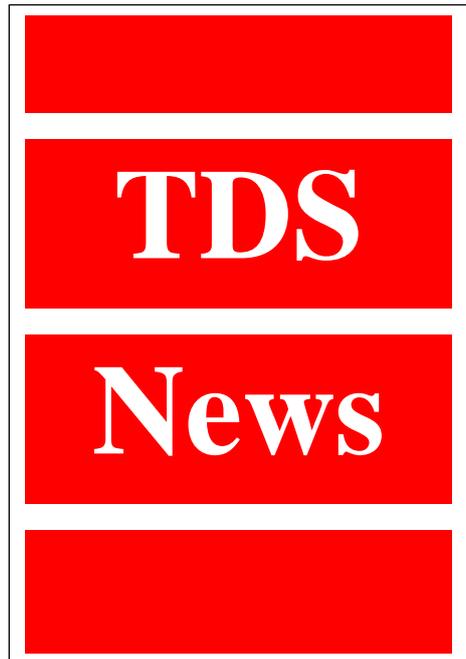


Learning, Growing and Succeeding Together

Issue 010

5th October 2018



Value: Tolerance

Head's Blog...

Dear All

I would like to start by thanking everyone who has made this such a positive start to the academic year.

Our Vision Launch and MacMillan event last Friday was a great success. It was standing room only at times and we received great feedback, especially about the new immersive learning room.

We celebrated our Harvest Festival assembly today which was very well attended. The children sang beautifully and shared their understanding of this event. Thank you for all the kind contributions which are going to the One Can and the Wycombe Homeless appeals. These donations will make a real difference.

Well done to all the Year 6 children who took part in the democratic elections of the Head and Deputy Boys and Girls. We will announce the results next week. I was so impressed with the number who put themselves forward and the quality of the presentations. I am pleased it wasn't me who had to choose.

We are studying Black History Month this month and the children are looking at people who are making 'living history'. They are learning about people who are still working towards equality in the world in the face of adversity and those who inspire them. I am looking forward to seeing who has been chosen.

Thank you Mr MacKenzie for running the football tournament held this week at the school. If any parents/carers would like to volunteer to support these events, please let me know. We have had a successful meeting with the PA to plan forthcoming activities. They work so hard on behalf of the children and the School. Thank you to you all for the circus event. The children have reported that they loved it! We will be including the PA events on our calendar for you.

I am pleased to report that Emerald class from Chiltern Wood have settled in well to the School and I am always greeted with a smile and impeccable manners. Well done boys!

Fiona Taylor

Interim Head Teacher

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Reception



In Reception, we have been continuing with our *Here I Am* theme and learning about each other. This week we have shared the book *What I Like* and made some simple sentences and drawn pictures of things we like. All of the children have also had their first trip to *The Dell* where we investigated the woodland area and shared a story.

Year 1 & 2



In Year 1 and Year 2 this fortnight we have been working very hard to learn our songs and words for the Harvest Festival. The performances went really well and we were delighted with all of the kind donations for One Can Trust and Wycombe Homeless Connection. Thank you everyone who contributed.

In Year 2 we have been learning about the different woodland animals that might live alongside the Wild Child in the woods. We can discuss the different types of animal groups and classify them. Andy Goldsworthy was our inspiration when we designed our natural art statues and we hope to build our monuments using stones. During one of our lessons this week, we went on a woodland walk to find out what types of trees we have on our school grounds. We were able to make links with some of the trees to our house teams. Also this week, we were left a note from the Wild Child asking us to make jam because that is her favourite food to eat. In order for us to do this, we had to write a set of instructions so that we could follow them and make some scrumptious homemade jam. We are hoping to receive more letters from the Wild Child and find out more about how she survives all alone out in the wild.

Mrs Barlow started her maternity leave on Friday, 5th October. She would like to thank all of the children, staff and parents/carers for their support and for making her time at The Downley School such a privilege.

Mrs Barlow will be bringing in her daughter for the children to meet once she has arrived and will be returning to School before the end of the year. During her maternity leave, Miss Richardson will be the Key Stage One Phase Leader and Miss O'Donnell will be leading on the Values. We wish Mrs Barlow the best of luck during the exciting time ahead and look forward to her returning to the School later in the year.

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Year 3



Year 3 have continued to enjoy learning about their topic “Into The Woods”. They have had the opportunity to work with an Art specialist to further explore different artistic techniques to create a painting of a character in the woods. They have used freeze framing and drama to visualise events in a story and use this to write a diary entry from a character’s perspective. The children have also thought carefully about sources of light and sorted them into the categories: natural or man-made.

Year 4



4F were lucky enough to be able to practise using drawing inks and charcoal plus brushes and twigs to create a woodland background for Stig; 4B experimented with ink and charcoal to create black and white drawings of forests as part of our learning about ‘Stig of the Dump’. We are proud of our masterpieces and you will see these displayed during Parents’ Evening soon.

As a year group, we have also been learning to round to 10/100 and 1000 so when you are out and about, perhaps the children can practise with you rounding numbers on the motorway or while shopping.

Thank you to all our parents, carers and children who contributed to the ‘Macmillan’ event last week as part of our Vision Launch Session – this was much appreciated.

Please note that book change will occur on Monday, Wednesday and Friday and you are welcome to speak to your class teacher about other ideas with regard to reading comprehension. Please continue to work on times tables and National Curriculum spellings while our school approach to homework is being reviewed.

More details will follow shortly.

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Year 5

BLACK HISTORY MONTH

In Year 5, we have been enjoying outside learning at the dell, using drama and role play and continuing our Robin Hood theme. We have been learning to add and subtract up 1,000,000 in Maths. In English, we have written a diary extract of Robin's thoughts and feelings when his father was captured. For Black History Month, the children were asked to research famous people who have contributed to our world. We have been looking at the spelling pattern "ough" ready for a test on Monday.

Year 6



I am sure you are aware that this week 23 pupils from Year 6 delivered highly persuasive slideshow presentations and speeches to the rest of the year group. We were thrilled to have so many candidates willing to step forward for the role of Head Boy and Head Girl at The Downley School. Following the speeches, Year 6 children voted by secret ballot in order to decide a shortlist of 8 pupils - 4 girls and 4 boys. It was a very close contest and after a count and re-count, we had our eventual shortlist.

Every single candidate would be absolutely worthy of the position and the children found it extremely hard to make their choices. On Thursday afternoon, the eight shortlisted candidates presented to Key Stage 2. They also visited every classroom to answer questions and promote their campaign.

All children in school have now cast a vote and the results will be announced on Monday.

Following this decision, other Year 6 leadership roles and responsibilities can be allocated in the next couple of weeks, including team captains, prefects and ambassadors. Those children who are interested in becoming part of the Digital Leaders Team, led by Miss Richardson in her role as Computing Subject Leader, have received a letter with details about how to apply for the role. The deadline for this is Friday, 12th October and interviews will take place from Monday 15th October.

Miss Stanbridge, Year 6 Phase Leader

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Message from Year 6 Pupils



Dear Parents/Carers,

As you may know, we are working on a project to reduce the use of plastic. We sent out a letter last school year explaining about what we wanted to do.

We would like to build a milk bottle hut, but we need 400 more milk bottles to complete it. This is a way of re-using the plastic in milk bottles. We would like to complete this by half term so we need them during the next two weeks if possible please.

If every child could bring in at least 3, it would make a big difference as we will be aiming to make 2 huts, possibly. The bottles will need to be 4 pint, clean and with no label.

Thank you for participating.

Kind regards,

Chole and Poppy, Year 6

Sport

The Downley School Girls Reach The Final

On Wednesday 3rd October, The Downley School hosted the High Wycombe Schools Football Girls' Tournament. Thirteen schools, including 2 teams from TDS, took part. Our teams began the tournament in the best possible way by winning their opening games against Spinfield School and Princes Risborough. Unfortunately, the B Team, despite playing really well, were unable to repeat their early success and lost their next two games to Tyler's Green and Monks Risborough.

In contrast, the A Team built on their win and, by beating Carrington, they were declared winners of their group and therefore progressed to the quarter finals where they met Disraeli School. In a very exciting game, our girls won 2-0 to go through to the semi-finals. In the semi-final we were drawn to play Ash Hill School. The game was very closely contested and finished 0 – 0 so a penalty shoot-out had to take place to find the winners. In a nail biting shoot out, TDS emerged victorious after both teams had taken 8 penalties each. We were in the final!!

In a tense and closely contested match, we were narrowly beaten by Tyler's Green, but as a reward for reaching the final, TDS goes through to represent High Wycombe in the County Finals to be played in November!

Seventeen girls represented TDS in the tournament and each and every one of them was an absolute credit to their School. They competed brilliantly and worked incredibly hard for each other.

Well done girls!

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Young Carers

Young Carers Bucks is part of Carers Bucks and supports children and young people in Buckinghamshire who have a caring role.

The tasks and level of caring undertaken by young carers can vary according to the nature of the illness or disability. A young carer does not necessarily have to be providing 'hands on' care to be recognised as a young carer. Sometimes the impact of having a sibling or parent with an illness or disability can impact on the Young Carer by making it tricky to have friends over after school for example, and perhaps trying to manage difficulties with the sibling's behaviour.

The children have had the opportunity to be part of a young carers assembly last term where they learnt more about the day in the life of a Young Carer and the opportunities offered at Young Carers Bucks.

The Young Carers Schools Project are now in a position to help set up a Young Carers Group within

At The Downley School, it is envisaged that the group will run half termly to support, nurture and provide a chance to socialise with other Young Carers within their school.

If you feel your child has a caring role for someone in your family, then please feel free to chat to Mrs Carr. We are looking forward to running our first Young Carers group soon.

Rahat Butt

Young Carers Schools Support Worker

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- Thank you to all the parents/carers now using the “Forgotten Items” box. Please ensure when bringing a forgotten item to school that it is clearly labelled with your child’s name and class. Thank you for your continued support with this.
- Please can you ensure all End of Day Arrangement forms have been completed with a password (if you have been contacted by the Office) and also that your multimedia and data collection forms have been completed and returned to the School Office.

KS2 Celebration Assembly 28th September – Stars of the Week

4F	Kayden, Izzy
4B	Lucas, Alfie
5G	Seth, Zaynah
5JR	Amy, Mackenzie
6S	Jack, Hannah
6L	Jessie, Bradley



Our winner on 28th September 2018 was Jay - Year 6

Attendance

Our attendance target for this year is to reach 96.5% attendance for the year.

Weekly Attendance Report for w/c 17th September 2018

Class	% Attendance	Class	% Attendance
RO	95.20%	RBT	92.50%
1H	98%	1P	98.28%
2K	97%	2R	97.59%
3KR	98.93%	3R	97.95%
4B	97.24%	4F	96.79%
5G	98.62%	5JR	99.31%
6L	94.67%	6S	97.59%

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Well done to 5JR for your 99.31% Attendance.

Weekly Attendance Report for w/c 24th September 2018

Class	% Attendance	Class	% Attendance
RO	98.67%	RBT	98%
1H	96.33%	1P	96.28%
2K	99.67%	2R	99.66%
3KR	100%	3R	97.60%
4B	97.99%	4F	98.57%
5G	96.96%	5JR	96.21%
6L	98.28%	6S	98.00%

Well done to 3KR for your 100 % Attendance.



11.10.18	PA Event - Bounce	8.30 - 12.00
12.10.18	PA Event - Second Hand Uniform Sale	3.00 - 3.30
12.10.18	PA Event - New Parents' Evening (Reception Parents)	8.00 PM – 10.00 PM
16.10.18	Whole School Parent Teacher Consultation Evening	3.30 – 6.30
18.10.18	Individual School Photographs	9.15-12.30
18.10.18	Whole School Parent Teacher Consultation Evening	3.30 – 6.30
22.10.18	Half Term – 22.10.18 – 26.10.18	
29.10.18	Flu Immunisation	
09.11.18	Remembrance Service KS2 – UKS2 Parents Invited	9.30 – 10.30
10.11.18	PA Event – Family Photo Session	9.00 – 5.00
21.11.18	PA –Annual General Meeting	7.45 – 9.00 PM
01.12.18	Christmas Fair	12.00 – 5.00
11.12.18	Nativity Performance - Foundation	1.30 – 2.30
11.12.18	Termly Reports to Parents/carers	
13.12.18	Nativity Performance - Foundation	4.30 – 5.30
17.12.18	Festival of Carols – KS1/KS2	3.00 – 3.30
18.12.18	End of Term	3.30
19.12.18 – 03.01.19	Half Term	
02.01.19	Inset Day	

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