the walkway), facing you as you come down the side path of the school.

- Wooden pallets/wooden crates/apple boxes – Early Years want to use these for construction in the garden role-play area.
- Tin coffee lids – Mrs Millard will be using these to make outdoor number counters.
- Shoe boxes – Miss Simmons is doing a project on hibernation.

Nursery Collection – 4pm-6pm.

If your child stays for additional care after school, please collect them from the big black front door (at the front of the school). This will be easier for parents, especially if there is a lot to carry.

School Photographs

Unfortunately, due to Covid regulations, we are not able to allow the photographer to come into school this term. We have very strict protective measures in place, which cannot be relaxed without putting our pupils (and staff) at risk. We understand that there are local schools where staff and pupils have contracted the virus! Fortunately, we have managed to stay virus free. We therefore cannot risk having the photographer coming in to school and being in the same room with the children. During the school day, we ensure that all pupils only have contact with other pupils in their own Bubble. If the photographer sets up his equipment in one room, the children would all have to go into the same room for their photo. This would obviously put the children at risk of transmission of the infection and we don't want the children to mix with those from other Bubbles.

As soon as it is safe to do so, we will arrange for the children's photos to be taken.

Spare Clothes

If you have any spare clothes that you no longer need, please could you donate them to the school. Please put them in a bin liner and bring them to the office. We are particularly short on pants, socks, tracksuit bottoms and tops for boys and girls aged 4-7 years. Thank you.

Face coverings

Once again, we have been asked by concerned parents, if we can make it compulsory for all parents to wear a face mask or covering when they are on the school grounds including the car park, especially at the end of the day. It is statutory for parents and any visitors to wear a mask if they come into the school, but only a recommendation on school grounds. However, we would please ask you to wear a mask, unless there is a health reason preventing you from doing so. We do have vulnerable parents and children and we do need to protect them from infection.

Dogs

We have also been asked to remind parents (and visitors) that dogs are not allowed on the school grounds. We do have pupils who are extremely frightened of them and this has caused some upset over the last week.