

Ditton CE Junior School Newsletter

“That they may have life and live it to the full”

20.5.22

Headlines

I have had a great first few weeks at Ditton getting to know the wonderful staff and your lovely children. I am impressed by how committed everyone is to doing the very best they can for all children. It has been lovely to meet those of you I've seen at the gate. Please don't hesitate to come and have a chat if there is anything you'd like to share with me.

We are continuing to build on the strategic work Mr Sutton-Smith and the team started. The priorities are largely the same but we have a greater emphasis on Special Educational Needs and the assessment and progress of all children.

Our five priorities are:

1. To continue to develop the skills of school leaders to enable rapid improvement
2. Improve the curriculum to ensure the curriculum intent, implementation and impact are clear, reflects the aspirations of the school and has a positive impact on pupil outcomes
3. Preparation for the future – building a strong vision for the school
4. The quality of teaching ensures children with Special Educational Needs fully engage in the classroom
5. Teachers use formative and summative assessments to accurately assess children's progress and attainment.

Art Competition

This year, Ditton CE Junior School will be hosting a fantastic Art Competition in honour of the Queen's Platinum Jubilee. All children will create artwork in school on Friday 27th May and then will be invited to submit additional entries by 7th June. There will be exciting art prizes for 1st, 2nd and 3rd place to be presented in Celebration Worship. Dr Peter Gregory, the Chair of our Interim Governing Body, who is the Principle Lecturer in Creative Arts at Canterbury Christchurch University will be judging the competition. In addition, Eden Estate Agents will also be using the artwork to hold an online Art competition with another prize available for the picture with the most likes!

This Jubilee themed artwork will be collated and displayed in a fabulous Art Exhibition held in the school hall on Sunday 12th June. The Ditton Heritage Centre will also be open at the same time to complete this fantastic community event!

Following the exhibition, the children's artwork will be distributed to a selection of local businesses to be displayed in their windows for the public to view.

This is an exciting event for the school and a brilliant opportunity to reach the wider community and we thank you in advance for your support in this endeavour.



Huge thanks go to Megan Payne for her work in getting the community involved. It is really important that we work as a part of our community to celebrate what Ditton has to offer and raise the profile of our lovely school.

Additional Leadership Expertise

We are very lucky to have one of my Aletheia colleagues working alongside us to strengthen the Leadership in the school even further. Her name is Sam Crinnion and I'm sure you will hear more from her in due course. Sam will be based in school one day a week. Sam is a Senior Improvement Adviser but is also a very experienced Executive Headteacher with a passion for Special Educational Needs and ensuring all children flourish. Sam is working closely with Ruth Campbell our SENCo this term.



St Peter's Church Jubilee Celebration

St. Peter's Church will be celebrating the Queen's Platinum Jubilee on [Sunday 5th June at 11am](#) on the village green. This will be an informal service and all of our families are invited to come along and bring a picnic lunch with them. It will be a lovely community event and some of our children will be reading and singing at the celebration. We hope to see you all there!

Year 3 Trip to the Gurdwara

Year 3 enjoyed a visit to the Gravesend Gurdwara as part of their learning on Sikhism. They really enjoyed seeing the different meditation rooms and had lots of fun trying different foods in the Langar and learning more about the Sikh faith.



School Jubilee Celebration

Takes place on the last day of Term 5 [Friday 27th May](#).

Children will have a packed lunch on the field and the afternoon will be devoted to jubilee themed art work. We look forward to seeing some amazing pieces of art work to be shared with our community.

Parent Consultation meeting re-joining Aletheia Anglican Academies Trust

The next meeting happens at [5.30 pm on Thursday 26th May](#). Please come along and ask any questions you may have concerning Ditton CE Junior School becoming a member of the Aletheia Family. They will be answered very honestly. If you can't make the meeting and would like to email any questions to school please do that and we will get back to you as soon as possible.

Links with the Infant School

Sam Crinnion and I visited the Infants school recently. We met with Mrs Lewer and had a good look around all the classes in the school. We talked about how we can develop stronger links to make sure the learning journey for the children is as smooth as possible. Teachers at the junior school are very keen to support and have already offered time in the ICT suite for infant classes. This will really help the development of children's IT skills as well as help them feel comfortable in the Junior School. We look forward to working together much more closely in the future.

Year 6 residential field trip

Next week everyone of our Year 6 children are going to stay at Lower Grange Farm for a couple of nights. They have a whole range of exciting activities planned and will have an amazing time. Huge thanks to all the staff who are accompanying them – it is absolutely exhausting running a trip like this, but is one of the things that many years later children still remember with great fondness. Watch this space because in the next newsletter you will hear all about it!

Attendance

A huge thank you to you all for ensuring your children know the importance of coming to school every day. When children are genuinely poorly we certainly don't expect them to be spreading their germs in school! However, apart from sickness we need them in school. We know education has been disrupted for the last couple of years and staff are working hard to ensure all gaps in learning are filled, but they can't keep going over the same things if children are absent. Please continue to do your best to make sure your children are here every day.

