



Newsletter 16

Headlines

28/05/2021

Dates for your diary!

Summer Term 2021

HALF TERM 31st May-4th June

Sports Day Weds 30th June -
(TBC)

SUMMER FAIR - Friday 2nd
July

Transfer Day TBS - Mon 5th
July.

End of Term - Fri 23rd July

Autumn Term 2021

Training Days Thursday 2nd and
Fri 3rd September

Term start - Mon 6th Sept.

HALF TERM- 25th to 29th Oct

End of Term -Fri 17th Dec

Spring Term 2022

Term starts - Tues 4th Jan

HALF TERM 21st-25th Feb

End of Term - Fri 8th April

Training Days to be arranged

Dear parents/guardians,

A very busy end to the first half of Summer Term where we were very excited to have been able to take our UKS2 on a residential camping trip. Everyone had a fabulous time and a big thank you to the staff for making this happen.

Recent recruitment

I am *delighted* to be able to inform you of some recent recruitment and promotion decisions that have been made and will be part of the staff structure from September 2021.

Assistant Headteacher

Mrs Goodall will be the assistant headteacher after a recruitment process that was open to external candidates. Whilst retaining her SENDCo responsibilities, Mrs Goodall will oversee all pastoral matters and will also be aiming to revive our extra-curricular offer after the disruption of the last two years. Mrs Goodall will also take over as the Designated Safeguarding Lead supported by myself, Mrs Loveless and Miss Hoare as deputy designated safeguarding leads.

Classroom teacher

Mrs Le May has been appointed as a permanent classroom teacher following her successful training year.

Childcare Lead

Mrs Palmer has been promoted to Childcare Lead, so she will assume the day-to-day leadership of Dandelions Pre School (FS1) as part of the Foundation Stage Unit which Mrs Loveless has overall leadership of.

Senior Teaching Assistant

Mrs Haggar has been appointed to this new role with responsibilities including leading smaller groups of pupils and sharing good practice amongst the team.

I am very lucky to lead a team *full* of dedicated and caring professionals and the governing body and I are committed to providing further opportunities for professional growth in order to have effective succession planning.

COVID-19 Risk Management

Following the updated [government guidance](#) released to schools on 11 May, I have updated the school's risk assessment which can be found [here](#). The changes to the government guidance was not particularly extensive at this stage, though it did allow us to start day trips and residential trips. It also underlines the possibility of mixing 'packs' when undertaking sporting activities after school. Nevertheless, most of the core control measures remain, so our cautious approach continues. I have already briefed my staff on the need for continued vigilance for the time being, but I just wanted to politely inform parents of the continuation of certain safety measures until the next point in the roadmap out of lockdown – 21.6.21:

- Maintain specific drop off and pick up arrangements, including wearing of face coverings for adults;
- No routine mixing of pupils between 'packs' during the school day;
- Regular and thorough hand washing for all;
- Rigorous and focused cleaning;
- Protection against possible COVID-19 infected children or adults entering the school though effective communication and use of PCR tests upon request;
- Routine LFD tests, twice weekly for all adults working in school.

Half term contact tracing

Where pupils test positive for COVID-19 during half term, having developed symptoms *within 2 days* of being at school, parents are asked to contact the school using this email address [office@downlandsschool.org] using the header "COVID-19 Contact Tracing".

School attendance

In a year when school attendance has been so affected by matters beyond anyone's control, I am approaching the issue of maintaining standards with regards to school attendance with some caution. However, I would simply point out that all schools have been given a clear steer from the government that despite ongoing holiday booking problems for parents, schools should not authorise term time holidays unless there are exceptional circumstances: given that everyone has been impacted by recent lockdowns, the school cannot authorise term time holidays purely on the basis of COVID-19 disruption. Nevertheless, we are aware of the DFE guidance on [term time absence for service children](#) and that the operational needs of the Armed Forces which may legitimately prevent service families from taking leave during school holidays. As ever, I would ask parents to put any requests in writing with the understanding that Downlands School is subject to the same accountability on school attendance as all schools nationally.

In September, I will write to all parents in further detail about our (and Dorset Council's) policy on attendance and how we will communicate with parents across the year in order to offer support where needed.

Enjoy the half term break which promises some long overdue sunshine.

James Rielly
Headteacher

CALLING ALL SECRET AGENTS

MISSION TO SAVE NOTHE FORT

MONDAY 31ST MAY - SUNDAY 6TH JUNE

11AM - 3PM

It is believed a group of spies managed to gain access to Nothe Fort and have placed a bomb in the middle of the parade ground.

These spies are now in hiding...

Come join in the action at half term as we hunt for clues, crack secret codes to disarm the bomb and search for the whereabouts of the secret spies!

TOP SECRET

