



Downham Preparatory School and Montessori Nursery

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Newsletter to Preparatory & Nursery School Parents – Tuesday 6th February 2024

UPCOMING DIARY DATES

Wednesday 7th February	Paralympian Introductory Talk/Virtual Assembly	9:00am
Friday 9th February	Nursery Parents Meeting	3:00pm
Sunday 11th February	Cross Country Race at Shouldham	10:30am
Monday 12th February	SSP U11 Tag Rugby Matches	1:00 – 2:45pm
Friday 16th February	U9 Hockey v Fairstead (Away)	1:00 – 3:45pm
Friday 16th February	Classes 5, 6, 7 Trip to Norwich Playhouse (Romeo & Juliet)	
Monday 19th – Friday 23rd February Half-term holiday		

Parents' Evenings

Wednesday 28th February **Class KS1** **4:00pm onwards**

Nursery Parents' Meetings

Friday 8th March	Miss Richardson	1:30pm onwards
Friday 15th March	Mrs Hmaied	1:30pm onwards
Friday 22nd March	Miss Stannard	1:30pm onwards

New Staff – Nursery

We are pleased to have appointed a new member of staff to our Nursery – Mrs Crofts who will be starting after half-term. Mrs. Crofts (nee Voutt) worked and trained at our Downham Nursery in Downham Market in 2010; and Miss Lovick and Mrs Crofts have worked together for many years. She will be joining our Nursery after half-term and will be the Key person for the small group of children 3 years – Pre-Primary. This group is currently being taught by Mr. Aviss, who has previously taught in Pre-Primary. This school year he had moved up to assist in Reception Class. From the start of this term, however, he is looking after this group until Mrs Crofts is able to start. He is very familiar with our ethos and methods, having trained in Pre-Primary last year.

Staff Training

Mrs Lillie and Miss Tighe have recently completed their DSL (Designated Safeguarding Leaders) Refresher training.

Sports for Schools Sponsorship

We hope that the children have been able to gather some sponsorship support for their fun fitness circuit. They will be having their Introductory Assembly Talk tomorrow morning.

Netball Report – by Mrs Rockcliffe

Last Wednesday a mix of Year 5&6, girls and boys, travelled to Burwell, to play Fairstead House School in two 5-a-side BEE Netball matches.

The Year 6 team started well, managing to get an early goal, and only allowing the opposition to score 2. This meant it was all to play for in the second quarter. Unfortunately Fairstead were quick to apply pressure and had a number of set moves they performed well. We were quite slow to react and our defence wasn't as strong as it could have been. This meant they got a good lead on us.

The last two quarters saw us achieve a more successful set of passes and our defence was a lot stronger. The team did not allow a single goal in, in the last quarter. The final score was 12-1 to Fairstead.

The year 5 team started strong and linked some great passes together. They had good movement down the court and were able to score a couple of goals early on. Fairstead's team were not quite as strong in comparison, but this did not take away from some great defending and communication from Downham. Armaan, as always, was great in the D area, making some good interceptions and catching rebounds. The final score was 3-1 to Downham.

Special mention to Freddie and Steviena for being awarded Player of the Match in their respective games. Well done everyone.

Cross-Country Race at Shouldham - Sunday 11th February 2024

The next race in the Ryston Runners Cross Country Grand Prix takes place on Sunday 11th February 2024 in Shouldham Woods. (The last one is 10th March.) The first race starts at 10:30am.

If you or your child would like to enter, please speak to Mr Lane (or the office). The entry fee for children is £4.00 and adults (who are not members of Ryston runners or an affiliated club) is £8.00. There is also more information on the Ryston Runners website, where you will find details of how to enter online.

If you have entered, Mr Lane will meet you there at 10.00am, after you have collected your number. He also does a warm-up with the children before the race, and shows them the course.

New runners are always welcome, particularly from Years 4-7. All runners score points for the school, and there are trophies and individual prizes to be won. At present, we are fourth in the Primary Schools group, where the eventual winners receive a large shield (which we have won several times in the past.) Just 2 or 3 more runners, particularly in the U11 race, could boost our points tally quite considerably! All pupils who enter 3 (or more) races will receive a prize/memento.

<https://www.rystonrunners.org.uk/index.php/cross-country-series>

