
Delce Infant and Nursery School Newsletter

AUTUMN TERM, No.1

SEPTEMBER 2009

© Welcome back to school! I do hope you all had a good summer holiday. I would like to welcome all the new children and parents who have joined us this term - those children who are starting school for the first time in our nursery or reception classes and also those who have moved to us from other schools. I look forward to getting to know all of you during the next term.

We have a number of events already planned this term which are explained below. This letter also includes general school information.

CLASS ORGANISATION

Nursery Class:	Goldfish Class	- Mrs Bowdler
Reception Classes:	Starfish Class	- Mrs Teague
	Whale Class	- Mrs James
	Octopus Class	- Mrs Heather
Year 1 classes:	Penguin Class	- Mrs Collman
	Seahorse Class	- Mrs Dhainaut
Year 1 / 2 class:	Polar Bear Class	- Miss Atkinson and Mrs Bradley
Year 2 classes:	Dolphin Class	- Mrs Johnson and Mrs Hyde
	Stingray Class	- Mrs Seales

Mrs Wicker is also employed as Special Needs Coordinator (SENCo) for one day a week and Mrs Grimes, from Medway's Learning Support Service, works here one morning a week.

TERM DATES FOR 2009 - 2010

Autumn Term 1	Start	Thursday 3 September 2009
	Finish	Friday 23 October 2009
	Autumn Break	Monday 26 October 2009 – Friday 30 October 2009
Autumn Term 2	Start	Monday 2 November 2009
	Finish	Friday 18 December 2009

Spring Term 3	Start	Monday 4 January 2010
	Finish	Friday 12 February 2010
	Spring Break	Monday 15 February 2010 – Friday 19 February 2010
Spring Term 4	Start	Monday 22 February 2010
	Finish	Thursday 1 April 2010

Summer Term 5	Start	Monday 19 April 2010
	Bank Holiday	Monday 3 May 2010
	Finish	Friday 28 May 2010
	Summer Break	Monday 31 May – Friday 4 June 2010
Summer Term 6	Start	Monday 7 June 2010
	Finish	Friday 23 July 2010

Other Closures: The school will be closed for staff training on:

Thursday 3 September

Friday 4 September

Monday 22 February

Friday 2 July

We have one additional training day to arrange and I will inform you of this date as soon as possible.

EVENTS THIS TERM

We have arranged a number of events including some new ones this term so please make a note of them on your calendars as well.

Friday 11 September, 3 p.m. Come and meet your child's teacher and have a look around the classroom.

Curriculum Meetings for Parents will be held again this term.

Year 1 parents are invited to 3 half hour meetings in school on **Monday 14 September, Monday 21 September and Monday 5 October (no meeting on 28 September)**

Year 2 parents are invited to 3 half hour meetings in school on **Tuesday 15 September, Tuesday 22 September and Tuesday 29 September.**

All meetings will be held from 9 a.m. until 9.30 a.m. in the community room. You will have the opportunity to find out about what and how your child will be learning during the year, in particular in English, Maths and topic work, and be able to ask the teachers questions. Year 2 parents will also learn how teacher assessment and SATs are carried out.

Year R parents will be invited to a series of workshops about the curriculum later in the term.

Year 1 and 2 parents are also invited to take part in a numeracy lesson in their child's class during the weeks beginning Monday 28 September and 5 October. You will receive a letter about this nearer the time. **Year R parents** will be invited in to share reading and writing games with the children, again later in the term.



Reading with children During the Autumn Term, starting from **Tuesday 6 October**, parents of children in Years 1 and 2 are invited into school on **Tuesday mornings from 8.45 – 9.05 a.m.** to read with the children. This proved very successful last year and certainly gave the children increased opportunities to read with an adult. Please do come along if you can spare 15 or 20 minutes! We shall hold our usual Parent Assembly at the end of the session and you are very welcome to join us there as well.

Mrs Teague will be inviting parents of reception children in to read and play reading games once the children have settled in to school.

Fund Raising Meeting We shall be holding the first fund raising meeting this year on **Friday 18 September from 9 – 10.00 a.m.** Please do come and join us for a cup of tea and help us think of ways to raise money for the school. Most of the parents who were part of the group have moved on to Delce Junior School so please do come along and join us. If you are unable to come to the meeting but would be interested in helping in any other way, please let me know.



Coffee morning We shall be holding our annual coffee morning for the Macmillan Cancer Trust on **Friday 25 September** from 9.05 – 10.15 a.m. Your children are welcome to join you after registration until 10.00 a.m. As always we would be very grateful for any donations of cakes or biscuits – many thanks in advance!

Jeans for Genes Day is on Friday 2 October. Children (and adults) may wear jeans or similar on this day for a donation of £1 to the charity.

Family Trust will be leading assemblies in school on Wednesday 7 October and Wednesday 18 November.



Harvest Celebration Our Harvest Festival Celebration this year will be held on Thursday 15 October. We shall be holding two performances as usual, one will be for the reception and nursery classes and the second will be for Year 1 and 2 classes. Parents from Year 1 and 2 classes (Penguin, Seahorse, Polar Bear, Dolphin and Stingray Classes) are invited to the performance at 9.15 a.m. Parents from the Reception and Nursery classes (Starfish, Whale, Octopus and Goldfish Classes) are invited to the performance at 11.00 a.m. We will serve coffee in between the 2 performances for parents who have children in both concerts. There will also be a Nursery and Reception performance at 2.45 to enable all the children who attend the nursery (mornings and afternoons) to take part. You are very welcome to bring your younger children to the Harvest festival if they are able to sit quietly. As usual we shall be collecting tins and packets of food that will be donated to local charities. You will receive further information about this nearer the time.




Our **Round the World Weeks** have been extremely successful during the past two years and a lot of parents have come into school to share their experiences. Our Round the World Week this year will begin on **Monday 19 October**. If you are able to take part this year, please let your child's class teacher know. Again, more information nearer the time.

Photographs The school photographer will be in school on **Thursday 22 October** to take individual photographs of the children including the nursery. Please do ensure that your child is wearing school uniform (nursery excluded). We will, as usual, put children from the same family together **unless you write to request otherwise.** If you have a younger child (not yet at school) and would like him or her to be included in the family photograph please let the school know **in writing.**

Parent Teacher Meetings We shall be holding meetings for parents of the nursery, Year R, 1 and 2 children on Wednesday 4 November and Thursday 12 November from 3.30 until 6.00 p.m. You will have an opportunity to look at the work your child has covered and to talk to the teacher about his or her progress. You are welcome to bring your child to the meeting as well.

Shoe Box Appeal You and your children are invited to donate a shoe box of Christmas presents for the Blythwood Care Appeal; leaflets will be sent home shortly giving you more information. These boxes are sent to needy children around the world. If you would like to take part, please send your filled shoebox to school by **Friday 6 November.**

 **Book Week** We shall be holding a Book Week in school from Monday 16 November until Friday 20 November. The Kent Travelling Book Fair will be in school during the week and you will have opportunities each day (Monday to Thursday) to purchase books for your children. We are also holding a Coffee Morning on Wednesday 18 November when the books will be for sale; there will also be a Dressing Up Day on Friday 20 November. I know that Mrs Collman will also be arranging other activities. More about this later.



Christmas Celebrations Our Christmas concerts this year will be held on Tuesday 15 and Wednesday 16 December. Year 1 and 2 classes will hold their concert Tuesday at 9.30 a.m. and Year R and the Nursery will hold their performances on Tuesday at 11.00 a.m. and on Wednesday at 2.30 p.m. Further information will be sent after the Autumn Term break.

We shall be holding the Christmas party on Thursday afternoon, 17 December. The nursery children who attend in the mornings will have their party in the morning.

The Christmas Fair has been booked provisionally for the afternoon of Wednesday 2 December.

Other Information (not mentioned above)

Wednesday 9 Sept	- nursery children start back
Monday 14 Sept	- new nursery children start school (3 each session); Governors' business meeting
Wednesday 16 Sept	- reception children start school
Monday 21 Sept	- Governors' curriculum committee meeting
Monday 28 Sept	- The older reception children stay in school for lunch
Wednesday 30 Sept	- Governors' Resources Committee
Monday 5 October	- Older reception children stay all day
Monday 12 Oct	- Governing Body meeting
Wednesday 21 Oct	- Quantum Theatre performing "What if it rains"
Monday 2 Nov	- The younger reception children stay in school for lunch
Monday 9 Nov	- The younger reception children stay all day
Thursday 26 Nov	- Performance of "Pinocchio" for all the children

GENERAL INFORMATION AND REMINDERS

Consultation about the future of the school Some of you returned the consultation form last term about the proposal for the amalgamation of Delce Infant and Junior Schools to proceed without competition. The DCFS has now given Medway permission to consult on whether or not the schools should be amalgamated and you will be receiving information about this very shortly together with dates for public meetings when you will have the opportunity to share your views with officers from Medway Council. Although the result of this consultation may or may not have a huge impact on the two schools, please be assured that life in school will go on as normal while these decisions are being made. The education and well-being of your children are the most important things!

Helping in school We are always very pleased to receive parents' help in school and several parents already help on a regular basis. If you would like to help in school, please contact your child's class teacher or call into the office. Many thanks in advance.

As part of our policy for safeguarding children and in line with government requirements, parents who do help in school on a regular basis will be required to have a satisfactory Criminal Record Bureau check.

Delivering and collecting children

- YR and nursery children should be taken to and collected from their classroom doors each day.
- Year 1 children also should be taken to and collected from their classroom doors at the beginning and end of the school day. Parents with babies in buggies are very welcome to leave them at the bottom of the steps with me (or the member of staff on duty if I am not there) in the morning whilst you take your child round to the classroom. In the afternoon please could parents wait on the playground until 3.10 p.m. before going round to the classroom doors.
- Year 2 children enter through the main door in the mornings and are escorted to the playground to meet parents in the afternoon. Please encourage your children to come into school by themselves at the beginning of the day.

Remember, if you arrive at school after 8.55 a.m. you will need to come in through the main entrance as the classroom doors close at 8.55 a.m.

At the end of the day, Seahorse and Penguin parents should use the ramp leading to the classrooms. Polar Bear, Dolphin and Stingray Classes will use the steps to the playground to meet the parents. Also could all parents stand away from the steps leading up to the playground when they are waiting for their children as the area gets very congested.

If these arrangements cause anyone a problem, please speak to me or the class teacher.

School Meals Chartwells have won the new school meals' contract and a new menu will be sent home soon. The price of a school meal has increased to £1.90 each day, £9.50 a week. Please send dinner money to school on the first day of each school week (usually a Monday) in a named envelope marked "dinner money".



School Fund should be sent to school as soon as possible. This term we have increased the donation to £2 which should be sent to school in September, January and April. However, you may pay a donation of £5 if you pay by the end of September. The school fund helps us pay for a number of activities throughout the year, such as theatre groups (usually about £350 each time) and the Christmas magician. Please can you make every effort to send in the School Fund. Your child will be bringing home a special School Fund Money Envelope which should be returned to school as soon as possible please.

School attendance It is so important for children to attend school regularly. Please remember to inform the school immediately if your child is unable to attend one day. Parents of children whose attendance or lateness are causing concern will be invited to an attendance clinic at the school with Mrs Baker, the Education Welfare Officer and me.

Also please remember that I am unable to authorize any school holiday taken in term time if your child's attendance falls below 90%, unless there are exceptional circumstances, and that Year 2 children should not be taken out of school for a holiday during May as this is the final month for assessing their attainment for SATs.



Headlice Please check your child's head on a regular basis as headlice can be an on-going problem in school. If your child has headlice do use the conditioner and comb method every three days until your child's head is clear. It is parents' responsibility to check their children's heads for lice and I would like to thank all of you who do this regularly.

School assemblies Parents are always very welcome to join us for our Tuesday morning assembly at 9.05 a.m. each week.

Some sad news Some of you who have been connected with the school for several years will remember Mrs Wenna Probert who taught at the school. Sadly Mrs Probert died recently after a short illness and our thoughts go out to her family at this sad time.

IMPORTANT HEALTH AND SAFETY NOTICE Please remember that peanuts and sesame are not allowed in school at all as a couple of children in school have a serious allergy to them. If they come into contact with either of these through accidentally eating one or being near someone who has eaten food containing them, they will have a very serious reaction. Please can you ensure that your children do not bring any foods to school for lunch time or any other time that contain peanuts or sesame e.g. peanut butter sandwiches, snack bars etc. This applies to all children and staff in the school. Many thanks for your help in this matter.

I wish you all a happy term and I look forward to seeing many of you in school over the next few months.

Yours sincerely

A.G.MORRIS
HEADTEACHER