



Downside Primary School

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Headteacher: Miss Karen Hooker

25th March 2022

Dear parents,

Thank you to all those parents who have supported our fundraising for Comic Relief. We raised £1700 from the sale of over 400 red noses and our non-uniform day.

This week, we were treated to an amazing assembly and some children attended some workshops with 'Rock Steady Band'. It sounded fantastic and there was a real buzz around the school! Our Year 5 children took part in a cookery workshop, making Chinese food linked to their book study of Skellig – their spring rolls looked amazing!

One of our Year 6 pupils has won a competition run by The Mall to design an Easter Egg – congratulations Yousaf! He has won a prize for himself and a £100 WHSmiths voucher for our school. His design will feature on one of 10 eggs that will make up the Community Easter Egg Trail in The Mall throughout the Easter holidays.

Parental questionnaire

I attach the results of the Parental questionnaire. Thank you to all those parents who completed the questionnaire – we will be looking at it as a school team in the coming weeks. Members of the team have contacted some parents regarding their comments and I have added a few comments to the side of the results.

Parental engagement

As we are moving towards the 'Living with Covid' stage, we would like to invite parents in to classes in Key Stage 1. This is an opportunity to work with your child, in the class, once a week. Please make sure you do not come in to class if you are feeling unwell.

Reception drop in:

Parents in Reception are invited in to class from 8.45am - 9.05am on the following days each week, starting week beginning 25th April. Please just come through the Reception gate with your child:

- Emerald - Tuesday
- Crystal - Wednesday
- Opal - Wednesday
- Coral - Thursday
- Ruby - Thursday



Year 1 drop in:

Parents in Year 1 are invited in to class from 8.40am – 8.55am on the following days, starting week beginning 25th April. Please just come through the gate with your child in the morning.

- Willow and Oak: Wednesday
- Elm and Ash: Thursday
- Beech: Friday

Year 2 drop in:

Parents are invited in to class on a Friday morning from 8.40am – 8.55am, starting week beginning 25th April. Please just come through the gate with your child in the morning.

Year 4 open classrooms:

Year 4 will be having open classrooms on Tuesday 19th – Friday 22nd April, from 3pm – 3.30pm. These will be opportunities for parents to come in to class and see what their child has been learning. Parents need to sign up for a slot – as places are limited every day, to ensure classrooms do not get too over crowded. Please sign up when you collect your child or email the Year group email address: yr4@downside-primary.co.uk

Opportunities in the remainder of Key Stage 2 will be sent out by year groups, after the holidays.

Science activities to do at home

The Primary Science Teaching Trust has written some simple science experiments for children to do at home. The experiments only use things that can be found at home. They are designed to be easy to follow and great fun.

The experiments are on the Primary Science Teaching Trust website. You will need to scroll down the page to find them.

<https://pstt.org.uk/resources/curriculum-materials/Science-Fun-at-Home>

Dinner money

As a reminder, dinner money is £2.20 per day (£11.00 per week) and should be paid in advance.

Parents' Evenings

Parents' Evening appointments should be made online. We are hopeful that all the meetings will be in person.

External gate onto the park

We are aiming to reopen the gate onto the park at the end of the day starting from 19th April. We are currently looking at how to staff the gate in the morning and once this is sorted, we will let you know.

End of term

School term ends on Thursday 31st March and children return to school on Tuesday 19th April.

Yours sincerely,

Questions		Whole school		
		Total	%	
1	My child is happy at this school.	Strongly agree	286	52%
		Agree	250	45%
		Disagree	4	1%
		Strongly disagree	1	0%
		Don't know	4	1%
2	My child feels safe at this school.	Strongly agree	277	50%
		Agree	260	47%
		Disagree	5	1%
		Strongly disagree	0	0%
		Don't know	4	1%
3	The school makes sure its pupils are well behaved.	Strongly agree	209	38%
		Agree	288	52%
		Disagree	9	2%
		Strongly disagree	3	1%
		Don't know	34	6%
4	My child has been bullied.	Yes	50	9%
		No	420	76%
5	My child has been bullied and the school dealt with the bullying quickly and effectively.	Strongly agree	17	3%
		Agree	19	3%
		Disagree	12	2%
		Strongly disagree	0	0%
		Don't know	3	1%
6	The school makes me aware of what my child will learn during the year.	Strongly agree	189	34%
		Agree	291	53%
		Disagree	39	7%
		Strongly disagree	3	1%
		Don't know	23	4%
7	When I have raised concerns with the school they have been dealt with properly.	Strongly agree	176	32%
		Agree	283	51%
		Disagree	32	6%
		Strongly disagree	3	1%
		Don't know	49	9%
8	Does your child have special educational needs and/or disabilities (SEND)?	Yes	34	6%
		No	378	69%
9	My child has SEND, and the school gives them the support they need to succeed.	Strongly agree	16	3%
		Agree	15	3%
		Disagree	6	1%
		Strongly disagree	0	0%
		Don't know	0	0%
10	The school has high expectations for my child.	Strongly agree	156	28%
		Agree	278	51%
		Disagree	34	6%
		Strongly disagree	2	0%
		Don't know	68	12%
11	My child does well at this school.	Strongly agree	209	38%
		Agree	318	58%
		Disagree	8	1%
		Strongly disagree	1	0%
		Don't know	9	2%
12	The school lets me know how my child is doing.	Strongly agree	210	38%
		Agree	288	52%
		Disagree	31	6%
		Strongly disagree	3	1%
		Don't know	13	2%
13	There is a good range of subjects available to my child at this school.	Strongly agree	201	37%
		Agree	297	54%
		Disagree	11	2%
		Strongly disagree	0	0%
		Don't know	34	6%
14	My child can take part in clubs and activities at this school.	Strongly agree	216	39%
		Agree	286	52%
		Disagree	18	3%
		Strongly disagree	7	1%
		Don't know	18	3%
15	The school supports my child's wider personal development.	Strongly agree	167	30%
		Agree	287	52%
		Disagree	25	5%
		Strongly disagree	3	1%
		Don't know	63	11%
16	I would recommend this school to another parent.	Yes	521	95%
		No	10	2%
Response rate per focus group			550	55%
Total number on roll per focus group			1004	

Current opportunities for parents to find out about what their child is learning are: Year Leader meeting in September – this was not well attended, possibly due to Covid
Termly newsletters – these will change to half termly.

Hopefully once parents can come into school and view their children's books, our high expectations for every child will be evident.

We noticed that parents with children in Key Stage 1 noted that there were less opportunities – we will look at our offer of clubs in Key Stage 1.