



Dear Parents and Carers,

The first week after the half term holiday has flown by, and it feels as though we are already in the thick of things planning events for the upcoming half term.

Our **Christmas Bazaar** is looming large on Saturday 23rd November at the Downley site, 12 noon until 3pm. Hopefully you have seen the letters coming home to you requesting gifts and informing you of the Mufti day on Friday 15th.

We do recognise this clashes with Children In Need, and departments/classes will be in touch about anything specific they will be doing in this regard, but the Mufti day is about our own Christmas Bazaar, and we are asking for tombola prizes as parental donation please. Our thanks to all those who have attended meetings and are helping us with preparations, a reminder we have one more meeting before the big day, again on Friday 15th November at 9:30 am on the Downley site. Please also sell the raffle tickets that have been sent home – we can provide more if they are needed!

Some good news to share that due to lobbying from parents and the school our Cressex site will **not** be used as a polling station for the upcoming General Election. School will operate on both sites as normal (Kite Ridge next door are now the polling station for information).

A reminder to all parents who transport their own children to and from school – can we remind you please to park in the allocated areas for pick up, and also to not leave engines running on the school grounds. We are conscious of the negative impact on everyone's health of doing so, and it is worth reminding ourselves this is at least as bad for those in the car as those outside. We do appreciate it is getting colder, but this is an instance where we want to put health above comfort, and in specific circumstances you can wait inside the school building rather than in the car. We are grateful for your assistance with this.

Bradley Taylor (Headteacher)

Autumn Term 2019 dates

Monday 4th November – Thursday 19th December

Other dates for Parents:

12th September – 14th November – Every Wednesday – Stepping Stones Parenting

Thursday 14 November - Zones of Regulation & Social Thinking – Downley - 9.30-11am

Wednesday 20 November - South Bucks Coffee Morning, - off site at Gerrards Cross – Details to follow

Thursday 21st November - 9.15am - PPP workshop for parents at Downley Site.

Thursday 28th November - 9.15am - PPP workshop for parents at Cressex Site.

Community GROW project

Sheila Bees of Community GROW said "Following a successful event refreshing the Post 16 (Flat 24) outside area in September, staff from Opel Vauxhall

Finance offered to take on another area for 'reimagining'. With only 4 volunteers plus Sheila and Richard from Community GROW we managed to complete the weeding and painting as well as removing the ivy and laurels to open up the area. On top off this, we created a new path from Flat 24 garden area and planted bulbs and primulas to brighten up the dark corner".



"If any parents would like to join us, we hope to return in early 2020 to lay sleepers to create beds for flowers and vegetable outside flat 22, so call me on 07989 571380. Even if you have never done anything like this before, don't worry, we will show you what to do.

We look forward to hearing from you as it is great fun and we learn new skills from one another".

Change to May Bank Holiday 2020

The early May Bank Holiday in 2020 will move from Monday 4th May to Friday 8th May to mark the 75th anniversary of VE Day. Make a note in your diaries!

News from around the school

Rainbow

Welcome back following half term. I hope you had a wonderful time with your children. It has been great to see some of the things they have been up to. As previously mentioned we are keen to share your home 'wow moments'. Please do send these in along with any photographs you have as these are all incorporated into the Learning Journals for each of the children. We have lots to look forward to this term. Our topic is 'Once upon a time' where we will be focusing on fairy tales. Towards the end of the term we have organised a trip to the cinema. A letter will be coming out in due course with regards to this. Have a lovely weekend, Hannah

Little Wings

Welcome back! We hope you all had an enjoyable and restful half term. It's that time of year again, and we very much look forward to seeing lots of families at our Christmas Bazaar on 23rd November. It is always a great opportunity for parents who are new to our school to meet and share experiences. On Thursday 14th November, Little Wings will be celebrating Children in Need with a carousel of activities in the afternoon. If you would like to contribute to our Children in Need collection, please send in a £1 for the pupils to donate when they arrive. Many thanks! Claire

Treetops

It was great seeing all the students coming back on Monday and seeing them all looking very happy. I hope you all had a good half term despite the weather being quite mixed! This term Eagle class started going to Forest school which they all really enjoyed. They also continue to go to Sainsbury's on the public bus and buy their own lunch. Hawk class have also been enjoying travel training and catching the bus into town to buy their lunches. They have also been working hard on completing a variety of chores including hoovering, making the bed and recycling. Kestrel class walked to ASDA to buy our ingredients this week for vegetable stir fry and banoffee pie that we will be making next week. Owl class have continued to enjoy being out and about particularly at Forest school and working on their fine motor skills when dressing and undressing. Have a good weekend. David

Coppice

Welcome back- I hope you have all had a lovely half term break and are ready for a fun filled half term leading up to Christmas. It has been lovely hearing about everyone's holidays and seeing children making bonfire art! Coppice department would like to give a huge thank you to Chris a volunteer who has been making some stairs so that one of our students can access higher counters and interactive white boards. We are very excited to see the end product! Salma

Woodlands

Are you aware of the Changing Places campaign? As many of you know, standard accessible toilets do not meet the needs of all people with a disability. The Changing Places Consortium state that 'To use the toilet is safety and comfort, many people need to be able to access Changing Places, which have more space and the right equipment, including a height adjustable changing bench and hoist.' There are now just over 1.300 Changing Places Toilets in the UK and the Changing Places Consortium are campaigning for more. The website www.changing-places.org enables you to search for Changing Places. I discovered that there is one in the Eden Centre and one in Tesco in Amersham. Amanda

Support Staff

A busy half term for the premises team. Andrew has decorated several rooms in Rainbow Department and levelled the footpath. Michelle has done a superb job of co-ordinating numerous contractors who have been busy chopping down trees, updating emergency lighting and improving the drains. We say farewell to Dara in the office on Friday, we will be sad to see her go and would like to thank her for all her hard work over the last twelve months. Susanna will be starting with us on Monday and I am sure you will be getting to know her over the next few weeks. Caroline will also be taking over the lettings from Dara as of this week. Caroline already comes with a vast amount of knowledge in this area due to her previous incarnations. Thank you Caroline for picking this up. Sheila Bees from the Community Grow project and her volunteers have transformed the garden of flat 22. It will be a lovely area for the pupils to enjoy when the weather improves. Vicky

Gemstones

Lovely to see the children back after Half term. The School diary is filling up with events and activities in the run up to the end of term and Christmas. Next Friday we will be holding a Children in Need event in the hall. Plans are being made for the Christmas Show and preparations made for the Christmas Bazaar. It's going to be a busy but fun half term! Sarah

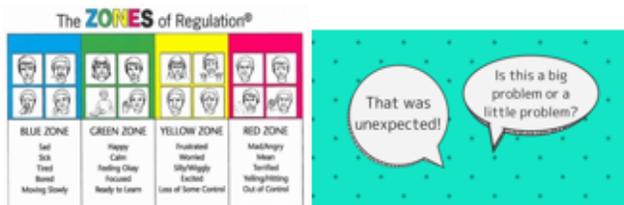
Zones of Regulation and Social Thinking Workshop

Thursday 14th November

9:30- 11am

These approaches are mainly being used with our Coppice and Gemstones pupils but all parents are welcome!

At the Downley Site



It will be a practical session, providing information and ideas of how to use these approaches at home with your child

Run by our Speech and Language Therapists

Coppice Department – set of steps made by Chris, a volunteer

