



Droxford Junior School  
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Headteacher: Matthew Dampier

## September 2019 Newsletter

Dear Parents

### Welcome everyone!

I would like to offer a special welcome to all the families who are new to our school community. It can be exciting and daunting in equal measures at times. We are here to help and support and ensure it becomes more engaging, motivating and fun in the long term.

Strong partnerships are essential; we have an 'open door' policy so that issues are resolved quickly and the children are settled, happy and successful. We always encourage children to speak to adults in school so we can help immediately. You are more than welcome to pop in to see the teachers before or after school or call / email anytime. Hopefully there won't be too many teething problems at the beginning of the year.

Being a rural school we don't always get to see you but that doesn't mean we won't.

### Vision, values and Skills for Learning.

We have had a really busy year again last year – 'behind the scenes'. We finalised a strategic landscape strategy plan that will keep us focussed for the foreseeable future; we recruited really successfully and have a kind, positive, dedicated and hard-working team and finally we developed a new Vision, refined our school Values and created our Droxford Junior School 'Skills for Learning'.

**School Vision:** [Equipping our children with the knowledge and skills to navigate life successfully.](#)



### Skills for Learning

Children will be taught and encouraged to use their Skills for Learning every day. To be **Tenacious**: is being resilient, to persevere, showing grit and determination and being positive helps with problem solving and overcoming challenges – physical and mental. Being **Creative**: helps to solve problems and ensure we know there is more than one way; is personal and individual; is literal (linked to the arts) and can be about invention and enterprise. Being **Curious** is important when trying out new things and testing theories; is about asking questions to find new learning; is about discovery; being open minded and positive and being courageous – understanding new learning comes from mistakes. Finally **Collaboration** is about teamwork and communication skills; working with a variety of teams and individuals in and out of school including parents.



**Staffing** for 2019 – 2020 Academic Year is as follows:

**Headteacher** – Mr Dampier

**Deputy headteacher** – Mrs Smith

### **Years 3 & 4**

Droxford Base – Mr Lowndes

Hambledon Base – Miss Barnett

Meonstoke Base – Miss Kirby

### **Years 5 & 6**

Exton Base – Miss Jones (Year 5 class)

Soberton Base – Mr Todd (Year 6 and some Year 5)

Newtown Base – Mrs Smith (DHT) + Mrs Boyden (Year 6 and some Year 5)

**Friday PPA cover** – Mrs Goodwin, Mrs Wright and Mr Banham

**(our amazing) TAs** – Mrs Kuiper, Mrs Barnett, Mrs Fowler, Mrs Beckley, Miss Cook, Mrs Metcalf and Mrs Evans.

**Other posts** – SENCo – Mrs Greenwood (Mon-Wed); ELSA – Mrs Lucia Smith

Librarian – Mrs Daniells. Sports Coach – Mr Banham. Music – Mrs Graham

Finance officer: Mrs Hinks

Admin / Office team: Mrs Cleeve, Mrs Swinburn and Mrs Bury.

Site Manager – Mr Vardy

**School dog** - Luna

### **Clubs including Breakfast club**



Our Breakfast Club is all set up and running. A big thank you to Mrs Mel Lush who runs the club so well! The club provides much needed child care for families from 7:30 – 8:45 and includes breakfast (cereal, toast, juice) and a range of activities in a safe and caring environment.

Cost is £5 first child £4 siblings thereafter per day. We would prefer half-termly payments in advance but also understand the uncertainty of life and work patterns – so don't worry we can accommodate and be flexible to support you. People are booking up already!

Just a reminder that children should not be on site before **7:30am** for the club– if they need to be then contact the school office and speak to Liz, Josie, Rachel or Denise.

<http://droxfordjunior.co.uk/wp-content/uploads/2019/06/Breakfast-Club-General-booking-and-Reference-guide.pdf>

### **Open Morning for parents of Year 3 Children**

On Thursday 12th September will have the chance to work alongside their children and stay for lunch. A great opportunity for our Year 3 children to show their parents around the school, work with them in class and stay for lunch! Please contact the office regarding your attendance and lunch.



## **Year 6 parents meeting: Calshot residential and SATs information**

On 9<sup>th</sup> October 6-7 p.m. we will be holding an information evening about Year 6. This will include: the structure of the year; SATs (and their impact); the curriculum; various other aspects of the year. It will also be an information evening for the upcoming trip for Calshot. It would be great to see you there.

## **English workshop: Thursday 17<sup>th</sup> October 9.15 – 10.15am**

There will be a short presentation on how we teach reading, writing and spelling across all four year groups – discuss homework. There will then be the opportunity to visit your child's class and see the teaching of English in action. This is a great opportunity to learn about our curriculum and how you can best support your child at home where possible.

## **Mathematics workshop Thursday 14th November 9.15 – 10.15am**

Again, this will be an opportunity for parents to find out how mathematics is taught at Droxford in line with our calculation strategy document. As you can appreciate, there are many ways to teach the same calculation in maths and hearing different strategies can be confusing for children. This workshop will enable you to understand the way your children learn maths at Droxford so you can help support them at home. After the presentation, you will have the opportunity to visit your children in their maths class.

## **Road Safety**

**PLEASE DO NOT DRIVE UP TO THE SCHOOL TO DROP OFF OR COLLECT CHILDREN AT PEAK TIMES.**

Could you also ensure you are dropping off and picking up your child in safe places; the village square car park and the car park adjacent to the Fire station are ideal. A request from Hampshire Fire and Rescue is not to park in the area directly in front of the Fire Station; this is needed for fire crews in an emergency.

There is enough parking in the square or the parking area next to the fire station so hopefully there would be no need to park in The Park. However, if the very rare occasion arises and this does occur the residents of The Park would very much appreciate it if their **driveways and garages were not blocked and people do not park on the grass.** Thank you!

## **Bus Escorts and exit registers**

Please ensure your child is clear on their transport arrangements on a daily basis. If your child uses the bus in the mornings please make sure they know what to do if the bus is late picking them up. At the end of the school day a teacher and Mr Vardy, our Site Manager, will escort the children to the buses. Please ensure your child carries their bus pass at all times.

<http://www.droxfordjuniorschool.co.uk/>

At the end of the school day all children take part in our exit registration process. The class teacher calls out names and children let the teacher know whether they are on the school bus, going home either by cycling, walking or collected by an adult (we call this 'own' or club. We have club timetables in all classes and we endeavour to remind children however there is a level of responsibility needed by children in knowing how they are getting home. It helps!



## School Uniform

The children are looking really smart and this reinforces our high standards and expectations. The children should not be wearing jewellery or nail varnish. However a plain earring or pair of earrings is acceptable. They should be wearing practical shoes for everyday use; trainers can be worn for outside PE.

As a reminder it is grey trousers, skirts and **blue polo shirts**. FODS do have second-hand uniform sales at various school events.

<http://droxfordjunior.co.uk/wp-content/uploads/2018/11/School-Uniform-Policy-Jan-2018.pdf>

## School Dinners

From September 2019 the cost of lunches is £2.40 per day. Total cost for the first half of Autumn Term will be £88.80 and the second half will be £81.60. Year 6 children please deduct £12.00 for Calshot activity week which is in the second half of the term. Payments can be made online via your online account. If you wish to pay by cheque it must be made payable to 'HCC'. Payments sent into school need to be in a sealed envelope with your child's full name on the front.

## Packed Lunches and healthy snacks

Please make these as balanced and as healthy as possible. We consistently remind parents about food types and nuts in school. Children are also encouraged to use our hand sanitisers at the start of the day, after break time and lunch time.

**There are several children with severe nut and other food allergies in school. Please remind your child(ren) not to share food. Thank you.**

Please provide your child with a piece of fruit or a healthy alternative. The children should not be bringing sweets into school at all. Alternatively Hampshire Caterers sell a variety of snacks at break time.

**PLEASE DO NOT BRING SWEETS OR CAKES INTO SCHOOL ON BIRTHDAYS!**

## Free School Dinners

From September 2019 all children who were in reception, year 1 or year 2 were offered a free healthy school lunch. Children in other school years are also offered a **free school lunch** if their parents get any of the following:

- Income Support
- Income-based Jobseekers Allowance
- Income-related Employment and Support Allowance
- Support under Part VI of the Immigration and Asylum Act 1999
- the guaranteed element of State Pension Credit
- Child Tax Credit (provided you're not also entitled to Working Tax Credit and have an annual gross income of no more than £16,190) as assessed by Her Majesty's Revenue and Customs (Parents who are made redundant or start working less than 16 hours per week, may find their children are entitled to free meals for a limited period.)
- Working Tax Credit run-on - paid for 4 weeks after you stop qualifying for Working Tax Credit
- Universal Credit (provided you have an annual net earned income of no more than £7,400, as assessed by earnings from up to three of your most recent assessment periods)





## **Even if your child prefers to have a packed lunch from home registering for free meals raises money for our school!**

Registering your child could raise an extra £1,320 to fund valuable support like extra tuition, additional teaching staff, school trip, residential visit or after school activity support. As a supporting incentive for the 2019/20 academic year, we would like to offer a free school uniform to any parent who successfully registers for Free School Meals by 31<sup>st</sup> December 2019. Please contact the school office for further details.

### **Leave of absence**

Please do not request any leave of absence during term time as it will not be authorised. The school has to follow statutory guidance set by the Department for Education (DfE) which Hampshire Local Authority states that we legally have to follow. As you may be aware this could involve fines being imposed by the Local Authority.

### **Medical Forms**

If your child needs to have medicines administered in school please complete a medical form (available on website) or obtain a form from the school office. If your child has a particular condition that we should be aware of please inform or update the school office.

### **Friends of Droxford School (FODS)**

You are ALL WELCOME to the FODS AGM on Tuesday 17th September at 1:30 – 3p.m. in school to find out what we do and what events are in store for the coming term!

Please do check book bags regularly for information about FODS events during the term - we don't want your child to miss out on film nights, discos etc.

Thank you in advance for your support - we look forward to some fun social events during the term.

***The FODS Team***

[Friendsofdroxfordschool@gmail.com](mailto:Friendsofdroxfordschool@gmail.com)

### **Listen2Me**

Every child will learn an instrument for a term each academic year. Listen2Me is run by Hampshire Music Service and **FODS** raise the funding for the expert, whole class tuition. Every child learns and experiences playing four musical instruments, from Years 3-6; reads musical notations and participates in performing to audiences. This year Years 3 and 4 will learn the violin and Years 5 and 6 will learn to play brass instruments! At the end of each term there will be a performance for parents in the school – watch this space!

### **Library and Breakfast club magazines**

Just a plea for the library and breakfast club. If you have any good condition, appropriate educational magazines e.g RSPB, wildlife magazines, children's science / mathematics magazines or children's national geographic periodicals etc... or even good condition comics you could donate we would be very grateful. **Our new librarian, Mrs Jackie Daniells would be delighted!**



**Book Buddies**

Over the years we have been very fortunate to have members of the local community come in and hear children read. For many children, this is a vital part of their learning as it improves their confidence and understanding. It's a rewarding role and the children absolutely love being able to read to an adult. It really does make a difference.

We currently have spaces for book buddies and full training can be given. If you can spare an hour (or two!) a week and are interested or if you know any grandparents, or aunties or uncles who might be, please contact the school office.

**Reminder – Day Closure dates**

- Wednesday 4th September 2019
- Friday 25th October 2019
- Monday 24th February 2020
- Friday 22nd May 2020
- Friday 26th June 2020

Where possible these dates have been agreed with infant schools. The dates are generally on a Monday or Friday so that families can organise longer weekends rather than requesting leave of absence at other times.

We are all looking forward to another successful and enjoyable year,

Best wishes



Matthew Dampier  
Headteacher

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**English Workshop – Thursday 17<sup>th</sup> October 2019 (led by Mr Dampier & Mrs Smith)**

I will be attending the workshop in the school hall at 9:15 followed by an in-class session with my child(ren).

Child..... Learning Base / Year .....

Name: ..... Date: .....



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