



# Downham Preparatory School and Montessori Nursery

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## **Newsletter to Preparatory & Nursery School Parents – 21<sup>st</sup> April 2022**

**Welcome back to a new term. We hope you had a pleasant break.**

### **UPCOMING DIARY DATES:**

Please note: We have amended and updated our Diary Dates for this term, as we have now booked some History trips for this term and added the Sports fixtures which had previously been arranged. Please find attached the new list of dates.

Swimming for classes 2 and 3 will start next week on Wednesday 27<sup>th</sup> April.

The school will be closed for one day on Monday 2<sup>nd</sup> May, as it is a Bank Holiday.

### ***New Staff***

We would like to welcome two new members of staff this term. On Tuesday 3<sup>rd</sup> May, Miss Richardson will be joining our Nursery. She will be a key person for Pre-Primary and work alongside Miss Daultrey. Miss Richardson has a Level 3 qualification and has completed the first year of a degree in Early Years.

Mrs S Smith is joining the Preparatory School as a one-to-one Teaching Assistant in Class 2. Mrs Smith has a Level 2 NVQ qualification and has previous experience of working in the Early Years and as a Primary School Teaching Assistant, often supporting pupils on a 1-1 basis.

### ***Staff News – Meeting with Miss Simmons***

The children did not get the opportunity to say goodbye to Miss Simmons before she transferred to our Downham Nursery, as she was on sick leave. Miss Simmons will be visiting the Prep School to say goodbye to the children on Wednesday 4<sup>th</sup> May at 3:45pm. All parents and children are very welcome.

### ***New Children***

We are pleased to welcome 3 new pupils in our Nursery this term. Sophie and Pip are joining Miss Cowell's group and Birdie is joining our Pre-Primary class.

### ***Eco-Schools Award***

As you are aware, we are working towards our Eco-award with the children. After an extensive survey recently, we found that we are achieving many of the targets, particularly in biodiversity, energy saving and school grounds. A vote was put in place to plan our next project and, as a result, the children decided to grow a plant in every classroom, in pots made with recycled materials.

If children have grown any indoor plants at home that they could bring in to school, we would be very grateful.

### ***Cake Sales***

As a result of our Cookie & Cake bake-off during World Autism Acceptance Week, we raised £164 for The National Autistic Society. Huge thanks to all the children who baked and/or bought the wonderful cakes.

### ***Clubs for this term***

Details of the clubs for this term will be sent out on a separate letter.

### ***Outdoor Learning***

We are looking at developing this area of learning more and will give you more details as we progress.

### ***Sun Protection***

Now that we have entered the Summer term, and the weather is warm and sunny (sometimes!), please may we remind you to send your child to school with a school sunhat to wear at playtimes and when outside. If your child is in the Prep school and the weather is likely to be hot and sunny, please apply a high factor (30+), long lasting sun cream to your child before bringing them to school. (Please do not send bottles of sun cream to school with your child as this can be a hazard, e.g. sun cream in eyes, broken bottles, risk of swallowing some, etc.) We are in the process of updating our Sun Protection Policies for both Nursery and Preparatory School and will send out a new copy in due course.

### ***Staff Training***

All our staff are constantly updating their training and qualifications by attending relevant courses. Recently, these have included Miss Lovick (Nursery Administrator) and other Nursery Staff - "High Quality Spaces for Outdoor Learning & Play in the Early Years", "Enabling Environments" and "Introducing Mathematical Development and the Natural World". Mrs Skelton attended "Supporting the Wellbeing and Mental Health of Children and Young People with SEND" and "Dyslexia: Practical Tips and Strategies".

### ***Parents' Suggestions***

We are always grateful if you can give us any ideas or suggestions that you may have, which will add to the education of your children. If you have an idea – for example, perhaps you know of an interesting speaker, or a place to visit that we have not been to before, then please let us know. Please write down your ideas or suggestions and put them in an envelope marked "Suggestions" and place it in the black Postbox outside the office. The Senior Management Team will then be able to look at these. Thank you.