



Doddiscombsleigh
Primary School

Newsletter

October 19th 2018

Dear Parents,
What a wonderful half term we have had already this year. It has been lovely to welcome all of our new families to Doddi and I wish you all a relaxing half term.

Theatre Alibi

Last week, the whole school ventured over to Dunsford Village Hall to watch a performance of 'Table Mates' by Theatre Alibi. It was a lovely afternoon out which the children thoroughly enjoyed. A big thank you to the Art Show for providing us with the opportunity to do this.

Healthy Eating

Today, your child will have brought home a healthy eating questionnaire which has been designed by the school council for parents. Please take time to fill out this questionnaire and return to us at school next half term. In addition to this, children will also be bringing home a healthy plate, on which they can design their own nutritious and delicious meal which could feature on our new and improved Doddi lunch menu. With Lisa's fantastic creativity and support, we are hoping to revamp the lunch menu, incorporating meals that the children have designed.

Castle Drogo Whole School Trip

When we return after half term, the whole school will be visiting Castle Drogo. We are very excited to learn more about the castle, as it is one of our houses too. For the trip, please can you ensure that your child comes to school wearing their school uniform and has a coat, packed lunch and water bottle with them. Children in Acorn class are entitled to a funded packed lunch, so please return the slip that was handed out on Monday if you would like one to be provided for them.

School Dinner Payments

A reminder that payments for school meals will be due at the beginning of next half term.

Reading

Your child should now have a new reading bookmark, with different dogs that focus on asking different types of question. If you can support your child at home by asking them these questions, that would be fantastic. We have also just bought a whole school subscription for a brilliant online reading resource called 'Bug Club'. Children will be given their own login details after half term. It will be used in guided reading sessions but they will also be able to use it at home as an addition to the books that they chose from school.

Year 6 Secondary School Applications

A reminder for parents with children in Year 6, that secondary school applications must be made by 31st October. Thank you.

Individual School Photos

If you would like to purchase the photo of your child/children that was sent out last week, please either complete the form online or return with the payment to Mrs Lancaster in the school office by Tuesday, 30th October.

Music Lessons at Doddi

After half term, children will receive music lessons from Mr Elfyn Jones. Elfyn delivers music lessons to pupils at many other schools in the Teign Valley and he will be coming to Doddi to provide djembe workshops on Thursday afternoons, in the place of Mr Buckley. We are looking to him working with us.

Friends of Doddi

Friends of Doddi held their first AGM last week. They are very kindly putting on a Christmas card workshop on Tuesday 30th October, which all children are invited to attend, free of charge. Children will be able to design their own Christmas cards which will then be sent to the printers to be made into cards, magnets, coasters and many other gift items. If your child cannot attend, the templates will be sent home for them to do separately.

An update from the governors

The Full Governing Body met a few weeks ago and we decided that it would be good to share the highlights from the meeting with parents. Therefore, below is a message from Simon Gray, our chair of governors.

'At the Governors meeting last week we started by congratulating Mrs McManus and Mrs Wiseman on the excellent SATs results which were achieved by last year's year six pupils. We then focused primarily on the recent decision to join the United Schools Learning Partnership and how we can most effectively share our experiences and learn from the other schools in the partnership as well as starting some interesting collaborations. A number of school policies, including the Assessment and Reporting policy which will be of interest to parents who want to know more about how our children are being tested, were reviewed and these will be available to view on the new school website. The launch of this website should happen over the next few weeks, so keep your eyes peeled!

Another exciting piece of news from the meeting that we would like to share with you, is that we are currently advertising for a teaching assistant to support in Oak Class. This is a temporary part time post and it will be hugely beneficial to children in Key Stage Two.

In the meeting, we also touched upon school meals and how we can ensure that we are providing the best quality meals for our children, with Mrs Wiseman organising an activity for the children to participate in.

If parents would like know more about what was discussed, or have any questions for governors, please do get in touch with any of the parent governors - Simon Gray, Peter Stothert or Iain Wylie.'

And finally, here are a few things that you may wish to do with your children and families over the next few weeks....

Halloween Trick or Treat Fun

Everyone is invited to the usual spooky walk on Wednesday 31st October, around Doddi village, with a few prearranged stops and ending at the Nobody Inn. Leaving school about 4pm and ending by 5.30pm at the pub. Preschool and Acorn class children will need to be accompanied by a

parent/guardian. Dressing up (including grown ups) is highly recommended!

Holiday Club @ DreamWood.

There are limited places available on Thursday 25th October. This is an outdoor, natural learning day, hosted by Sarah Ponti (Leo's Mum) at DreamWood. It will run from 9am until 4pm. All primary school age children are welcome. The day will be child led but activities may include fire lighting, den building, chicken husbandry, pony magic, woodland games and craft. The usual price is £30 per child (£25 for any siblings) but Doddi school will also enjoy a discount of £5 per family. For more information or booking email Sarah on dreamwoodfarm@hotmail.co.uk or Facebook message.

Dates for your diaries:

29.10.18	Drogo Whole School Trip
30.10.18	Christmas card making in the hall with Friends of Doddi
02.11.18	1 st group of KS2 children caving
07.11.18	Celebration of learning with tea & cake!
09.11.18	2 nd group of KS2 children caving
26.11.18	Year 6 trip to Buckfast with USF
10.12.18	Parents' Evening (Mindfulness club will still run)
12.12.18	Whole class trip to the panto!
12.12.18	Parents' Evening
17.12.18	Christmas production dress rehearsal
19.12.18	Christmas production to parents (2.30 and 6.00pm)
20.12.18	Christmas lunch
21.12.18	LAST DAY OF TERM
08.01.19	First day of the Spring Term

If you would like to speak to me, my door is always open, so please do not hesitate to get in touch. If you are unable to come into school, you can ring me or contact me by e-mail at swiseman@doddi.devon.sch.uk Your school parent governors are also available to speak to and they are Simon Gray, Iain Wylie and Peter Stothert.

Kind regards,
Sophie Wiseman