



Parent Link

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Issue 20
16th September
2022



Dear Parents and Carers,

It really is so wonderful to be back at school after the summer holidays. I have had so many staff talk about how nice it is to get back into routine and most of all to spend time with the children.

A very warm welcome to all our new parents and carers. I look forward to meeting some of you at the upcoming events. Although I cannot make the Coffee Morning on Tuesday at Cressex next week, I will be looking forward to seeing anyone who can come to Downley on Wednesday. I also enjoy being part of The Friends of Chiltern Wood and would ask anyone who is interested to put Monday 3rd October as a date in the diary for our first meeting at 7pm. This will take place at Downley, but will also be available for a Teams link. We are looking forward to making money and memories together.

The staff and two of our Governors (over 180) were all able to be together on Friday 2nd September as part of our first of three training days. It was fantastic to catch up, plan and think about how we can move forward together as a school.

Over the summer some staff found exciting new opportunities and will be leaving us at the end of this month. We wish them all well:

- Ellie G – TA
- Mia - TA
- Tracie W – Mid-Day Supervisor
- Susana – Admin Officer
- Vicki G – HR and Operations Manager

As a positive we welcome several new staff and congratulate three staff on long service awards:

- Chantelle – 10 years
- Sharon – 10 years
- Susan – 15 years

Finally we will be moving our school newsletters to once a month, roughly the second Friday each month. You will still hear about all the exciting events and we will continue to keep up our communication via all the other platforms with you.

As always, please feel free to get in touch with me and my staff

Rachel Chapman



Calendar dates

**Autumn Term 2022 – Wednesday 7th September
to Tuesday 20th December 2022**

Half term holiday

Monday 24th October to Friday 28th October 2022

News from the Parent Ambassador

Welcome to our new parents and welcome back to our existing parents.

As Parent Ambassador, I am here to support you in your role as parents whether that's through arranging relevant training or through one-to-one support or signposting to other agencies who can help. I work Tuesday, Wednesday and Thursday mornings and I'm usually found at the Cressex site. I can be contacted via the office or via e-mail lwebber@chilternwood.bucks.sch.uk

I also co-ordinate our Parent Volunteers team. We meet Thursday mornings (9-10.30am) at the Cressex site and provide admin/craft preparation support to our teachers, as well as gardening and various other jobs, whilst enjoying a good natter too! If you would be interested in finding out more, please do get in touch with me.

This term, I will be sending out a survey to find out how I can help to support you in your parenting role, as well as arranging our Professionals Fayre, which takes place on Wednesday 9th November (9.30-11am). We are gathering lots of SEND professionals from a variety of places to come along and share about their work and how they can help and support you. It's definitely a date for the diary!

In the meantime, we also have a couple of coffee mornings coming up next week (one at each site) as a chance for parents to meet one another and to meet staff from the school. Do come along if you can.

I look forward to meeting you all soon. Liz

Did you know, every time you shop with AMAZON SMILE, you are helping to raise funds for our charity FRIENDS OF CHILTERNWOOD. You just need to shop at smile.amazon.co.uk to keep helping us on this mission. Thank you.

News from around the school

Little Wings

Welcome to our new parents in Little Wings and welcome back to returning parents. I hope all of you have had a great summer!

It is lovely to see how both new and older pupils have settled in again after the summer. All new pupils are doing great during their transition period and they are all building beautiful relationships with their class teams. This term we are likely to see a change in the weather, please make sure that pupils have spare clothes and clothes for all weather conditions as we do lots of our learning outside! Wellies and waterproofs are a benefit to this!

As a Department we will love to hear all about your weekends and home learning activities so, it will be great if you could share some photos in ClassDojo to add to your child's learning journal.

Have a lovely weekend, Patri.

Gemstones

Wonderful to welcome back our little Gems to school, and to welcome our new pupils, we look forward to getting to know all our new pupils over the next few weeks. New routines are being established and new relationships being forged. Staff are already planning and delivering exciting lessons and activities. We welcomed back Jo our yoga teacher on Wednesday, she will be with us every Wednesday afternoon for some of our pupils to have a session with her. DoJo is our main means of communication so if you have not joined your class group, please do so. Sarah

Rainbow

Hello and a warm welcome back, especially to our new parents. I hope you all had a wonderful Summer with your children. It has been lovely to see how well the children have settled into their new routines and already forming bonds with staff. We are all very excited for the new term ahead and have lots of fun and engaging activities planned. Sam

Coppice

Students across the department have been settling in well and it has been great to see them enjoying learning and having fun when I have been visiting classes. Across the department students will be focusing on developing communication, life skills and enjoying their new stories. Falcon and Red Kite will be focusing on their topic 'All About Me' and Deer and Squirrel enjoying looking at 'Kes Grey Books.' Have a good weekend. David

Woodlands

A big warm welcome back to all of our pupils in Woodland department. It has been wonderful to see all the classes getting settled back in and ready for this term's topic of 'Whizz, Pop, Sparkle'. I have seen some beautiful tinsel displays going up which not only look lovely but are a great tactile sensory experience! If your young person has anything linked to the topic at home that they would like to share with their friends, we would love to see! Thank you, Kara.

Treetops

It was great to welcome back the students last Wednesday and see them settling into their new classes. Classes will be focusing on developing their life skills, communication and independence this term through cooking sessions, community walks, Forest School, PE and functional maths and literacy skills. Please do contact your class teacher if you are not sure about anything that is going on this term. Have a good weekend. David

Health & Therapies Team

The OT team would like to say a huge thank you to Jabin's mum who made us some fabulous resources over the summer. We look forward to using them very soon.



New School Year Coffee Morning for Cressex Parents

On: Tuesday 20th September

From: 9.15–10.30am

Venue: Dining Room at Cressex

**A great chance to meet
other parents and staff
from the school**



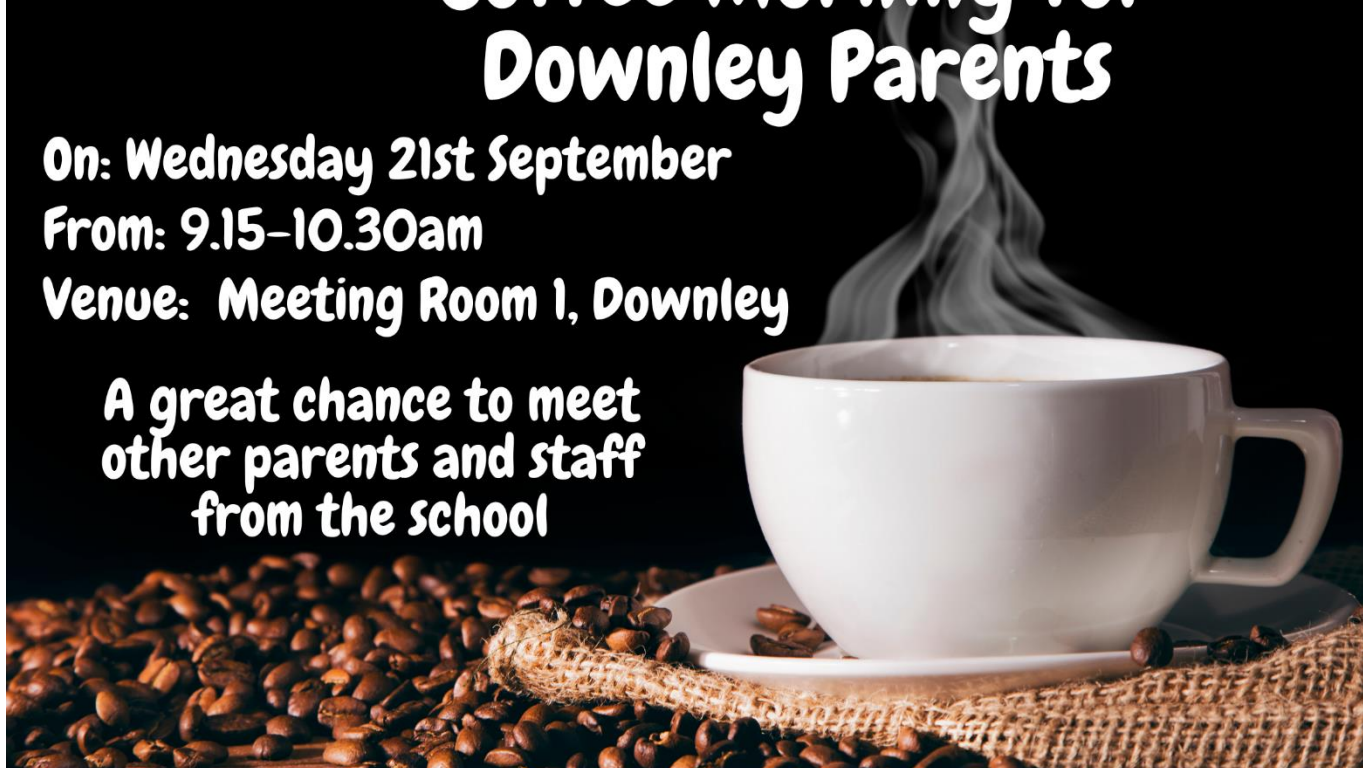
New School Year Coffee Morning for Downley Parents

On: Wednesday 21st September

From: 9.15–10.30am

Venue: Meeting Room 1, Downley

**A great chance to meet
other parents and staff
from the school**



ACCESSING PUBLIC SERVICES WORKSHOP

This workshop will give you the tools (including template letters) to access health, social care and other services for your child, such as:

- Direct payments
- Respite care
- Disabled Facilities Grants
- and School transport

By the end of the workshop, you will be able to Identify and find solutions to commonly occurring problems in accessing services for your family.

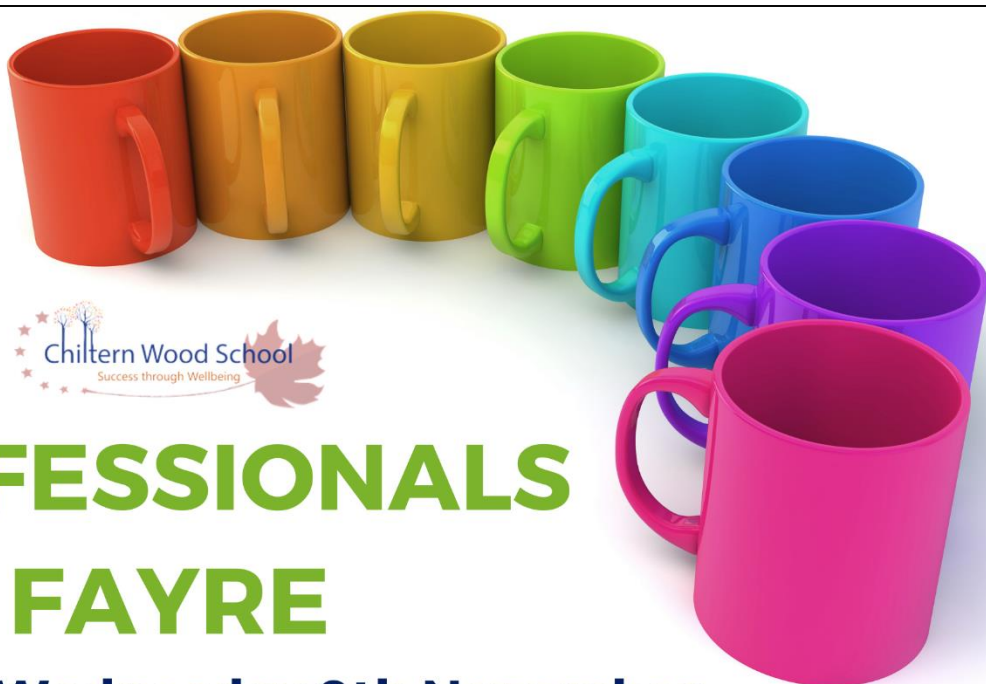
On Tuesday 11th October from 10am-12.30pm online

Please book a space by e-mailing

Lwebber@chilternwood.bucks.sch.uk



Workshop run by:



PROFESSIONALS FAYRE

**Wednesday 9th November
9.30-11am at Downley School Hall**

**Come and meet a variety of professionals who provide
services to families with children with SEND.**



Become a Parent Volunteer

Support your child's
education through
supporting the school,
whilst meeting other
parents and having fun!

We meet on Thursday mornings from
9-10.30am at Cressex site

For more information or to join our team,
contact Liz Webber, our Parent Ambassador by
phone: 01494 532621 (Cressex site)
or e-mail: lwebber@chilternwood.bucks.sch.uk