



The Downley School

“Learning, Growing and Succeeding Together”

October 2023



Interim Head Teacher's Comment

We can't believe that we have reached the end of the first half-term. It really has been a very busy half-term and we are so impressed with how the children have settled into their new classes. As it was only 3 weeks ago since our last newsletter this communication will be shorter as it only serves to provide updates and upcoming events at The Downley School.

Half-term homelearning

We will not be setting a lot of home learning for the holiday period. It is important that children get a rest and you get a rest from work set by the school. Reading should be a daily activity and so we expect this to continue and teachers will have guided you to activities that will help consolidate learning for your child.

It's always lovely to hear about activities that children have been up to during their family time. If your child wishes to send me a postcard from somewhere they have been (day trip or holiday) or a letter I would be delighted to receive it and may display them to brighten up the stark walls in my office!

ODBST

A few parents have approached me to check if The Downley School has become a faith school since joining the ODBST. Despite being part of a faith trust I can assure you that The Downley School remains a multi faith school and is not a Christian school. We focus on values that can be applied to all religions and will continue to learn about the various religions around the world.

Dress like a pirate day

Thanks for letting your children participate in this fun dress up day. We loved the effort that all children made and we were relieved that their behaviour remained good despite dressing as pirates. We only had 6 children away on the day so this will really help with funding for next year.

Behaviour procedures

We have been reviewing our behaviour procedures to support the behaviour policy. These will be shared with the children and you next half-term. The vast majority of our children are well behaved, but they all make mistakes from time to time and it is important that these are dealt with in a consistent manner. We recognise the benefit of close home-school working and for this reason it is important to keep you informed of how your child is behaving so that improvements can be made swiftly.

Parking – **No parking in Faulkner Way**

A few parents continue to be a big concern for MANY of our local residents, parents and children. Several photos have been sent in of cars parked in an unsafe/disrespectful/illegal manner. **Please do not drive or park in Faulkner Way.** Your children have been advised that parents are not to park or drive in this road. Please support this as we will find it increasingly difficult expecting children to adhere to our requests when they can see their parents being disrespectful of our wishes. We have asked for support from the local authority with this issue and I will continue to think of ways to promote a more respectful approach at school drop off and collection times.

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The Downley School Diary – 2023/2024

All dates below are provisional and subject to change.

** more info to follow

Green – PA events

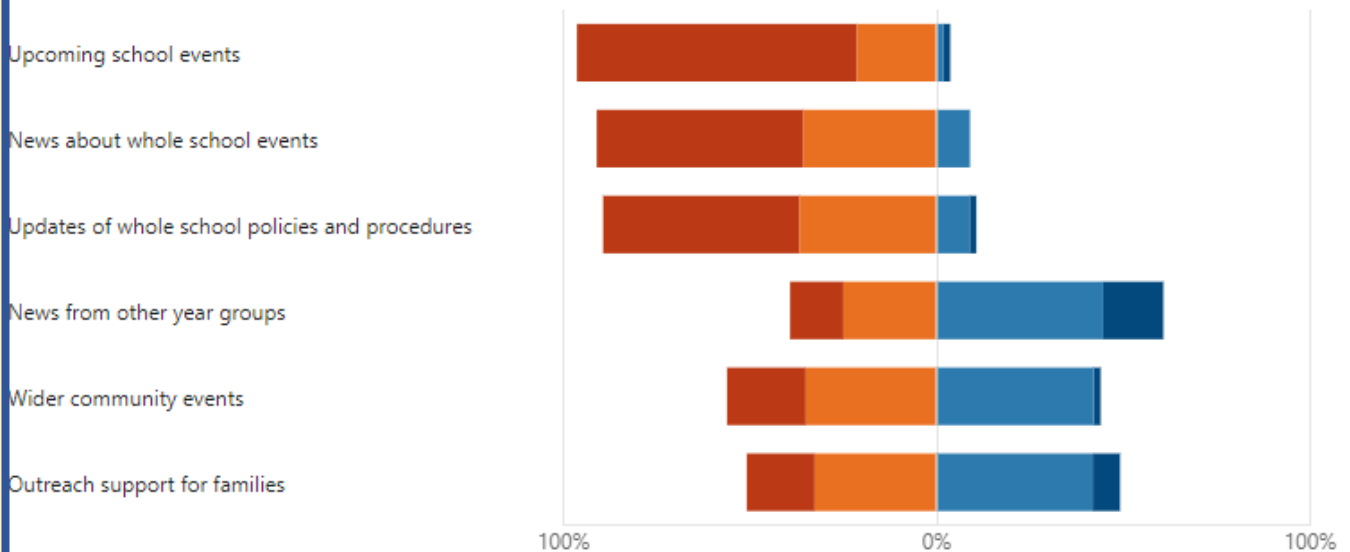
Monday 23 rd October - Friday 29 th October	Half Term	
Monday 30 th October	Inset Day	
Monday 30th October	PA Pumpkin Party Disco - in hall	Years 1/2 3.30 - 4.30pm Years 3/4 4.45- 6.15pm Years 5/6 6.30 - 8pm
Tuesday 31 st October	Back to School	
November		
Wednesday 1 st November	Swimming starts for 4H	
Thursday 2 nd November	Flu Immunisation	
Tuesday 7 th November	Open Morning	9.15 - 11am
Wednesday 8th November	PA AGM	8pm
Wednesday 8 th November	Jigsaw parent meetings - school hall	5.30pm
Thursday 9 th November	Jigsaw parent meetings - school hall	9am
Friday 10 th November	Year 3 & 4 Cinema Trip	am
Saturday 11 th November	Remembrance Day	
Saturday 11th November	PA Family Photo Shoot	am
Monday 13 th November - Friday 17 th November	Anti - Bullying week	
Monday 13 th November	World Kindness Day- Wear Odd Sock Day	
Tuesday 14 th November	Year 6 Height and Weight Checks	
Thursday 16 th November	Children in Need Day Dress Up Day	
Tuesday 21 st November	Parents Consultation evening	3.30 - 6pm
Wednesday 22 nd November	Parents Consultation evening	3.30 - 6.30pm
Tuesday 28 th November	Open Morning	9.15 - 11am
Wednesday 30 th November	Anti - Bullying Workshops	
December		
Friday 1st December	PA Mufti Day	
Saturday 2nd December	Christmas Fayre	TBC
Wednesday 6th December	PA Wreath Making Workshop	7.30pm
Wednesday 13 th December	Open Morning	9.15 - 11am
Friday 15 th December	Christmas Jumper Day	
Friday 15 th December	Christmas lunch for children	
Friday 15 th December	Christmas Carol Concert - playground	2.30pm
Monday 18 th December	Reception & Yr 1 Nativity	2.30pm
Tuesday 19 th December	Reception & Yr 1 Nativity	9.15am
Tuesday 19 th December	Break up 1.15 pm	
Wednesday 20 th December - Wednesday 3 rd January	Christmas Holidays	

Newsletter poll results

Please let us know how useful you find information currently contained in the newsletter

[More Details](#)

Extremely useful Somewhat useful Neutral Not useful

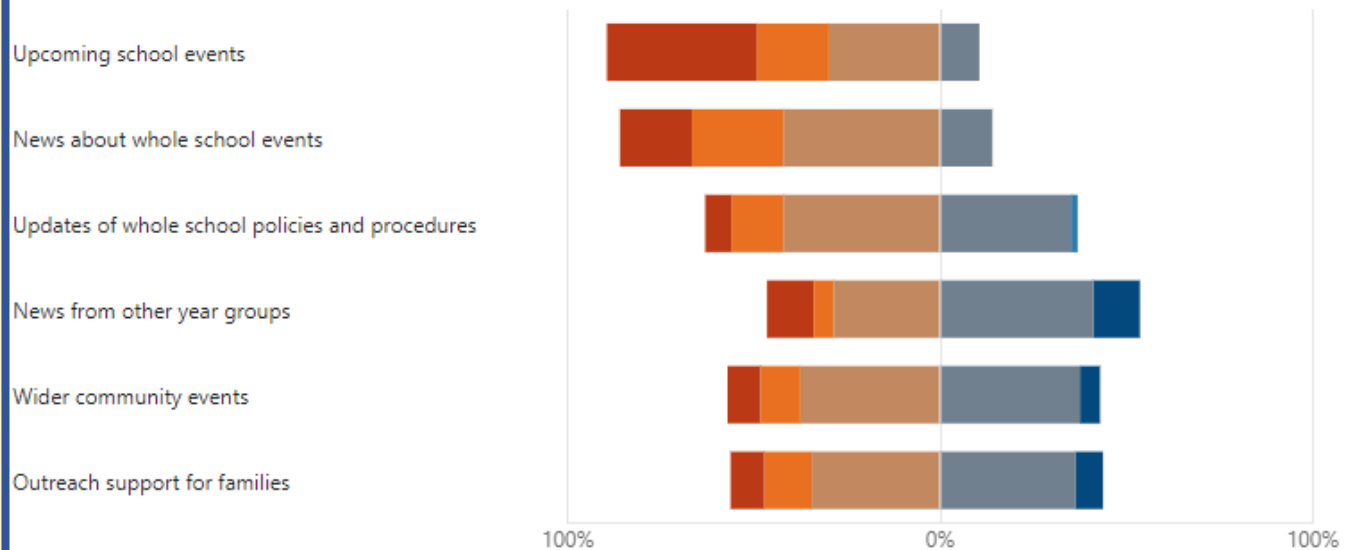


Please let us know how often you would like to receive the following information

NB - There is an option of never. Please scroll across to select this option if you can't see it.

[More Details](#)

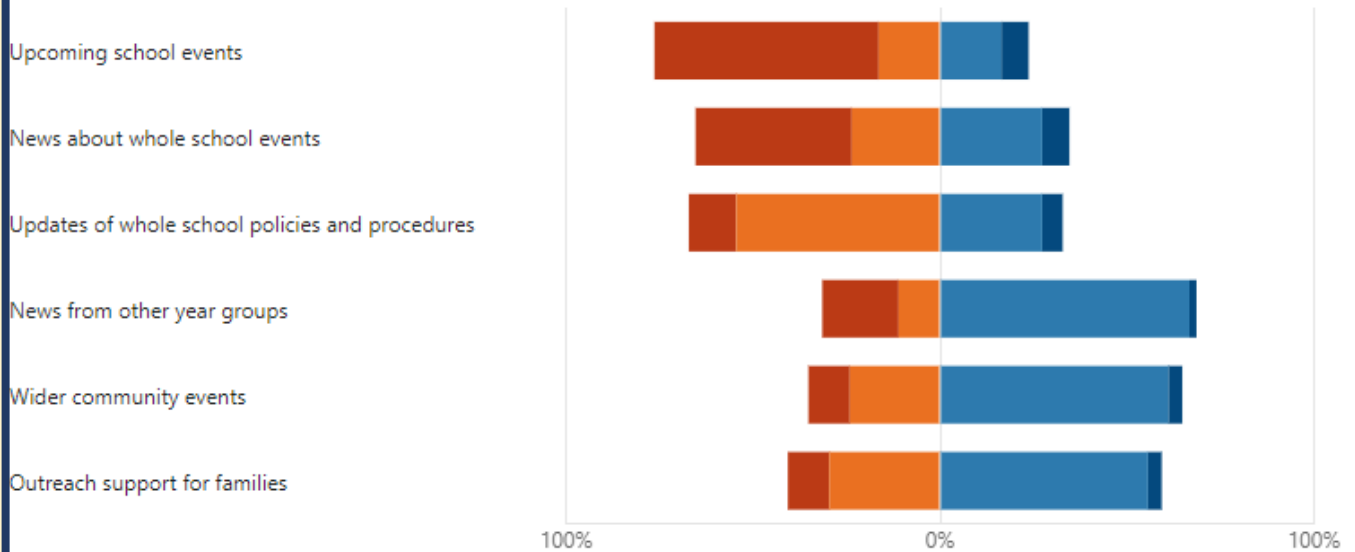
Weekly Fortnightly End of every calendar month Once a half term Week 2 and 5 of each half term Never



Please let us know how you would prefer us to communicate the following information

[More Details](#)

Dojo Email Newsletter Other - please state below



We are considering a secure section of our website for parents and pupils to have access to. We believe a link, provided via dojo/email, could direct you to the latest information. In this manner you would also be able to refer back to this information via the website (rather than trawling through dojo messages). IF this were possible what information would you like to see in a protected section of the website? (Select any you feel relevant)

[More Details](#)

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Yesterday we emailed ‘Opportunities to Discover’ as a separate document. This included events that are happening in the local area over half term and the next month or so. We will communicate further changes you can expect to see once senior leaders have had the opportunity to analyse the results of the survey.