

Tuesday 31st October 2023

Message from the Head Teacher

Welcome back! I do hope you all had a restful and enjoyable half term break and are ready for our new term – Autumn 2.

Last half term was so busy! Thank you to our staff, children and school community, for making Autumn 1 a great success. The children worked extremely hard and produced work across the curriculum that they should be especially proud of. As a school that places a great priority on Reading, it was great to see the children's pleasure for reading through their visits to Leyton Library.

There are lots more experiences and learning to look forward to in the term ahead and we are so pleased to be able to share this with our families and communities.

Mr Chetty

Children's Rights

This half term we will be discussing Article 2 from the Children's Rights.

Article 2 states that all children have the right to be protected from discrimination. This means that all children regardless of their gender, beliefs, religion and race have the right to be protected.

We will link this article to our work on anti-bullying and being kind to each other; showing the children that we should strive to be kind to others and not discriminate.



End of year whole school trip

Over the last 2 years our children have taken part in an end of year, whole school trip.

In 2022 we all went to the seaside – Canvey Island.

In 2023 we all went to central London to explore famous landmarks.

This year we are all going to **Legoland!**



This will be a wonderful experience for all. The children are excited and so are we! Children from Reception to Year 6 will travel by coach to Legoland.

To support us in reaching the amount needed to make this possible, we will be fundraising throughout the year, including selling food after school and events such as discos and movie nights. Please attend and support where possible!

We will be holding a **coffee morning for parents / carers on Friday 3rd November at 9.30am**, where you can find out more information about the trip – we look forward to seeing you there.



British Values

Our focus for this half term is Rule of Law.

We will introduce this to the children in assembly and they will continue to look at this in class this half term.

SMSC

SMSC is an integral part of school life and the on-going education of all of our pupils. Through our curriculum planning and assemblies, together with enriching experiences, children have the opportunity to explore values and beliefs, including different religions and the way in which they impact on people's lives. We ensure opportunities for developing the British Values through our SMSC. This half term some of our SMSC events are:

- Remembrance Day
- UK Parliament Week
- World Kindness Day
- World Television Day
- Children In Need
- Digital Wellbeing Day
- Christmas Jumper Day

Reflecting on Autumn 1

Forest School with Year 1

Last half term was the launch of Forest School at Downsell Primary.

We have started our Forest School sessions with Year 1, travelling to Epping Forest each week. Forest School is a form of outdoor learning, in which children are taught skills and knowledge about the forest and then encouraged to lead their own learning for the session.

Our first session was lots of fun! Our children had a chance to spend time in nature – exploring, learning and having fun!



Attendance

A reminder that you can view your child's up to date attendance percentage on Weduc.

For those who have met the target of 96% or above – well done! Whilst we do understand that illness and exceptional circumstances have an impact on attendance, it is really important that we continue to strive for every child to achieve at least 96% attendance.

Letters will go out to parent / carers of children whose attendance is below our school target. We will be inviting parent / carers of those who have had a high amount of illness, unauthorised absences or late marks. It is really important that you attend this meeting.

You can find our school's attendance policy on the website – www.downsellprimary.org

Please remember that term time holidays, poor attendance and poor punctuality could mean that parent / carers receive a fine of £120, reduced to £60 if paid within 21 days.

Our overall attendance for Autumn 2 (06.09.23 – 20.10.23), Reception – Year 6, was 96.3% - we did really well!

Well done to the following classes who have achieved the school target for Autumn 1!

Class	Autumn 1
Reception – Apple	96.3%
Y1 Holly	96%
Y2 Maple	97.2%
Y2 Willow	97.1%
Y3 Olive	96.8%
Y4 Sycamore	98.3%
Y4 Cherry Blossom	97.5%
Y5 Aspen	97.5%
Y5 Acacia	97.9%
Y6 Angel Oak	96.7%

Legoland

This half term we are continuing to fundraise for our whole school trip to Legoland.

We will be fundraising through the following events:

- Halloween disco – 3.11.23
- Movie Night – 24.11.23
- Games Night – 8.12.23
- End of term disco – 15.12.23
- Winter Wonderland – 21.12.23



Don't forget that we have a Parent / Carer coffee morning on Friday 3rd November that will give more information about our Legoland trip – please do try and attend.

Black History Month

The theme for Black History Month this year was, 'celebrating our sisters'.

Join us as we celebrate our learning from Black History Month.

9am - Thursday 2nd November 2023



Policy Updates

We have updated many of our policies for this academic year. Please take some time to read through these updates and have a look at the policies at www.downsellprimary.org

Safeguarding

We have a legal duty to keep all of our children safe from abuse and harm. At Downsell we talk to our children about how we keep them safe and how they can keep themselves safe.

During our last week of Autumn 1 we held our Keepign Safe Week, each year group had a different focus:

- Reception thought about which adults are their 'safe' adults.
- Year 1 looked at how to keep safe in the forest.
- Year 3 had circle time sessions on keeping safe in and out of school.
- Year 4 looked at how to keep safe online.
- Years 2, 5 and 6 followed the NSPCC sessions on Speak out, Stay safe.

Safeguarding Team at Downsell

Link Governor for Safeguarding, behaviour and attendance:

Mr Backhouse (MBE)

Designated Safeguarding Lead:

Ms Gordon

Deputy Designated Safeguarding Leads:

Mr Africa and Mr Chetty

Online Deputy Safeguarding Lead:

Mrs Rahman

Out of hours Designated Safeguarding Lead:

Mrs Hodges

Behaviour

Our updated behaviour policy is available on our website.

This is a summary of the changes that we have made, that have been approved by the Governors:

- **Positive behaviour is celebrated weekly during our celebration assembly, held on Fridays – please join us!**
- We are trialling the use of Class Dojo which awards points for good behaviours.
- Children who are on 'red' on the colour chart will attend lunchtime reflection.
- Serious red incidents will be reported directly to the Headteacher for a parent / carer meeting and a consequence.
- Senior leaders will hold parent / carer meeting to draw up a behaviour plan for children who have received their 2nd red.

Help for Downsell families

At Downsell we recognise that everyone needs help at different times in their life. At school we are able to offer support and help families in many areas. We are also able to support families with making links to outside specialised agencies who can also offer support. This overview highlights the different forms of support you can access from school and in Waltham Forest.

If you would like further information or help with accessing any support, please speak to a member of the office to book an appointment with a member of the Inclusion Team.

At school we offer the following support:

- Counselling for pupils
- Food bank
- Support with completing forms
- Referrals to Early Help
- Letters of support for housing
- Breakfast club and tea time club
- Stay and Play sessions
- Safeguarding advice or support

Please come to the school office to make an appointment to discuss any support or contact us on 020 8556 0103 or

email: school@downsellprimary.waltham.sch.uk

Waltham Forest Parent / Carer support

There are a range of parent / carer parenting sessions available in the borough, offered both as course or workshops.

The courses and workshops covers many areas such as understanding and supporting your child's behaviour, understanding child development, supporting your child to make good choices and many more areas.

To find out more about these courses and workshops log on to <https://www.walthamforest.gov.uk/families-young-people-and-children/parenting-and-family-support/parent-support>

or scan the QR code



Early Help

Our family lead for school support: Vikki Riddler

Drop in sessions are held at the

Children and Family Centre Hubs: 9.45 – 11.15am

Tuesday – Leyton: 215 Queens Road E17 8PJ

Wednesday – Chingford: 5 Oaks Grove E4 6EY

Thursday – Walthamstow: 313 Billet Road E17 5PX

Friday – Leytonstone: 2-8 Cathall Road E11 4LF

 [0208 496 2311](tel:02084962311)

 mashrequests@walthamforest.gov.uk

Other forms of support

Kooth

This is a mental health and wellbeing platform that is commissioned by the NHS. We offer free online counselling, mental health services and wellbeing support to children and young people in Waltham Forest aged 10-25. Log on to kooth.com to find out more.

Support for Parent / carers with children with special educational needs and / or disabilities:

SEND Success Telephone: 020 8498 4249

E-mail: enquiries@sendsuccess.org.uk

NSPCC – nspcc.org.uk

Childline - 0800 1111 (help for children and young people)