

Welcome back!

Academic Year 2023 - 2024

A message from the Head Teacher

I would like to welcome you all back to the start of the new academic year. I hope you all had a restful and enjoyable summer break.

As we start this academic year, I wanted to use this opportunity to remind you all of key aspects of school life, that will support us all in ensuring that we have a smooth and successful year.

You may very well be aware of much of the information presented here but please do take the time to go through it as a reminder. Please also log on to our website where you will find a wealth of further information.

Please contact the school office if you have any questions.

Wishing you all a great academic year!

Best wishes,

Mr Chetty
Head Teacher

New classes

Children have started to settle well into their new year groups. Parents / Carers have the opportunity to meet your child's class teacher on Monday 11th September.

As before, we have an early year's co-ordinator and senior leaders in place across the school. They will be your first point of call, after the class teacher, if you have anything school related that you would like to discuss about your child.

EYFS Lead: Karen Britton

Key Stage 1 Senior Leader: Farida Kerr

Year 3 Senior Leader: Heather Soar

Year 4 Senior Leader: Steve Rogers

Year 5 Senior Leader: Patius Africa

Year 6 Senior Leader: Sanel Guvercintasi

Safeguarding

As you will be aware, safeguarding is of the highest importance at Downsell.

Our staff, volunteers and all adults visiting, have a legal duty to report any safeguarding concerns. This could mean something they have witnessed or something said by a child (disclosed).

Please be reminded that as a school we must consult with social care for advice if the concern is in relation to one of the categories of abuse – emotional, neglect, sexual and physical.

Whilst we want to ensure that we build strong relationships with all parents / carers, it is our duty to seek advice and take direction from social care. We really do appreciate your understanding when managing these sensitive situations.

Punctuality

School starts at 8.50am

The doors leading outside will close at 8.55am, after this time children will need to come through to the office. If your child has 10 or more unauthorised late sessions, we may refer to the local authority and they may decide to issue both parents / carers may incur a fine of £60.

Attendance

Our expectation is for all children to achieve 96% or above attendance.

We work alongside the local authority attendance officer, who monitors pupil's attendance each week. Please be reminded that we may not automatically authorise your child's absences. We will not authorise holidays taken during term time. Any unauthorised absences may lead to a referral to the local authority who can issue a fine for each parent / carer.

If you need any support with ensuring your child is in school every day, please speak to a member of the office team.

Temperatures are forecast to reach up to 32 degrees this week. Please remember to send your child to school with a water bottle and if possible a sun hat.





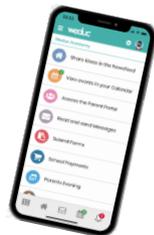
Do you have any spare time during the school day? If so, we need volunteers to support our children and school with things such as daily reading with the children, supporting in the school library and sorting resources.

If you are interested in helping us please contact the school office on 0208 556 0103.

Contact

We will need to have at least two up to date contacts for your child on our system. This is to ensure that we can contact someone in the event of an emergency or regarding attendance if your child is not in school. If you have not done so already, then please ensure that you give the office your up to date contact details.

Please also be reminded that we use Weduc as our main source of contact. If you need help to download the app then please speak to a member of the school office.



Uniform

We have a uniform policy in place to support the ethos of a community and belonging, here at Downsell.

A reminder that all children should come to school in school uniform, unless it is their PE day. Your child can either wear our logo branded uniform or non-branded uniform in our school colours. We also offer a second hand uniform sale at school with prices starting from £1. If you are having difficulty with providing school uniform for your child, please do come and speak to us as we may be able to help you.

Jewellery is not permitted and we will only allow small studs and a watch.



New staff

We would like to extend a warm welcome to the following new members of staff joining us this academic year:

Ms Brew – Nursery Teacher
Ms Muthoora – Teaching Assistant
Mr Panchal – PPA Teacher
Ms Fure – Teaching Assistant
Miss Hepper – Apprentice TA
Mr C Africa – Apprentice TA
Mrs Grama – Class Teacher
Mr Pallet – Class Teacher
Ms Beg – Business Manager

Our classes for this academic year

2 year olds – Saplings – Mrs Marcou

Nursey Oak – Ms Brew

Reception classes

Pine - Mrs Britton

Apple - Mrs Grama

Year 1 classes

Mulberry – Ms Hussain

Holly – Ms Sissila

Year 2 classes

Maple – Ms Aktar

Willow – Ms Byrne

Year 3 classes

Rosewood - Mr Rahman

Olive - Ms Soar

Year 4 classes

Cherry Blossom – Ms Rahman

Sycamore – Mr Rogers

Year 5 classes

Acacia – Mr Africa

Aspen – Mr Pallet

Year 6 classes

Angel Oak - Ms Guvercintasi

Silver Birch - Ms Paraouty

PPA Teachers

Ms Kerr and Mr Panchal

Reinforced Autoclaved Aerated Concrete

You may have seen or heard about Reinforced Autoclaved Aerated Concrete (RAAC) and its use in school settings. RAAC is weaker than regular concrete and concerns have been raised about its long term durability. The Department for Education has recently changed its guidance for schools to take extra precautionary measures if RAAC is identified hence some schools have to vacate.

We wanted to inform you that we are not affected by this decision as we do not have RAAC in our building therefore we will continue as normal.