



Dog Kennel Hill School NEWSLETTER

Friday, 16th September 2016

Autumn Term 1, Issue No: 2

Dear Parents,

We would like to welcome back our Reception children, parents, carers and grandparents. We hope you all have had a great summer break. Everyone in our school community is looking forward to a happy and productive association with you, your child and your family. By working together as parents and staff, we will ensure your child has the best possible opportunity to reach their personal best. We believe that all children can be encouraged to do their best in a positive, hardworking, learning environment. We value each child as an individual and work hard to foster creative, aspirational, resilient, empathic, and respectful learners. We are conscious of the trust you place in us and look forward to working with you to achieve our shared aspirations for your child.

Happy National Teaching Assistants' Day!



Recognising the valuable contribution Teaching Assistants make to the education and support of school children across England and Wales.

Today is National Teaching Assistants' Day. At Dog Kennel Hill Primary School we are extremely fortunate to have a wonderful team of Teaching Assistants who work hard for the benefit of all our children. We would like to express our heartfelt thanks to all our Teaching Assistants for all that they do in our school. We appreciate and would like to celebrate all their hard work with our children.

Curriculum Meetings

Thank you to all the parents who attended the curriculum meetings this week. It was good to see so many of you meet the staff and find out what will be taught. For those who were unable to attend, information will be available on the school website.

Reception Curriculum Meeting will take place on
Thursday, 22nd September at 1:45pm

The Nursery Curriculum Meetings will be:
Nursery 1 – Tuesday, 11th October at 2:30pm
Nursery 2 – Thursday, 13th October at 2:30pm

Enjoy your weekend!
Lorram Black and Staff of DKH

Attendance and Punctuality:

This week's School Attendance:

95.2%

(96% is the expected minimum standard of attendance)

Class	Attendance	Punctuality
RA		
RB		
1C	93.2%	93.2%
1D	92.6%	90.7%
2E	97.6%	96.9%
2F	94.8%	94.4%
3G	98.2%	96.4%
3H	91.5%	90.4%
3I	95.0%	92.3%
4J	90.0%	89.6%
4K	96.2%	95.2%
5L	100.0%	99.7%
5M	99.3%	99.3%
6N	100.0%	98.9%
6O	95.7%	95.0%

Well done and keep up the good work everyone!

Farewell Sara Christensen

We would like to take this opportunity to thank Sara (Language Support Assistant) for all her hard work and commitment towards our pupils. We wish her well in her studies!

Creative

Aspirational

Resilient

Empathic

Respectful



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Dates for your Diary:

Monday, 19/09/16	'Pedestrian Training' for Class 3G and 3H
	Friends of DKH Tea at 9am in dining hall
Tuesday, 20/09/16	'Pedestrian Training' for Class 3I
Thursday, 22/09/16	Curriculum Parents' Meeting for EYFS
Friday, 23/09/16	'Jeans for Genes'
	Friends of DKH Cake Sale in Main Playground after school
Monday, 26/09/16	Cycle Training for Year 3 and 4 (30 pupils)
Tuesday, 27/09/16	Secondary Transfer Meeting with Southwark Admissions at 3:30pm
Monday, 03/10 to Friday, 21/10/16	Black History Month
Monday, 03/10 to Friday, 07/10/16	Cycle Training for Year 5 and Year 6 (30 places)
Wednesday, 12/10/16	'Travel Bus' for Class 6N
	Friends of DKH AGM at 7:00pm
Tuesday, 18/10/16	Secondary Transfer online application: 9-10am
Wednesday, 19/10/16	Secondary Transfer online application: 4-5pm
Friday, 21/10/16	'Achievement and Aspiration' Morning for Year 6 pupils
	Secondary Transfer online application: 9-10am
	Friends of DKH 'Apple Day'
	End of Autumn Term 1

+++Friends of DKH+++

This week Friends have had a lovely time welcoming new parents and carers to Reception with a picnic on the hottest day of the year in Lettsom Gardens! Welcome all. And everybody's welcome to come along to a coffee morning in the dining room, 9am Monday 19th September, where you can meet other parents and find out more about the Friends. As baking dominates the news, it's only one week until our very own **Bake Sale - Friday 23rd September, 3:15pm** in the main playground. So get baking your signatures and your showstoppers, or bring them along from the shops. Look forward to seeing you there.

Friday, 23rd September: Cake Sale, 3:15pm, main playground

Wednesday, 12th October: Friends AGM, school dining room, 7:00pm

Friday, 21st October: Apple Day, after school in main playground

Friday, 11th November: Disco, Nursery to Year 2, 6:00-8:00pm

Friday, 18th November: Disco, Year 3 to Year 6, 6:30-8:30pm

Thought for the Week:

'Every job is a self-portrait of the person who did it. Autograph your work with excellence.'

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Governing Body Update

Dear Parents

The Governors have promised to provide termly updates of what Governing Body (GB) has been doing in the preceding term. We held our final meeting of the year at the very end of last term.

The key issues we were addressing were similar to those we had been looking at all year, but, being the end of the school year, had particular focus. These were:

- **Improving the quality of teaching, learning and assessment.** Working with the school leadership we had been tracking the progress of all classes and ensuring that there was adequate support for teachers and for pupils where there were issues. Overall, the progress has been extremely encouraging and the multiple measures that have been implemented throughout the year have borne fruit. However, there have remained some areas of concern, namely in last term's years 3 and 5 but even in these years there has been good progress. They will remain under close scrutiny by the Senior Leadership in the coming year.
- **Closing the gap.** For the last two years there has been a huge effort by the school to close the gap between the attainment and progress of children in certain vulnerable groups compared with the school's highest achievers. The GB has been monitoring the outcomes of these groups and have been very pleased with the results, which have improved enormously.
- **Strengthening the leadership of the school.** The particular focus has been developing the middle and subject leaders. This has been hampered by the need to appoint more permanent staff (see below). The roles of these leaders have been much better defined and monitored and we ended the year in a much stronger position for the coming terms.
- **Being fully prepared for Ofsted.** It is now five years since our last inspection and we have spent the last two years expecting it week by week. The GB has been working with the Leadership to ensure the school is in as strong a position as it can be to achieve the best possible outcome. Working in conjunction with Local Authority, the staff, leadership and governors have been prepared in what to expect and how to manage the inspection when it happens so we can all present a fair and accurate picture of the school.
- **Safeguarding.** This has been another long term focus in an area which is constantly evolving. DKH has completely transformed its approach and its effectiveness to the point that much of our practice is seen as exemplary within Southwark. It has resulted in whole range of achievements from improving pupil attendance to identifying and supporting some of our most vulnerable families and children. As well as having monitored this progress we have been pleased to welcome Sarita Thomas, DKH's Safeguarding Office, back to the Governing Body.
- **Recruitment.** You will probably be aware from the news of the challenges schools are facing, especially in London, of filling vacancies. DKH has had a substantial number of supply staff working at the school and have been working very hard to find suitable candidates for permanent appointments. The GB is very pleased that the Leadership have made many new appointments in the final term, which will help the long term stability of the teaching staff and the development of the highest quality teaching in the school.

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- **SATS results:** Regardless of the arguments about the fairness of SATs and the huge challenges for pupils of the new SATs tests this year, the results are very important to how schools are judged. As was shared at the end of last term, DKH had extremely good outcomes and beat national averages across the board. This has been a major step forward for the school from where we were three years ago.
- **Succession planning for the Governing Body leadership.** I have served as Chair of Governors for the past six years and Sue Farrington has been Vice Chair for the last four. We had informed the Governing Body that we would both be stepping down at the end of the 15/16 academic year and we have been discussing succession planning and preparing for the change. We elected Trevor Cunningham as Chair and Mary Henley as Vice Chair at the end of last term. We welcomed Chris McCree and Dan Woods to the GB as new co-opted governors (as opposed to parent or staff governors). Sarita Thomas has joined as a staff governor. Sue Farrington and Zahid Malik have left the GB.

All the governors would like to express their thanks to the Mrs Cloete, Mr Black, the Leadership team and all the staff for their huge commitment and hard work over the year and the near universal progress the school has been making across the different areas above and others beyond. Sue Farrington and I would like to wish our successors, Trevor Cunningham and Mary Henley the best of luck in their new roles.

Martin Finn
Governor

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