



<http://www.newdigate.surrey.sch.uk>

11<sup>th</sup> January 2023

## Newsletter 6

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**Whole school attendance to date this year 92.25%**

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Dear Parents,

**Our value this  
half-term is  
trust.**



*Proverbs 3: 5-6*

*Trust in the Lord  
with all your heart*

Happy New Year! I hope you all had a lovely relaxing time with friends and family and were able to appreciate the joy and peace of the festive season. As we start our spring term and year we will be moving to our new value of trust, thinking about what it means to us, how trust can be built and how important it is in our lives. We will talk about people we trust and explore Christian trust. We would encourage you to continue

conversations at home with your children so they have a deeper understanding of what it means to them and their family.

We have been asked to share the following information with all parents from the local authority:

As children return to school following the Christmas break, the UK Health Security Agency (UKHSA) has reminded us that winter illnesses including [flu](#) and [coronavirus \(COVID-19\)](#) are currently circulating at high levels and are likely to continue to increase in coming weeks. High numbers of [scarlet fever](#), which is caused by group A streptococcus, also continue to be reported.

By following simple steps, we can help protect children, minimise the spread of illness in schools and childcare settings and also protect friends, family and those who are more vulnerable in our community:

- It's important to minimise the spread of infection in schools and other education and childcare settings as much as possible. If your child is unwell and has a fever, they should stay home from school or nursery until they feel better, and the fever has resolved.

- Helping children to learn about the importance of good hand hygiene is also key, so practice regular handwashing at home with soap and warm water. Catching coughs and sneezes in tissues then binning them is another simple way to help stop illness from spreading.
- Good ventilation is key to good infection prevention and control
- Adults should also try to stay home when unwell and if you do have to go out, wear a face covering. When unwell don't visit healthcare settings or visit vulnerable people unless urgent.
- Remember that flu vaccination is still available for all eligible groups and is the best protection against the virus. Flu can be very unpleasant and, in some cases, can lead to more serious illness. Getting your child vaccinated protects them and others they come into contact with, and it's still not too late.

### Eligible children include:

- those aged 2 and 3 on 31 August 2022
- all primary school-aged children
- some secondary school-aged children

You can get more information on [getting your child vaccinated against flu on NHS.UK](#).

### Further information on symptoms and treatment available here:

COVID-19 [Coronavirus \(COVID-19\) - NHS \(www.nhs.uk\)](#)

Flu [Flu - NHS \(www.nhs.uk\)](#)

Scarlet Fever [Scarlet fever - NHS \(www.nhs.uk\)](#)

### Attendance.

We have noticed that our attendance levels are being affected by winter illness to some degree, which is to be expected. However, I am also having conversations with some families about request for absence related to term-time holiday, which will obviously impact not only on the child's attendance but also on our whole school attendance. **Attendance matters** and I would urge all families to carefully consider before making a request. As a matter of policy, no term-time holidays will be authorised.

## Interactive Whiteboards

Yay! They have been fitted! Every classroom now has a brand new shiny interactive whiteboard! This is down to your generosity and the great work of FONS. We are super excited and very grateful. Thank you!

We continue to be overwhelmed with the support from parents and the wider community towards our Amazon wish list. Every donation we receive means we can focus our funding on other more important things.

## Newdigate Angels

We have introduced a new award into our school community that we are calling a **'Newdigate Angel.'** This is a way of us noticing and celebrating children and adults who do extra-ordinary things to look after others. This will not happen every week like Busy Bees, only when something extra-ordinary has happened. We were thrilled to give our first 3 Newdigate Angel Awards last week to **Felix Barker** and **Mrs Priestley** for their consideration and support of those who are struggling with food poverty and **Olly Hudson** for his fundraising work supporting the NSPCC. These people have brought light into the world through their selfless actions. If you know of anybody who you feel deserves this award in the school or local community please let us know and we would be happy to

## Admissions Application Final Reminder

A final reminder for all the parents with children moving into Reception or Year 3 classes in September:

***The national closing date for Reception and Junior applications for September 2023 entry is 15<sup>th</sup> January.***

## Parent Questionnaire

Although we had only a small number of responses, I wanted to make sure that we listened and responded to what parents were telling us.

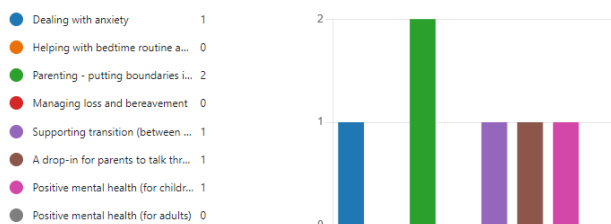
This is a summary of the questionnaire results:

- A very positive response of 4.33/5 for parents regarding their ability to access wrap-around care
- 84% had accessed an after-school club
- Requests for a range of clubs that might include choir/drama/music/science/cooking

## Parent forum responses of:

5. The school are planning to hold a parent forum in the spring term 2023. Which of these areas would interest you the most?

[More Details](#)



We will be looking into possible after school clubs for the second half of the summer term and will let you know as soon as we have more details.

We will be holding a Parent Forum on **Wednesday 8<sup>th</sup> February** – **'Helping parents to put healthy boundaries in place'** in the Rainbow Room at 9.00 a.m. Please feel free to join us for a cuppa and to learn more about strategies that will help you do this at home.

Please find attached a **'Warm Spaces for All in Dorking'** poster highlighting information about opening times for all Dorking Churches as well as contact details.

We also wanted to highlight to all of our families that the **Community Fridge** visit Newdigate at the Village Hall every Tuesday 2-2.45 p.m. It is open to all. They would usually ask for a £2.50 donation per bag, but will never turn anybody away if they are in need and cannot afford this.

A Community Fridge is a space where anyone can share food to combat food waste, either by bringing food to leave in the fridge or by taking food from the fridge to use themselves. They are welcoming spaces open to all.

Have a wonderful week.

Mrs Paula Bliss

## WARM SPACES FOR ALL IN DORKING

Free • Warm • Welcoming • Safe

Church, Centre or Location	Days	Times	Duration	Website/contact for more info
Dorking Christian Centre, Church Street, Dorking. RH4 1DW	Mon - Fri	Free refreshments 8.30-10.30am	5/12-28/2	Rev David Pitkeathly Email: david.pitkeathly@btinternet.com
Dorking United Reformed Church West Street, Dorking. RH4 1BS	Thurs	10am-12.30pm	Until Feb	www.dorkingurc.org.uk Email: lesley.ormiston.dorkingurc@outlook.com
St Joseph's Small Hall 2 Falkland Grove, Dorking. RH4 3DL	Tues	10am - 1pm 1st Fri of Month with soup lunch	Ongoing	www.sicc.org.uk 01306 882433 email: dorking@abdioocese.org.uk
St Paul's Church, St Paul's Road West, Dorking. RH4 2HT	Mon, Weds, Fri	2pm- 4pm	4 Jan - 31 Mar	www.stpaulsdorking.org.uk 01306 743378 Email: reception@stpaulsdorking.org.uk
St John's North Holmwood Community Building, Inholms Lane, North Holmwood, Dorking. RH5 4JH	Tues Wed	Tues 4-7pm Wed 10-12	29th Nov - 28th Feb Ongoing	www.stjnh.org.uk 01306 882135 Email: siscar@stjnh.org.uk
New Life Church, Chart Downs Social Club Chart Downs, Dorking. RH5 4DD	Thurs	10 - 12.30pm	From 8 Dec	www.newlifedorking.co.uk Caroline Harding caroline@newlifedorking.co.uk
Harvest Community Church, Stubbs Hill Dorking RH4 2QD	Mon-Fri (excl. Weds morning)	10-12pm, 2.30-4.30pm	Ongoing	www.facebook.com/HarvestCommunityChurchDorking/ 01306 500116

**Dorking Churches working together to provide warm spaces throughout the week**  
All of our Churches meet on a Sunday and you are very welcome to join our services.  
This info is correct on 9th Dec 2022, please visit individual church websites for more info or contact them directly.



# PARENTING PUZZLE



A 10 week programme starting Wednesday February 23rd  
(with a 2 week break for Easter)

7.30 - 9.30 pm

Mole Valley Family  
Centre, Goodwyns  
Road, Dorking  
RH4 2LR



Raising children can be puzzling at times, but puzzles have solutions –  
and the Parenting Puzzle provides them

The Parenting Puzzle is a 10 week course run by the Mole Valley Family Centre, Dorking Schools Partnership and Homestart East Surrey that encourages parents to enjoy bringing up their child and get the best out of family life. It is fun and informal.

£25

Payable before the start of the course  
Course manual and refreshments are provided

To book a place on this course please call 01306 740095 or email:  
familycentre@dorking.surrey.sch.uk



**Dorking  
Schools Partnership**

Creating opportunities and providing care for our young people

### DATES – SPRING TERM 2023

Term dates – Tuesday 3<sup>rd</sup> January 2023– Friday, 31<sup>st</sup> March 2023

Half term dates – Monday 13<sup>th</sup> – Friday 17<sup>th</sup> February

### Diary Dates for Spring Term

- 03.01.23 Back to School
- 08.02.23 Parent Workshop – *‘Putting healthy boundaries in place.’*
- 10.02.23 Break up for half term
- 20.02.23 Back to School
- 23.02.23 SATS talk via zoom (@ 5pm)
- 02.03.23 World Book Day – Children dress as their favourite book character
- 08.03.23 Late Parents’ Evening (5.30-8.00pm)
- 15.03.23 Early Parents’ Evening (3.30-6.00pm)
- 17.03.23 Mothers’ Day Tea Party for YrR 9am in School Hall
- 30.03.23 Easter Service - 2pm, all parents welcome (TBC)
- 31.03.23 Easter Bonnet Parade directly after bell, parents to Hall. Wear your hats!
- 31.03.23 Last Day of Term – Break up at 2pm
- 17.04.23 **INSET DAY**
- 18.04.23 **Back to School – Summer Term**

## DATES – SUMMER TERM 2023

Term dates – Monday 17th April – Friday, 21 July

May Bank Holiday – Monday 1 May

Half term dates – Monday, 29 May – Friday 2 June

INSET days – Monday 17 April & Friday 21 July

MONTH OF MAY – KS1 Tests – NO HOLIDAY FOR YEAR 2 WILL BE AUTHORISED

### Diary Dates for Summer Term

17.04.23	INSET DAY
18.04.23	Back to School
May 2023	KS1 tests for Yr2 commence ( see above note re: holidays)
<b>01.05.23</b>	<b>Bank Holiday</b>
<b>08.05.23</b>	<b>Bank Holiday – King Charles III Coronation</b>
26.05.23	Break up for half term
12 <sup>th</sup> -16 <sup>th</sup> June	Phonics testing
05.06.23	Back to School
14.06.23	Welcome Meeting for Parents of September intake 7.00pm
01.07.23	May Queen (11.15am for 11.30am start) TBC
03.07.23	Story session for new intake 2.15-2.45pm
05.07.23	Sports Day 1.30pm
06.07.23	Teddy Bears Picnic (Yr R and Pre-school)
10.07.23	Story session for new intake 2.15-2.45pm
w/c 10.07.23	Reports to go out (all years)
12.07.23	Rescheduled Sports Day (in case of bad weather) pm
19.07.23	Yr2 Leavers' Service in the School Hall 2pm followed by Yr2 Leavers' Party
<b>20.07.23</b>	<b>Break Up for Summer Holidays (2.00pm)</b>
<b>21.07.23</b>	<b>INSET Day</b>



*In God's Hands We Learn and Grow*



**Healthy Schools**  
Healthier Living & Learning  
SURREY