

# Newsletter

Dear parents,

Today is the end of term and all the children and staff are looking forward to a couple of weeks of rest!

The last couple of weeks have been busy:

- The kitchen team cooked a fantastic Christmas dinner last week, which the children all seemed to really enjoy.
- Most children watched a theatre production of Peter Pan for their reward for still having 10 values points and for not being in detention more than once in the term.
- Some of our Year 3 - 6 children went to Luton Library Theatre to watch Jack and the Beanstalk.

I have started to notice a large number of children who are arriving at school very early. Can I remind parents that we do not supervise children until 8.45am – when the classroom doors open. If you need to drop your child at school early for a club or intervention, they should be supervised until the staff collect them from the School Office. If children are on site unsupervised and they are early, we shall inform their parents.

Parents should all have received their end of term report this week. You will note that attendance is now on your child's report. Our attendance figures have improved slightly – but there are still too many children missing school for unauthorised days / holidays during term time.

As a reminder, teachers have a training day on 7<sup>th</sup> January and so children will return to school on Tuesday 8<sup>th</sup> January.

May I take this opportunity to wish all parents a restful holiday.

K.Hooker

## Downside's "App of the Moment"

Logo:



Name: Google Expeditions

Cost: Free

Summary: Children are immersed in virtual tours

Pros: ✓ Explore the world through Virtual and Augmented Reality  
 ✓ Hundreds of places to 'visit'  
 ✓ Informative

Cons: ✗ Need a Google Account to sign in  
 ✗ Virtual Reality needs a VR headset



Follow us on Twitter @DownsidePrimary



Download ourschoolsapp



### **Parking**

Due to issues around staff parking, from January 2019, the barrier to our car park will remain down in the mornings and parents will need to park elsewhere when bringing their children to school.

We would like to politely remind parents that the school car park is for staff use only. If your child is ill/injured and we have asked you to collect your child, please press the buzzer at the barrier and you will be allowed through to park in the "pick-up zone". However, when children are being taken out of school for appointments, parents will need to park elsewhere and walk to the Office.

### **Important dates:**

**21<sup>st</sup> December - Last day of term**

**7<sup>th</sup> January - Teacher Training day – SCHOOL CLOSED**

**8<sup>th</sup> January - Children return to school**

10<sup>th</sup> January - Ash class Christmas assembly at 9:15am  
 - Oak class Christmas assembly at 2:15pm  
 - Willow class Christmas assembly at 3:00pm

11<sup>th</sup> January - Elm class Christmas assembly at 9:15am  
 - Beech class Christmas assembly at 3:00pm

21<sup>st</sup> January - Fitzroy School Linking trip

22<sup>nd</sup> January - Hamilton School Linking trip

29<sup>th</sup> January - Wilson School Linking trip

31<sup>st</sup> January - Brampton School Linking trip



Don't forget to register for ParentMail and download the free ParentMail app!

As mentioned in earlier newsletters, we will be stopping texting parents at some point in the New Year and messages will be sent out via this app.

### **Procedures for closing the school due to snow**

As a team, we do our utmost to keep the school open in the event of snow, but the decision is influenced by a number of factors – predominantly whether the teaching staff can get to school and whether the site team can ensure that the school site is accessible – including access to all classrooms and the clearing of all fire exits.

**If we are closed, there are a number of ways we will let you know:**

- I will **text** you by 8am (via the app – please ensure you download this!)
- The **school website** will show the details of the closure
- The school **Twitter account** will show the details of the closure
- **Local radio stations** will read out lists of schools closed.
- The **Luton website** will have details of all school closures: <http://www.luton.gov.uk/schoolclosures>

If you have heard nothing by 8am, please assume the school is open. When the school is open on a snowy day, please can children wear appropriate footwear e.g. wellington boots and bring their school shoes to change in to when in school. This would enable us to take the children out onto the field in the snow, rather than looking at it from classroom windows!

## House Points

	14/12/18	21/12/18
Donaldson	595	536
Rowling	<b>631</b>	<b>605</b>
Dahl	590	603
Morpurgo	534	564

**Value of the Month  
for December is  
Unity**

### Attendance

**Improving attendance is our key priority this year!**

**No Term Time Leave should be booked without a meeting with Mrs Sobia Khan.**

As a reminder, in many cases when a child has a minor illness such as a cough, cold, temperature or headache, we would encourage parents to give them some Calpol or children's paracetamol at home and send them in to school as soon as possible. Please be aware that we cannot administer non-prescription medicines in school.

If your child is very unwell and cannot attend school, please let us know before 10am on the first day of absence. You can:

- ring 01582 587160 and press option 1 to leave a voicemail on the absence line
- email [attendance@downside.primaryluton.co.uk](mailto:attendance@downside.primaryluton.co.uk)
- text 07537436350

Please state your child's full name, class and the reason for absence; you'll need to say what is the matter with your child as "sick" or "not feeling well" does not give us enough information. **If your child has vomited and/or had diarrhoea in the last 48 hours, please DO NOT send them to school the next day;** they should be at home for 48 hours after the last incidence of vomiting or diarrhoea.

### Appointments

Please try your best to organise routine appointments for your child for before / after school and in the holidays. Children should not be taken out of school because their parent or sibling has an appointment to attend. As a reminder, children **cannot** be collected during their break or lunch time. If your child has a hospital appointment or urgent doctor/dentist appointment which will occur during one of these periods, please collect your child prior to the break or lunch time starting.

	Break time	Lunch time	Break time
<b>Year R</b>	9:45 - 10:00am	12:00 - 1:00pm	1:45pm - 2:00pm
<b>Year 1</b>	10:05 - 10:20am	12:15 - 1:15pm	2:20pm - 2:30pm
<b>Year 2</b>	10:30 - 10:45am	12:30 - 1:30pm	
<b>Year 3</b>	10:30 - 10:45am	12:00 - 1:00pm	
<b>Year 4</b>	10:30 - 10:45am	12:15 - 1:15pm	
<b>Year 5</b>	11:00 - 11:15am	12:30 - 1:30pm	
<b>Year 6</b>	11:00 - 11:15am	12:45 - 1:45pm	

 Follow us on Twitter @DownsidePrimary 

 Download ourschoolsapp 



## Headteacher and Teacher Commendations

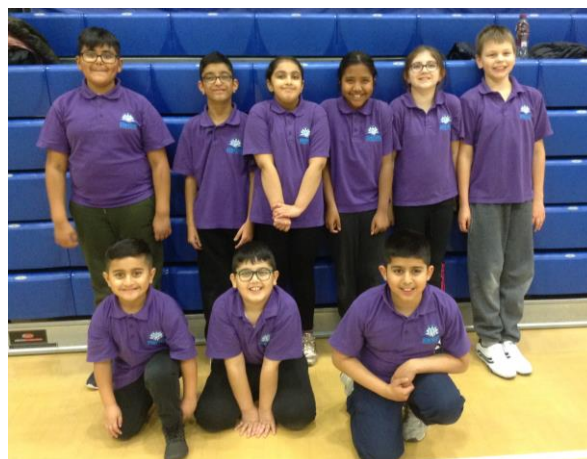


Ruqayah AL-GHARRAM	Hashim HUSSAIN	Zaydan MALIK
Muhammad ALI-KHAN	Hajrah IQBAL	Arsh MIR
Nooria AMAR	Ihsan JABER	Rayyan NASIR
Sara BAHICA	Mahdikar JABER	Ianis PANDELE
Hamna BALOUCH	Agnes JIJO	Hammad RAOOF
Jeva BINDERYTE	Amelia KAISER	Kashaf REHAN
Taha CHAUDHARY	Aaminah KHAN	Maryam SALEEM
Karina DIMSAITE	Aminah KHAN	Zainab SHAFQAT
Norhan ELGHORAB	Amirah Khan	Sulaiman SHAH



### Year 4-6 Kurling

On Thursday 13th December we took 2 teams (9 children) to Luton Sixth Form College to participate in a Kurling competition. Kurling is a game played in teams of 4 in which players take it in turns to propel a stone towards a target at the opposite end. A team scores a point for every stone that they have closest to the centre of the target than the opposition team.



Each of the teams played in a mini round robin league of 3-4 matches. Over the course of the afternoon there were some excellent shots played and every single child should be extremely proud of their performance. The afternoon was a real success and the children had a lot of fun competing in a very different sport. A huge well done to everyone involved.

# Academic Calendar for Community Schools 2018/2019

SEPTEMBER 2018					
Monday		<del>3</del>	10	17	24
Tuesday		4	11	18	25
Wednesday		5	12	19	26
Thursday		6	13	20	27
Friday		7	14	21	28
Saturday	1	8	15	22	29
Sunday	2	9	16	23	30

OCTOBER 2018					
Monday	1	8	<del>15</del>	22	29
Tuesday	2	9	16	23	30
Wednesday	3	10	17	24	31
Thursday	4	11	18	25	
Friday	5	12	19	26	
Saturday	6	13	20	27	
Sunday	7	14	21	28	

NOVEMBER 2018					
Monday		5	12	19	26
Tuesday		6	13	20	27
Wednesday		7	14	21	28
Thursday	1	8	15	22	29
Friday	2	9	16	23	30
Saturday	3	10	17	24	
Sunday	4	11	18	25	

DECEMBER 2018					
Monday	31	3	10	17	24
Tuesday		4	11	18	25
Wednesday		5	12	19	26
Thursday		6	13	20	27
Friday		7	14	21	28
Saturday	1	8	15	22	29
Sunday	2	9	16	23	30

JANUARY 2019					
Monday		<del>7</del>	14	21	28
Tuesday	1	8	15	22	29
Wednesday	2	9	16	23	30
Thursday	3	10	17	24	31
Friday	4	11	18	25	
Saturday	5	12	19	26	
Sunday	6	13	20	27	

FEBRUARY 2019					
Monday		4	11	18	25
Tuesday		5	12	19	26
Wednesday		6	13	20	27
Thursday		7	14	21	28
Friday	1	8	15	22	
Saturday	2	9	16	23	
Sunday	3	10	17	24	

MARCH 2019					
Monday		4	11	18	25
Tuesday		5	12	19	26
Wednesday		6	13	20	27
Thursday		7	14	21	28
Friday	1	8	15	22	29
Saturday	2	9	16	23	30
Sunday	3	10	17	24	31


APRIL 2019					
Monday	1	8	15	22	29
Tuesday	2	9	16	23	30
Wednesday	3	10	17	24	
Thursday	4	11	18	25	
Friday	5	12	19	26	
Saturday	6	13	20	27	
Sunday	7	14	21	28	


MAY 2019					
Monday		6	13	20	27
Tuesday		7	14	21	28
Wednesday	1	8	15	22	29
Thursday	2	9	16	23	30
Friday	3	10	17	24	31
Saturday	4	11	18	25	
Sunday	5	12	19	26	

JUNE 2019					
Monday		3	10	17	24
Tuesday		4	11	18	25
Wednesday		5	12	19	26
Thursday		6	13	20	27
Friday		7	14	21	28
Saturday	1	8	15	22	29
Sunday	2	9	16	23	30

JULY 2019					
Monday	1	8	15	<del>22</del>	29
Tuesday	2	9	16	<del>23</del>	30
Wednesday	3	10	17	24	31
Thursday	4	11	18	25	
Friday	5	12	19	26	
Saturday	6	13	20	27	
Sunday	7	14	21	28	

AUGUST 2019					
Monday		5	12	19	26
Tuesday		6	13	20	27
Wednesday		7	14	21	28
Thursday	1	8	15	22	29
Friday	2	9	16	23	30
Saturday	3	10	17	24	31
Sunday	4	11	18	25	

 School Holidays

 Bank Holidays

 Training Day

People Directorate

Main switchboard: 546000

email: [admissions@luton.gov.uk](mailto:admissions@luton.gov.uk)

website: [www.luton.gov.uk](http://www.luton.gov.uk)

**Luton**

 Follow us on Twitter @DownsidePrimary 

 Download ourschoolsapp 