

# DUNCOMBE PRIMARY SCHOOL

## SEPTEMBER 2009 NEWSLETTER

### **Welcome Back**

Welcome to another year at Duncombe Primary School. We have had a really marvelous start for all our children & staff. The children have arrived beautifully turned out; they are a real credit to you all as their parents. Please remember to insist on black shoes when you purchase new footwear for your children. There is the likelihood of confusion with some footwear as to whether it is a shoe or a trainer. A fairly good guide is does the shoe have a heel? Footwear with heels are generally shoes, those without could be trainers.

### **Religious Holidays**

We would like to wish a very happy Eid to all our children & families. When Eid falls on a school day a religious holiday may be taken for one day. As Eid fell on the weekend no school time should have been lost. A religious observance is just that, a time to reflect & possibly visit your place

of worship, **not a holiday from school**. All our children are entitled to 190 days education each year. To take a day off for a holiday or birthday is not acceptable & deprives a child of the education we are committed to provide and they are entitled to receive.

### **New Staff**

We have a new member of staff this year on secondment from Highbury Grove School, Nikki Garrard, their Head of Media has joined us for this year and will be working as part of our team of Year 6 teachers. We hope this partnership with our colleagues in Highbury Grove will continue in the future with members of staff spending time in each others schools. The importance of Primary & secondary Schools working in partnership cannot be underestimated. The safe & gentle transition of our precious children

to secondary schools is very important.

### **Daily Reading**

Please remember to mark your child's reading diary **every day**. We have very few children at Duncombe whose parents forget to read with their children & sign their diaries every day. Reading is the key to Literacy and success in life! Please insist your child reads before watching television or playing computer games in the evening. If you do ever forget then read **before** your child goes to school. When reading changes from a challenge to an enjoyable experience they have cracked it! Let's try & get all our children up to the enjoying reading level.

### **Nursery Extension**

During this term we are building an extension to our Nursery. We are hoping for as little disruption as possible. At times during the refurbishment, to ensure your safety you

may be required to use the main gate in the Junior playground & enter the school by the rear door into the ground floor hall. This will hopefully only occur occasionally & during the day. The demand for more teaching space at Duncombe becomes greater each year, as the school becomes more and more popular. Please bear with the building programme & help us to keep the disruption to the school & of course our neighbours to the minimum.

#### **School Web Site**

We have a wonderful Webb site maintained by Shelley Wragg. Please look up our site & talk to us about how we can make it more useful to you as parents.  
[www.duncombeprimary.co.uk](http://www.duncombeprimary.co.uk)

#### **Breakfast Club**

We have a few vacancies in our breakfast club at the moment, if you are interested in your child attending breakfast club, please call in and see Pauline or Jasmine in the morning from 8.00 a.m. until 8.30 a.m. Please note, children who

already attend Breakfast Club & arrive after 8.30 a.m. are too late for breakfast club, as breakfast is finished! They should go direct to the playground.

#### **SWES (Sussex Way Extended Schools)**

Anyone wishing to enrol for SWES should speak to Charmaine, SWES Manager or Jasmine, Assistant SWES Manager. Please remember our classes are a full one and half hours. We are not providing hap-hazard child care; we are providing educational experiences from 4.00 p.m. - 5.30 p.m. Please ensure that you do not collect your child until 5.30 p.m. Only in emergencies should children be collected before classes end.

#### **Children Being Collected Late from School**

The school day finishes at 3.30 p.m. which is when parents should be in the playground ready to collect their children. As has long been the tradition and rule at Duncombe, any child not collected by **3.45 p.m. at the latest will be**

**issued with a £5.00 fine (per child).** This process is closely monitored & any parents who are found to be collecting their children late on a regular basis will be referred to the Education Welfare Department.

#### **Uniform Shop**

Our next uniform shop will be held on Wednesday 7<sup>th</sup> October 2009 from 9.00 a.m. until 10.00 a.m.

#### **Term Dates**

Please find attached our term dates for this academic year. Please keep them in a safe place to enable you to refer to them during the school year.

#### **Parents Evening**

On Thursday 5<sup>th</sup> November 2009, we will be holding our first Parents Evening of the new school year. The evening will run from 3.45 until 8.45 p.m. and we hope that every child is represented by a parent or responsible adult. We would rather see an elder brother or sister of 17 years or over rather than no one if you really cannot

come. Although we will be discussing your child's academic progress, our priority this term will be to talk about your child's ambition and how we need to work together - parent-child and school in order for them to achieve them. All appointments will be limited strictly to ten minutes; please do not hold others up by staying over your time.

### **Children who are Unwell**

If your child is unwell please do not send them into school, if they do come into school they will be expected to participate in all the curriculum activities that their class is taking that day i.e. PE, swimming etc. There have been a couple of occasions recently where children have come into school and their parents have said their child is unwell and told the office to phone if they felt ill again. Needless to say all these children come to complain about being ill, it would be easier for all if you only send your child into school if they are well and capable of

### **partaking in the entire curriculum.**

#### **Parents Governor Vacancies**

We currently have vacancies for 2 Parent Governors, which we need to fill as soon as possible. Duncombe has always aimed for a partnership with parents which undoubtedly bring great benefits to the children. One of the most significant ways you can help in promoting this aim is to volunteer to be a Parent Governor. The Governing Body's main tasks are to ensure that pupils receive high quality education and to support the school. Whilst specialist knowledge or relevant experience is useful, common sense and willingness to give time are key requisites. If you are interested in becoming a Parent Governor, please speak to either Mr. O'Shea or one of the staff in the school office for a nomination form.

#### **Education Business Partnership Challenge Day**

We once again had a wonderful day with

nearly 30 accountants from Kingston Smith. Last year it was the wonderful Emperors Army. This year we made mud rock models to go with the story of the Very Hungry Caterpillar. Over 180 Children were involved and great enjoyment was had by all. **Many apologies come from both the school and Kingston Smith for any children who unfortunately had paint on their uniform.** Many thanks go to the parents who gave advice about preventing this in the future. Many thanks also go to Lorraine and her Parent Art Group for making the day such a success.

#### **Half Term**

We break up for the half term holiday on Friday 23<sup>rd</sup> October 2009 & children return to school on Tuesday 3<sup>rd</sup> November 2009

