

Newsletter

Autumn 2: October 2021



Dear Parents/Carers,

It is hard to believe that we are already coming to the end of the first half term of the academic year. There has been a lovely atmosphere around school. We have been able to welcome more visitors on site than in previous months and their feedback and comments have been very positive. There has been lots of praise for the friendliness of staff and children. A particular point of notice has been children's politeness when visitors meet them around school and I am sure you will all join me in feeling incredibly proud of our children as wonderful ambassadors for Decoy Primary.

Black History Month October 2021

During October, we have been finding out about Black History Month, a time set aside each year to celebrate the achievements of black men and women in the past and today, in the UK and abroad. Some of the people we have found out about include Marcus Rashford, Rosa Parks and Benjamin Zephaniah. By sharing the lovely book 'The Other Side' by Jaqueline Woodson we were also able to understand more about segregation and real and invisible barriers that can be put in place.



Friday 22nd October is 'Show Racism the Red Card!' Day and we would like to show that we will not tolerate racism in our school, local community or global community by encouraging everyone to wear something red that day. We are having a non-uniform day and a whole red outfit, a splash of red or a tiny touch of red will be very welcome. If your child does not have anything with red to wear, don't worry, we'll make sure they have something red with them – perhaps as simple as a red card.

Over the half-term holiday, we would also like to set some voluntary homework for the children. We are always encouraging children to share books with grown-ups at home. The following link has a range of books that explore black lives, black history and anti-racism. Many of the titles can be found on YouTube where, if you turn the sound down, you will be able to read the book together.
<https://www.booksfortopics.com/black-lives-matter> .

We would also like to invite older children (and younger children with some adult support) to research the life and achievement of black Britons and present the information in any way that they choose. This could be a poster, a poem, a picture, a piece of writing, a book review etc. which could then be included in our celebration display in school. Please can completed pieces of work be brought in by Wednesday 3rd November 2021.

Governor nominations

I am delighted to share that Mr Andrew McKenzie has been appointed as a parent governor. He has already attended a Full Governing Body meeting and will be joining each committee next term

before joining either the Learning and Wellbeing Committee or Business Management Committee. We still have vacancies for parent governors so do look out for more information coming out next half term.

Staying safe

I have attached a letter from Devon County Council to this ParentMail. It clarifies the expectations about Covid arrangements and, in particular, when children should or should not attend school. I hope you find this information helpful.

Emergency contact

As we come to the half term holiday, please can I also remind parents/carers that we have an email address for **emergencies** out of school hours, such as at the weekend or over the school holidays.

Please only use this email for emergencies such as reporting positive Covid cases rather than general communication. All other emails should be sent directly members of staff or to the office email account which is admin@decoyschool.co.uk.

The emergency email address is contact@decoyschool.co.uk

Drop off and collection arrangements

When we come back to school on 1st of November we will be ready to return to the **8:55am deadline for children arriving at school ready to go into class** just as we had before the pandemic. The gate will still be opened at 8:45am and, when children arrive, they can go straight into class; **however, the gate will now be closed at 8:55am**. This allows us to have a prompt start to the day for the children and for me and Mr Lee to be ready to lead our morning assemblies. We shall keep the one-way system so that parents/carers leave the site via the school staff car park, except Reception families who use the reception playground gate. We shall continue with the end of day arrangements as they currently stand. The gate will be unlocked at 3:20pm with the same one-way entrance and exit arrangements.



PTA

Thank you for your fantastic support for the Hallowe'en pumpkins. It has been lovely to have the creative ideas of our PTA back at school and the response from the children has been wonderful. They are now busy planning for an outdoor Christmas Market on 10th December and for (fingers crossed) school discos on 2nd December.

Harvest

We are still welcoming donations for 'THAT' Food Bank. To help with the choice of donations, 'THAT' have provided a list of food items that they are particularly keen to receive at this harvest time: • Porridge oats • Sugar • Coffee • Custard • Tinned tomatoes • Shampoo • Toilet rolls • Men's deodorant • Instant / Pot Noodles . We would be grateful if any donations could be given to class teachers on Wednesday 20th or Thursday 21st October for this important local cause. Thank you

Diary Dates

The last few dates for the school diary of events are being finalised and we hope to send them out before the half term break.

Have an enjoyable and safe half-term and we look forward to seeing everyone back at school on Monday 1st November 2021.

Kind regards

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read 'H. Poustie'.

Mrs H. Poustie, Headteacher