



PARK WOOD SCHOOLS FEDERATION
HEADTEACHERS NEWSLETTER
OCTOBER 2017

CONGRATULATIONS to Dover House, who are this term's Top House Team. This means Dover House children will be able to wear their own clothes on Friday 3rd November.

ATTENDANCE

Our highest attendance this term is Caterpillar with 98.8% and Giraffe with 98.3%. Well done to both classes.

I wanted to say a really big thank you on behalf of the school and our Admin Staff, who work closely with parents on matters involving requests for absence. As a school, we appreciate honesty and an open dialogue about the conditions under which absence from school are granted, which are for exceptional circumstances and not for holidays. This is not to say holidays can't be taken, only that the school cannot authorise them. Should they be taken, it is the local authority which makes the decision to fine parents and any fines which are issued do not go to the school, which benefits in no way. We want to keep attendance high, but we also want to make it clear that at all times we encourage honesty when it comes to those requests. Mrs Russell in the school office is always happy to answer more general questions on these issues that parents may have.

MEDWAY AND KENT TESTS

I wanted to say a big thank you to the Year 6 children who sat either the Medway or Kent '11 plus' tests recently. The children behaved very well and although this is a stressful time for children and families, not made easier by the late results for the Medway test, or the ongoing review process for a number of children, we couldn't be prouder of how our pupils and parents have approached this.

Regardless of whether children took the tests, or got selected for grammar education, we are proud of all our year 6's and we know that such a thoughtful and engaging group of young people will be successful at whatever they set out to do.

THOUGHTFUL DRIVERS

I spent a number of days in September marshalling traffic at the front of the school. Aside from a small number of very apologetic parents who needed reminding not to park in front of the gates or on the pavements, it was a very calm and sensible start to the school day.

What is worth noting is that since there seems to be fewer instances of parents taking unnecessary risks at the start of the day in terms of where they stop, the number of children who have been late has actually gone down considerably.

Thank you to all those parents who are so considerate and helpful at such a busy time of day. Following on from this, could I ask that all parents park sensibly in neighbouring roads and respect the views and rights of the residents who live there.

PARENTS EVENING – A NEW APPROACH

Over recent years, we have been able to hold parents evenings on the days that teachers have Planning, Preparation and Assessment days. We are no longer able to give year groups of teachers the same day to do this, so we need a new approach to Parents Consultation days.

As a result, for this year parents consultations will be in the school hall for all year groups, with the exception of Foundation Stage, who arrange meetings with parents differently.

Parents will have the option of evening meetings over successive Thursdays or morning meetings on the following day.

Teachers will try to work as many meetings in the time they have available and if they are unable to accommodate all meetings, they will suggest a separate meeting at a later date.

Can I ask all parents to be patient in terms of this new arrangement and also ask that children do not attend the meetings, as there will not be space available.

Parents Evenings will take place on November 9th and 16th and morning appointments will be available on November 10th and 17th.

Further details and a letter to book specific times will be coming out to parents at the start of the first week of Term 2.

TUESDAYS

Could parents please be aware that teachers have a staff meeting immediately after school on Tuesdays and therefore, aside from emergencies, could appointments be avoided at these times.

SPORTING SUCCESS

Congratulations to our cross country team, some of our best results included several children who have finished in the top five and top ten, giving us a great change of doing very well in the team prize. Our football team, should be congratulated for their very impressive 5 – 0 in their match against Mierscourt. Very well done!

Well done to the Tri Golf Team, who successfully finished fifth out of nearly 20 teams.

PSA

A massive thank you to the PSA, following their annual general meeting and another successful year, which has allowed the minibus to keep running and all the trips and visits which have resulted from this.

It has been great to see such a positive approach by this highly engaged group of parents but it would be great to get even more people involved.

Part of the success has been down to information being shared via class list and I would urge any parents who are yet to sign up, to do so, in order to be fully aware of the work of our very active parent community.

LOST PROPERTY

Could all parents please check their own children's clothing to ensure they haven't taken home another children's clothing.

DIARY DATES INFANT AND JUNIOR SCHOOL

20 Oct	Last Day of Term
30 Oct	Term 2 – Children back to school Flu Immunisation
31 Oct	Year 2 trip – Morning Foundation Stage – Nurse Checks
1 Nov	Year 2 trip – Morning
2 Nov	Year 2 trip – Morning Foundation Stage – Nurse Checks Halloween Disco Year 3 & 4 3.30 – 5.00pm Halloween Disco Year 5 & 6 5.30 – 7.00pm
3 Nov	Foundation Stage – Nurse Checks
6 Nov	Parent Consultations all week
7 Nov	"Fun with Phonics" 2.15 – 3.00pm Foundation Stage
8 Nov	Year 5 Trip
10 Nov	Year 3 – 'Stone Age' Dress up Day
13 Nov	Parent Consultation all week
14 Nov	School Tour for New Parents September 2018 – 9.15am School Tour for New Parents September 2018 – 2.00pm
16 Nov	School Tour for New Parents September 2018 – 9.15pm School Tour for New Parents September 2018 – 2.00pm
17 Nov	Foundation Stage Dress up Day – Nursery Rhyme
22 Nov	Foundation Stage Welcome Party 3.30 -4.30pm

Mr A Moir
Headteacher

