

## NEWSLETTER

November 2018

Dear Parents and Carers,

As we push forwards towards the end of the Autumn term we are as busy as ever here at school. The children are energetically engaged in learning as well as all of the Christmas preparations including making items for the Christmas Fayre, Preparing decorations for the school along with production rehearsals. There is really is no time to spare here at Downsbrook! Christmas seems to have descended in a flurry of activity and its lovely to see everyone joining in happily and willingly. It really is a time when the whole school comes together with the local community in a feeling of unity around our amazing children. Don't forget to check the dates for our upcoming performances as well as our 'Wear it Festive' Christmas Lunch.

Ms Jeffrey

### ***SENSORY GARDEN UPDATE!***

Work on the sensory garden has continued in recent weeks and our University volunteers have expertly laid a tactile, multi surfaced sensory path and have also painted the walls. Bark chippings have been laid as well as the start of a raised reading deck. The work will need to stop whilst the students are away continuing their studies. They will return to complete the project in February.



### ***FOREST SCHOOL NEWS***

We are delighted to be able to let you know that work is scheduled to begin this weekend to clear the overgrown outdoor area which will form the basis of our future first school provision here on site. The clearance of the site is being completed by external volunteers. The work will take place in phases and a plan of implementation is currently being put together to schedule the different jobs in the correct order. Huge thanks to the staff here at school who are also giving up their time this weekend to support and to Mr Boulding who is leading on this. Further information will follow in the coming weeks.



## CHRISTMAS HAS ARRIVED!

This week, we saw the arrival of our three real Christmas trees! We are incredibly grateful to the lovely local businesses of Broadwater who have been so kind in sponsoring a tree each as well as Strand Nursery PK Plants for delivering them for free and loaning us the tree stands! In addition, we are very grateful to Our very own Friends of Downsbrook who have kindly funded the purchase of gorgeous new tree decorations! Please see the details overleaf about our generous local business supporters



## COMPETITION WINNERS!

**Have you ever wondered why we have a Red Telephone Box?  
Have you ever thought about how we could put it to good use?  
If you had the choice, what would you use it for?**

We are delighted to announce that after sifting through over 40 entries we have chosen the winner and runner up for our Telephone Box Competition! The choice was a very tough one given the number of brilliant suggestions that we received. Our first prize goes to Gwen Anscombe in Hockney Class who suggested we use it as a mini book swap library for children to swap their own books. Gwen will receive 4 tickets to see Aladdin at Worthing Pavillion. Our Runner up prize of a £10 book token goes to Esme Quidus of Ravilious who suggested we use it as a letter exchange. Congratulations to them both along with all of the children who entered the competition. Prizes will be given during assembly on Monday.



## WORTHING SCHOOLS CROSS COUNTRY

Congratulations to all of our children who took part in the Worthing Schools Cross Country events at the Gallops earlier this month. It was a damp start but the children's spirits and energy levels were both high! It was lovely to see so many parents cheering at the sidelines. Thanks to Mr Buchanaan, Mrs Ried and Mrs Pullen who all attended and offered support on the day.



## Our Tree and Fayre Sponsors

**Dave Hunt Leisure;** Local supplier of Bouncy Castles, Childrens Rides and Attractions, and Disco's, including the Downsbrook Disco's and events. Established in 1989, we supply Equipment to all types of event or Function, from a Bouncy Castle, to a full size Funfair. Call 07711 242887, or checkout the website at [www.dshleisure.co.uk](http://www.dshleisure.co.uk)

**Cutting Edge Hairdressers,** 50, Broadwater Street East, Worthing. Now in their 21<sup>st</sup> year of operation, serving the local community, Jan and Charlotte Hunt and their team, go the extra mile to style your hair exactly as you want it. Whether its a Cut and Blow Dry, or a Full Wedding package, this is the only salon you need. Call for appointments on 01903 234380.

**Beaumont Fish Bar,** 54, Broadwater Street East. When it comes to Britains favourite take away food, there is nowhere better locally than the Beaumont Fish Bar. All food is prepared fresh on the premises, using locally caught Fish and top quality ingredients, they also deliver, so that you dont have to leave the house. Check out their menu and order online at [www.beaumontfish.co.uk](http://www.beaumontfish.co.uk) or via Justeat, you can phone your order through on 01903 237125.

**W. Welch Estate Agents** - established in 2014. They provide a specialist search consultancy and specialise in residential property. Their coverage of property stretches across West Sussex and the South Coast. Chapel Road, Worthing. 01903898 000

Huge Thanks to all!

## Reading Diary Focus

We are currently reviewing the use of Reading Diaries through the school and can see that there are often times when children are not completing them. There are also times when adults, both parents and school staff are not signing in diaries each week.

To ensure that we can work together to promote reading it would be helpful if we could all encourage all children to read at home every night and to have their diary completed. In KS1 this should be completed by an adult at home and in KS2 children should be writing in their own diary. This should include the name of the book reads, the pages and a short comment about the book. I have asked adults in all classes to ensure that we are also signing reading diaries at least once a week.

If you are using the diary to write notes to the class teacher please could you remind your child to show the diary to the teacher on arrival at school. This is because the teacher might only check the diaries for one group per day or the whole class once a week. We would not want to miss a note unintentionally.

Added below are a list of ideas that you could use when writing in your child's reading diary.

We discussed ..... (author, illustrator, publisher)

We spoke about what might happen next.

We looked at the cover and the blurb and talked about what might happen (if you can, record what their ideas were)

We chatted about the meaning of the word .....

We spoke about favourite characters in the book and why.

We discussed whether they liked the story or not and why.

We talked about the difference between fiction and nonfiction.

We chatted about the features of nonfiction (title, photos, facts).

We thought about other books we have read that are similar – maybe give examples of the comparisons.

We could retell the story remembering the order things happened in the book.

Read fluently these words...

Sounded out these words....

Found the book easy or tricky.

We discussed why the author chose certain words.

### ROAD SAFETY UPDATE

Recently, we have seen a rise in complaints from both residents and other parents regarding the parking and dropping off of children on Penfold road. The local authority parking enforcement team have visited several times recently and have asked the school to consider closing the Penfold road entrance. This would mean all children entering from the far end of the field. Obviously, this is not something that we want to do as to do this would require the school to install a new concrete path along the edge of the field from the double gates which are currently only used on rare occasions. Please can we ask that in order for us to keep the Penfold road gate open that parents who drive take greater care when parking or consider if possible walking or parking further away.



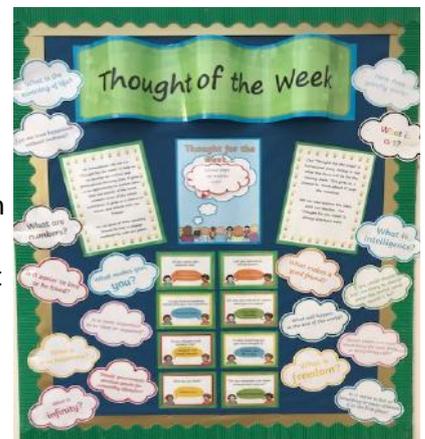
**Please remember to slow down when driving near the school and please do not park on the zig zag areas.**

### **Downsbrook School Library**

It's great to be able to announce that the relocated school library is now fully up and running having been re-catalogued by a wonderful group of parent volunteers! Thank you all so much for your support and for spending so many hours getting everything ready for the launch of Accelerated Reader which will be happening in the new year. Thank you also to Mrs Gosbee for all her time and efforts!  
For more information please visit <http://www.renlearn.co.uk/accelerated-reader/>

### **THOUGHT OF THE WEEK**

We began this month by launching our new Thought for the Week. Every week a new thought is posed in assembly for the children to consider and discuss during Early Work and at other points in the school week. Here is a picture of our display board.



### New School Prospectus

We are pleased to announce that the new school prospectus is now available on the school website. This has been really helpful when hosting our enormously successful Reception / EYFS Open events this month. The prospectus forms just part of our new publicity drive and we will be looking to make key improvements to our website over the coming months.

No. **39**

15% Off Wednesdays, Thursdays & Sundays for all staff & pupils at Downsbrook Primary School.

Quote DB15.

@no.39barbers  
4 New Broadway, Tarring Road, Worthing, BN11 4HP

### **DIARY DATES (Including Christmas Shows)**

**Wednesday 12th December 1:30pm** - Year 2,3,4 Panto  
**Thursday 13th December 9:30am** - Reception / Year 1 Nativity  
**Thursday 13th December 2pm** - Year 5 / 6 Carols @ **Broadwater Baptist Church**  
**Friday 14th December 9:30am** - Year 2,3,4 Panto  
**Friday 14th December 2:00pm** - Reception / Year 1 Nativity  
**Wednesday 19th December** - End of Autumn Term

### **SPRING TERM DATES**

**Term Starts:** Thursday 3rd January 2019  
**Half term:** Monday 18th February to Fri 22 February  
**INSET DAY:** Monday 25th February  
**Return to school:** Tuesday 26th February

### We Still Need Fabric!

Do you have any large pieces of fabric that are not needed? We are looking for plain and patterned fabrics that can be used to liven up displays and common areas around the school. Tablecloths and curtains that are no longer needed but in good condition would be helpful!

Please give any donations of fabric to the school office

Thank you!

# Online Safety Newsletter: December 2018

## What games are your children playing?

Children often ask to play games based on what other children are playing which may mean they ask to play a game that is not always age appropriate for them. Childnet recommend that you talk to other parents first because you may find that actually whilst a lot of children are talking about a game, they're not actually playing it! Childnet also suggest that in order to make an informed decision about whether your child should play a game you should:

- 1) **Research** – what is the PEGI rating for the game? Can people contact your child through the game? Childnet recommend looking at other parent reviews on <https://www.common sense media.org/>.
- 2) **Discuss** – talk to your child to find out why they want to play the game and maybe offer some more age appropriate alternatives.
- 3) **Explain** – Childnet stress how important it is to talk to your child and explain to them why you have deemed a game unsuitable.

(Source: <https://www.childnet.com/blog/answering-parents-online-safety-questions->)

## How does your child behave online?

One of the issues we see spilling over into the classroom is friends being unkind to each other whilst playing online. The very nature of online games means that it is very easy to send a nasty message in the heat of the moment and not think about the immediate consequences. **How do you think your child would behave when they lose at their favourite game?** Talk to your children about losing, talk about how they communicate online, sit with them whilst they play their games and review their conversations to make sure they are being positive digital citizens.

## Know your PEGI ratings:

All games within the UK are given a PEGI rating of age 3, 7, 12, 16, or 18. This tells you who the game is suitable for based on the type of content you'll see when playing. Further indicators on the game's packaging explain why it's been given its rating. Find out more information here:

<http://www.askaboutgames.com/pegi-rating/>



## What video games are suitable?

Ask About Games have compiled this great list of video games by PEGI age rating so you can find a suitable game to buy based on your child's age:

<http://www.askaboutgames.com/discover-2018s-amazing-video-games-for-your-family/>



# Parental Controls

Fortnite is still a big obsession with lots of young people and as a result of this popularity, lots of fake websites now exist offering free V bucks. V bucks are the in-game currency that can be spent within Fortnite to unlock additional content or purchase items.

Some sites have been created to try and obtain personal information such as usernames and passwords and even credit card details all under the pretense that you will receive free V bucks. These websites should not be trusted and it is important you talk to your children about how to spot and avoid scams online.

This article details how to protect your child from potential "Fortnite" Scams:

<https://www.common sense media.org/blog/how-to-protect-your-kid-from-fortnite-scams>

## The T Shirt Rule



Christmas often means our children receive new technology so when setting up any item, make sure you set up parental controls to help keep your child safe. Parental Controls help you control what your child is able to access on line so by setting up these controls, children are less likely to see things they shouldn't.

Internet Matters have created over 70 parental control 'how-to guides' for major networks (e.g EE), devices (e.g Xbox, iPad) and entertainment providers (e.g. Netflix). These guides provide you with simple step by step instructions and are available here:

<https://www.internetmatters.org/parental-controls/>

**Parental Controls are important in order to minimise risks online, but no system is completely effective so ensure your child knows that they can talk to you about anything they see online.**



## What are you sharing online?

In a recent report, 'Who Knows What About Me' the Children's Commissioner found that:

- Parents share around 71 photos and 29 videos of their child every year on social media.
- By the age of 13, a child's parents will have posted on average 1,300 photos and videos of them to social media.
- Many parents share their photos with strangers: a fifth have public Facebook profiles and over half of parents are Facebook friends with people they do not really know.