



Downside Primary School

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Headteacher: Miss Karen Hooker

15th October 2021

Dear parents,

Thank you to all those parents who have come in to school for the Open classroom events. I hope you had plenty of time to look at your child's work and meet your child's class teacher. This week you should have been sent details about booking a Parents' Evening appointment. Please do not hesitate to email your child's year group address or contact the School Office if you are having any problems organising an appointment.

This week it has been lovely to once again see our Year 4 children visit Waddesdon Manor to help with the bulb planting – hopefully this year we will be able to visit in the Spring to see the bulbs in bloom! It has also been lovely to see our Football and Netball teams back in action, playing against other schools. In addition, some of our children have represented the school at Luton Sports events.

School uniform – PE kit

Thank you to all those parents who have purchased black tracksuit bottoms and a jumper for PE lessons. Our children look very smart for PE now!

After half term, **children in Years 1 – 6 will need to wear their school uniform to school every day and bring their PE kit into school.** We need to make this change as the children will be going outside for PE and their kit may get damp or wet and they will, therefore, need their dry school uniform to change into.

Children in Reception can come to school wearing their kit for the remainder of this term, but need to bring their school uniform in to school to change into after the lesson.

Relationships Education

A letter about the school's approach to the new Relationships Curriculum and a copy of the school's policy has been emailed to parents for their information.

Additional Bank Holiday

The school will be closed on 4th January 2022 – so that staff have an additional day off work in lieu of the Queen's Jubilee in June.



Covid – a reminder

Thank you again to all those parents who have been vigilant and are taking children for PCR tests when they show Covid symptoms. As a reminder, if you take your child for a PCR test, they **must** isolate until the result is received. Please do not send your child in to school, while you wait for the result – this is to protect our children and staff. If you want work for your child while they are isolating, because they are not ill, then please contact the school and we will ensure some work is available on Google Classroom.

Attendance across the school is incredibly low currently as I know many of our children are struggling with bad colds and some have tested positive for Covid. If your child is feeling better from a cold and you are considering sending them back to school, please consider giving them a Lateral Flow Test to ensure that they do not also have Covid.

Term Time Leave

We have started to see a sharp increase in requests for Term Time Leave. I know that no one has been able to leave the UK to visit family, but taking children out of school when they have already missed face-to-face learning is not supporting children's catch up. The school is investing heavily in catch up – but such initiatives are fruitless if children are being removed from school for a holiday.

Please try to ensure that family holidays take place during the school holidays, to avoid disruption to children's learning.

Friday 22nd October – “Wear It Pink” non-uniform day

Don't forget to support our fundraising for Breast Cancer next Friday. All children can wear non-school uniform – preferably including a touch of pink – for a fine of £1.

Key dates:

22nd October - Non-school uniform day — wear something pink and pay a £1 to charity
- Last day of school

1st November – Teacher training day

2nd November – Children return to school.

4th November – Special school lunch – Diwali (menu to follow)

10th November – Year 5 trip – Sealife Centre

Yours sincerely,

