

# Downs Infant School Newsletter

September 11<sup>th</sup> 2017

Welcome back to a new school year, and a special welcome to our new families in Reception. I hope you have felt as welcome as I have in my first week at Downs Infant School. It has been wonderful to start to get to know the children and staff. Mrs Arthur, our new Deputy Headteacher, and I will be on the gates most mornings, so do please say 'Hello'.

Dr Mitchell



## Learning Round Up

*It's been a lovely start to the school year. The children have come in so excited for the new term. Dr Mitchell and Mrs Arthur have both been so pleased to see the happy faces coming into school in the morning – even in the rain!*

The school has been full of pictures of the animals our classes are named after. Children have been learning about their animals, for example, making fact books about badgers and drawing and painting their animals. Most of the classes are starting to be decorated with their artwork – and the doors are now clearly identifiable by the pictures of the animals.

Year 2 have also been drawing themselves, following on from looking at the work of Quentin Blake. We have some very talented artists among us. Year 1 have been learning musical notation and we sang one of our learning songs together in assembly. Reception have been learning their way around the school and meeting the office staff.



## Values Focus for Autumn

This half term our values focus will be 'Resilience'. Children will be learning that they can learn from their mistakes; that they can 'bounce back' when things are difficult and the importance of stickability. You can support at home by helping children persevere and praising them for having a go at things they find hard.

For more information about all our values go to <http://downsinf.schooljotter2.com/>



**We have some children with SEVERE nut allergies. We are a NUT FREE school. Please do not send in food containing nuts.**



## School Dinners

Please be aware that we order our school dinners by 9.30am. If your child is going to be late, please do not assume they will be able to have a school dinner – our cook avoids wastage by preparing just the right amount. Please let us know in advance or send your child with a packed lunch that day.

## Dates for your diary (New/changed dates in red)

27/9 7pm Reading meeting for Reception parents

22/9 FODIS Teddy Bears' Picnic (Reception)

3/10 and 5/10 FODIS drinks for Reception parents

3/10 2.20pm Harvest assembly

13/10 FODIS Halloween disco

HALF TERM 16-27 October (**TWO** weeks)

6/12 School Christmas dinner

## Assembly Focus

This week we are having a whole school focus on 'good listening'. Children have looked at what makes a good listener and we have talked about how this helps us learn.



Please say 'Hello' to our new teachers... (and welcome to our new TAs too!)



Dr Mitchell, Headteacher and Mrs Arthur, Deputy Headteacher



Miss Hoten, Teacher in Kingfisher Class



Mr Hughes, Teacher in Hedgehog Class

A reminder that classroom doors open at 8.55, and your children need to be coming into their classroom at that time. As little as ten minutes late every day soon adds up: almost an hour of lost learning time per week, and a whole day per half term! It also makes an unsettled start to the day for the children. Please try to get your child in and settled on time.

**Thank You!**

