

DYMCHURCH PRIMARY SCHOOL FAMILY MATTERS

NEWS FROM YOUR FLO
Issue 23 January 2016

Medical/Dental/Optical Appointments



At Dymchurch Primary School we want all our children to be able to achieve their absolute best and to do that ideally they need to be in school every day between 8.45a.m and 3.10 p.m.

We all know that children pick up bugs and the usual childhood ailments and sometimes need time off school to recover. They certainly can't come in if they are suffering from sickness, diarrhoea or a contagious disease such as chicken pox. However as parents we can give our children the best possible chance of success if we minimise any other school absences such as dental, medical and optician's appointments.

It will be of real benefit to your children's learning if you can ensure that all routine appointments are arranged for after school hours or for during the school holidays. The school year consist of 190 school days, which, even allowing for weekends, still leaves plenty of time for those routine check-ups and appointments.

Obviously emergencies can occur, especially, in my experience, with glasses being broken, and there may be occasions when an appointment has to be attended in school hours. Similarly if your child needs to attend a hospital appointment there is rarely the chance to arrange that for out of school hours and we certainly would not want any child to miss an appointment that happened to have been allocated in school time. However ensuring that, so far as possible, no learning time is lost for routine appointments will help your child to achieve their best which is what we are all striving for.

A copy of appointment letters/cards would also be appreciated to enable us to keep our attendance records up to date.

February Half Term Fun Be Safe Family Event



There is a free family fun event being held at St Mary's Bay village hall during half term week on **Thursday 18 February from 1.00 – 2.30.**

The event is being organised by Dymchurch Children's Centre and will feature fun, games, craft activities and various freebies. It looks like great fun so why not pop along and join in. Have fun and pick up some free safety advice and goodies at the same time.

For more information telephone 03000 411055 or pop into Dymchurch Children's Centre, Country's Field, Dymchurch TN29 0NQ



Coffee & Chat



Our next Coffee & Chat will take place on **Tuesday 22 March at 2.30.** Please do come along, preferably bring a friend with you, and let us have your views on how things are going at school for you and your family.

Youth Club for Years 4, 5 and 6



A new FREE youth club has recently started running on a MONDAY straight after school between 3.30 – 5.00p.m

The youth club is being run by KCC youth workers and is being held at the Phase II Youth Centre in Station Road, New Romney (right beside the Marsh Academy buildings).

The afternoons will be full of fun packed activities including:

- Arts & crafts
- Sports & games
- Cooking
- Drama
- Music

The youth club provides an opportunity for your child to meet new friends or to chill out with their regular mates. The club aims to build confidence and self-esteem as well as ready the older children for their transition to Secondary School. There is no need to book, your child can just go along and join in the fun.

If you think your child/children would enjoy the experience of this new Youth Club but you'd like some more information then you can contact Liz Carey for further details on 03000 414780 or 07740 186073 or email Liz on liz.carey@kent.gov.uk.

Why not give it a go? There's not a vast amount available for young people on the Marsh, especially those aged 8-11. It sounds like a chance for the children to have a great time whilst it gives parents a chance to have a relaxing hour or so in the certain knowledge that their children are safe and not "getting up to mischief"

Free School Meals



Hopefully all parents of children in Reception class and Years 1 and 2 are aware that they are entitled to a free school lunch every day irrespective of family circumstances. You may not be aware that the kitchen can provide a "packed lunch" type free school meal instead of the hot meal if your child would prefer that. This does have to have been arranged in writing in advance however.

If any child who is entitled to free school meals would prefer to have the packed lunch option then you need to write in advising us of this fact and we can make the necessary arrangements. Your child cannot just ask for a packed lunch at the counter I'm afraid. I'm happy to help with any queries regarding this.

If you think that you may be entitled to free school meals due to your family circumstances but have not claimed as you feel that your child/children would not like the meals maybe you should apply and ask for the packed lunch option. Applications can be made online at www.kcc.gov.uk then type "free school meals" into the search box. You will not usually be entitled unless you are in receipt of an income based benefit such as income support or income based job seekers allowance

Even if your child is entitled to the universal free meals available to younger child it is a good idea to put in a claim if you are in receipt of an income based benefit. The extra funding this attracts enables us to support your children even better in school.

Easter Art Attack



Just some advance notice of the fact that there will be an Easter/Spring themed Art Attack running straight after school on Tuesday 17 March in the school hall.

We will be holding a raffle to win a giant Easter Chick stuffed toy as well as the usual range of arts and crafts for the family to enjoy together. Watch out for letters coming home in book bags soon after half term.