



DILS News

Dunstable Icknield Lower School Newsletter Issue 41
20th September 2019



WE HAVE JOB VACANCIES AT SCHOOL – CHECK OUR WEBSITE FOR MORE INFORMATION

ABOUT CHILDREN

Y3 Stunning Start to Europe - Year 3 had an exciting start to the Europe topic. Plates of food arrived during lunch time and the children had to taste the food and guess which European country the food originated. Some children were not too keen to try the foods but were gently persuaded to have a little bite. The Polish bread and Jam and Romanian cake were very popular. We hope the children enjoyed the experience and shared their thoughts with you.

Y4 History off the page - The Year 4 children had a fantastic day Thursday celebrating Roman day when History off the Page came to visit. They dressed up and took part in lots of immersive activities, finding out about Roman life. Activities included making mosaics, pots and becoming doctors by learning how to make medicinal cures! The day included a lot of role play, giving the children to chance to experience what life would have been like to live in a Roman villa.

Harvest Festival - The Year 2 children have been learning about the Harvest festival as part of their RE for this term. The children have also learnt how these celebrations can help to support people within the local area. As we have a strong partnership with Priory Church, we are going to be collecting items to contribute to their Harvest service, which will then be donated to Dunstable Food Bank (who are visiting Year 2 next week to talk about the work they do). We would like to celebrate this as a **whole school**, so if you would like to participate in this event please send in a non-perishable food item such as tinned meat, vegetables or fruit from Monday 23rd September. The last day for donations is Tuesday 8th October so we can get it to the church on time. Teachers will have a Harvest collection box in their classrooms. This website has lots of ideas and highlights what they are most in need of- <https://dunstable.foodbank.org.uk/give-help/donate-food/>

Y2 History Days - As part of our 'Victorians' topic we are holding two History Days in school for Year 2. The first one, on Tuesday 15th October, will be a Victorian school day in which the children will have the opportunity to learn what schools were like, how children were expected to behave and elements of a typical day. On the second day, Tuesday 12th November, the children will be learning about what life was like for Florence Nightingale, and the conditions of the hospitals at the time. These days will be based on a series of creative activities and role play, using a variety of resources. In order to cover the cost of the materials, we are asking for a small donation of £2.50 per child. A letter has been emailed to Y2 parents.

Book Fair - It's that time of year again when the travelling book fair will be visiting our school. This event raises valuable money for the school to purchase new books for our library and for use in class. The book fair will be open for purchasing books during our parent's evenings, 16th and 17th October. A leaflet will be sent home with the children shortly.

Clubs – There are still places available in our Dance (lunchtime), Gym, Zumba, Tennis and Hotshots clubs. Places are being offered on a first come, first served basis and can be booked via our school office.



DILS News



Dunstable Icknield Lower School Newsletter Issue 41

20th September 2019

Additional Year Group PE Clubs – Starting on Monday 23rd September we are offering a weekly PE after school activity for Years 2, 3 and 4. The places are limited to 30 and on a first come, first served basis. A letter was sent home last week with more information.

Educational visits and activities permissions - We have recently sent out a letter requesting permission for all of the next academic terms educational visits and activities. The aim is to reduce time parents spend consenting to activities across the school year, also reducing printing of forms. Information regarding an educational visit or activity will still be sent home before the event, and consent to attend can be declined by contacting the school office. A copy of the letter is attached to this week's newsletter and is also available on our website.

Spelling Shed - The children in school can now use Spelling Shed to support their learning at home. Give it a go! <https://www.spellingshed.com/en-gb/index.html>. More learning resources can be found on our website.

Pumpkin Carving Competition – Our Halloween pumpkin carving competition is back! To enter grab a pumpkin, carve your design and send us a picture and you could be in with a chance of winning a selection of fantastic board games. Entries should be emailed to pumpkins@abmcatering.co.uk/admissions by no later than Monday 4th November. Remember to include your name and the name of your school!

Teacher Award winners this week - Zimmer – Benjamin; Lloyd-Webber – Poppy; Bolt – Mia; Beckham – Alfie; Rosen – Bobby; Potter – Harry; Attenborough – Emily; Anning – Mason.

Pupil Achievements - Congratulations to Imogen in year 4, who last week passed stage 10 of the Swim England awards and in doing so completed a 1500m swim (75 lengths).

FOR PARENTS

Family Fridays - Starting on Friday 27th September 2019 we will be inviting parents/carers into their child's class every week to listen to their child read in school. Research shows that children's progress is improved when they are well supported at home with their reading skills. We hope that by inviting parents/carers into school the children can be the leader of shared reading, boosting their confidence and enjoyment of reading at home. An email containing all the information has been sent to all parents.

School Admissions – School place applications are now open for children who are either due to start their education in September 2020 or transfer to Middle, Secondary or Upper school. If you are applying for a place to start school or to join a middle school, you have until Wednesday the 15th January 2020 to make an application. Full information on applying for school places is available on the Central Bedfordshire website www.centralbedfordshire.gov.uk

Nursery - Parents/carers will have the coverage of work for the week beginning 23rd September emailed to them. It can also be viewed on the website under the classes tab. Please contact the office if you are unable to receive this information electronically.



DILS News



Dunstable Icknield Lower School Newsletter Issue 41

20th September 2019

Contact details - Please ensure you have given the school office a contact telephone number for all your emergency contacts and an email address for the parent/guardian of the child. We send all our information electronically via email.

Open Afternoons for Future Prospective Parents – Do you know anyone who is thinking about applying for a place at Dunstable Icknield Lower School in the future? This year we are holding an open afternoon for prospective parents on the **10th October from 16:00 – 16:45**. If you know someone who may be interested in this open afternoon, please let them know and ask them to call the school to book their place.

Parking Permits - We have a small amount of parking permits available for Wilkinson's car park, giving the bearer free parking from 8.45am-9.05am and 15.10pm-15.25pm. Permits are allocated with a blind draw. More details will be sent home towards the end of September.

PTA – The Parent Teacher Association is a voluntary group who organise events and fundraisers for school. Money raised helps to pay for additional resources and educational trips for every year group. Every year, the PTA provide enough funds to make bus hire affordable. Without these extra funds, we would not be able to offer educational visits which relied on hiring buses to transport the children. Our PTA is at risk of folding this year as we desperately need more volunteers. If you are passionate about helping your child's school, please come along to our AGM on Wednesday 25th September 2019 at 18:00.

New Parents - Parental App - We have a mobile app for parents, called Arbor, available on the Play Store or App Store. The school office can send your login details home for you. You can use this app to pay for clubs, trips and meals, see your child's attendance and we use it to push messages to you. Please note that for **Extended Day** bookings, you will need to use your Tucasi account.

Arbor App Update - Thank you to all the parents who have logged on and started to use the Arbor app. We hope you are enjoying the features. Lots of parents have requested changes to the data we hold - thank you! We will review these changes once a week and accept or reject them. Rejections of changes have only been done so far if we already hold the data. For example, we have had lots of requests to add a parent or carers details into the system. We already hold these, so the request has been rejected saving data being duplicated.

Arbor App Update - Dietary requirement changes requested through the Arbor app will not be accepted by our school caterer ABM. If your child has a dietary requirement that does not show on the app, please come to the school office and fill in an ABM dietary requirement form. Thank you!

Extended Day Facilities – After school and breakfast extended day are available from September to children aged 5 years and above. **You will be able to register and pay for these clubs via Schools Cash Office/Tucasi account only.**

School Vacancies:

- **Midday Supervisors** – We have opportunities for lunchtime work at our school. You will be supervising children in the dining hall and be responsible for ensuring the safety, welfare and good conduct of pupils during the midday break. If you are interested in this position and would like more information, please call the school office on 01582 663709 and ask for Mrs White.



DILS News



Dunstable Icknield Lower School Newsletter Issue 41
20th September 2019

| | |
|---|--|
| Key Dates for Term 1 | Term dates are available on the Central Bedfordshire Council website and our own website are subject to change so please refer to CBC regularly. |
| Tue 24th September | Y2 - Harvest Festival – Dunstable Food Bank visit to school |
| Wed 25th September | PTA Annual General Meeting 18:00 – 19.00 – everyone welcome. |
| Friday 27th September | Family Fridays – weekly event for children and parents |
| Thurs 10th October | EYFS Prospective Parent evening 16:00 – 16:45 |
| Mon 14th October | Photos - individual students |
| Tues 15th October | Y2 History Day – Victorian school day for children |
| Wed 16th & Thurs 17th October | Parents evenings: 16 th October from 15:30 – 18:00 17 th October from 17:00 – 20:00 |
| Wed 16th & Thurs 17th October | Book Fair – school library 16 th October from 15:30 – 18:00 17 th October from 17:00 – 20:00 |
| Mon 21st October – Mon 28th October | Half Term – School closed for children |
| Thursday 7th November | Y2 Rosen Victorian day – Assembly for parents 14:30 – 15:00 |
| Sunday 10th November | Dunstable Remembrance Parade – for Y4 nominated pupils; parents welcome to come along and watch 10:00 – 12:00 |
| Mon 11th – 15th November | Anti-bullying week – in school activities for children |
| Tuesday 12th November | Y2 History Day - Florence Nightingale day – for children |
| Friday 15th November | Children in Need Day - in school activities for children, donations welcome |
| Thursday 21st November | Y2 Potter Victorian day – Assembly for parents 14:30 – 15:00 |
| Thursday 28th November | PTA Christmas Fair - School hall from 14:30 – 16:30 [This is dependent on having an active PTA group] |
| Friday 29th November | Christmas Tree Carols and Torchlight Processions – Ashton Square from 19:00 for nominated pupils; parents welcome to come along and watch |
| Wednesday 04th December | Artsmark experience - Full House Theatre Group will perform 'By the light of the moon' for KS1 and KS2 - in school activity for children |
| Friday 10th December | Flu vaccination - Years R – 4 – more information and forms to follow |
| Friday 20th December 2019 | Christmas Carol Concert at the DCC Centre 13:30 – 15:30 |
| Mon 23rd December – Fri 03rd January | End of term holiday - School closed for children |



DILS News



Dunstable Icknield Lower School Newsletter Issue 41
20th September 2019

| Letters sent home this week | | |
|---|--------------|------------|
| Letter Content: | Who sent to: | Date sent: |
| DILS - PE Clubs | Y2, Y3, Y4 | 19/09/2019 |
| DILS - Reception coverage of work | R | 20/09/2019 |
| DILS - Nursery Coverage of works 23.09.2019 | Nursery | 20/09/2019 |
| DILS - Family Fridays | R - Y4 | 20/09/2019 |
| | | |
| | | |
| | | |