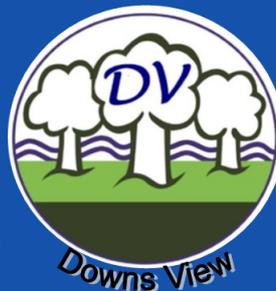


Downs View Newsletter

Wednesday 6th March 2024

General Information Newsletter: No.3



Term Dates

Spring Term 2024

2nd Jan-28th March

Summer Term 2024

15th April-19th July

Half Term

27th May-31st May

INSETS

Friday 23rd Feb 2024

Monday 22nd July 2024

Tuesday 23rd July 2024

Events

7th March

World Book Day

20th March at 1.45pm

Spring Celebrations (DVS)

Dear Parents and Carers,

It has been a difficult few weeks for families, students and staff following the deaths of Iris and Annika. Please do contact us if you require any further support. The links to Winston's Wish and minded are below.

The new build is currently going well, the old buildings have been demolished and everything is on track for Cubs to move back to the school site from September.

We also had a successful INSET day on Friday 23rd February. The main focus was the curriculum but it was also an opportunity for some essential staff training such as First Aid. The next INSET days are at the end of the Summer term on the 22nd and 23rd July.

As you will see from this newsletter the students have been very busy across all of the sites. This term, some of the school staff and pupils have been very busy planting an orchard in the Forest School area. It will be lovely seeing this grow.

Finally, I would like to say congratulations to Juliet Hudson and Louise Loadman (School Nurse) who have both won a PaCC Award for excellent work—well done Juliet & Louise!

Best wishes, Vanessa

Winston's Wish <https://www.winstonswish.org/>

Minded <https://www.minded.org.uk/>



Absence From School/College

If your child is going to be absent from school/college please call on the numbers below and leave a voicemail before 8am. It is important that you do this so that we can arrange safe staffing levels for every class.

School—01273 601680

Link College—01273 507719

Life Skills - 01273 551028

The Friends of Downs View update is at the end of this newsletter

Downs View School
Warren Road
Woodingdean
BN2 6BB

Tel: 01273 601680

Email: office@downsview.brighton-hove.sch.uk

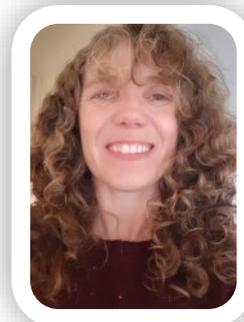
Downs View School

Hello everyone,

Survey News

Thank you for your contribution to our survey on Parent and Carer events. The feedback showed that most parents that responded felt;

- it was very important to them to connect with the class team and find out about the learning in class
- it was very important to be able to see their children in the school/class environment
- it was very important to get ideas about how to support their children's learning at home and gain support/strategies/resources for issues outside of school



Also, 75% of parents would be very likely to attend these types of sessions

- watching their child in a class session
- joining in an activity in their child's class
- photo and video sessions away from the child led by class teacher

Very few parents said they would not attend a whole school event.

There was an even spread of preferred timings for school events.

This information is being shared with class teachers, to help inform their planning for the next class event.

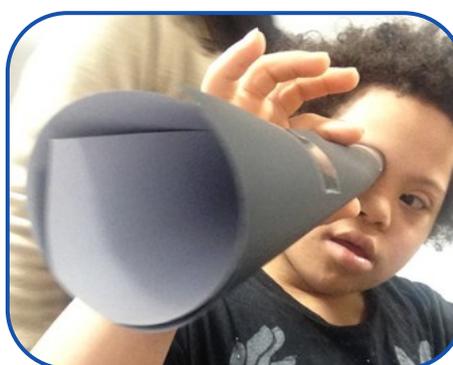
For the start of the Spring term, the Primary classes have sprung into action making progress in with their new areas of learning targets.

Primary News

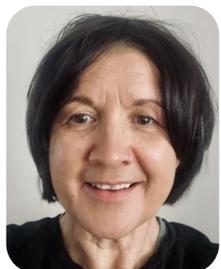
Lower Primary classes (Badgers, Butterflies, Bumblebees, Cubs, Foxes and Otter) are enjoying the spectacle of our Circus topic.

Upper Primary classes (Bears, Rabbits, Robins, Hedgehogs and Squirrels) aaarrrrrgghh having a great time with their Pirate themed work.

For those that were unable to attend the Emotion Coaching Introduction Events, but were interested in finding out more, please use this link [Emotion Coaching Resources for Professionals \(emotioncoachinguk.com\)](http://emotioncoachinguk.com). Best wishes, Sarah



Downs View School



Hello all

Thank you to all students, staff and parent/carers for another exciting term last term. For secondary our theme was Global Movement and the students learnt about how people, animals and goods travel around the world.

There was also a focus on dental care thanks to Colgate who have donated so much toothpaste.

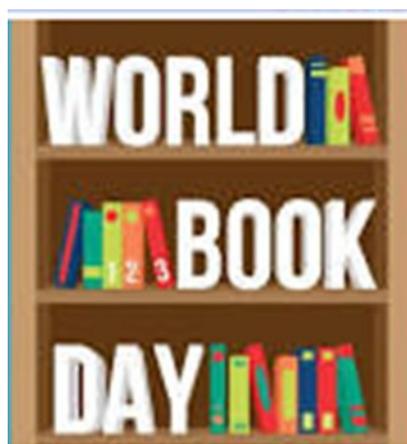
Our older students in years 10 and 11 continued with a range of work experience opportunities, including supporting in primary classes, assisting with the delivery of meals at lunch time, helping with admin tasks and supporting the site team.

The weekly class led assemblies have focussed on the themes of friendship, gentleness and before half term it was on online safety, as Feb 6th was Safer Internet Day. If you want information to help you support your young person to safely use the internet have a look at the NSPCC resources which are adapted to meet the needs of students with learning disabilities <https://www.nspcc.org.uk/keeping-children-safe/online-safety/online-safety-families-children-with-send/>.

Our students council met last term to help plan the next Parent/Carer engagement day which will take place on Wednesday 20th March at 1.45pm, where all are invited to our Spring parade, more details to follow soon but please put the date in your diary. The next meeting of the school council will be to share their views on break and lunchtimes and what is going well and how we can use these times to support our students as they prepare for adulthood.

I look forward to seeing you many of you at our next event on Wednesday 20th March.

Take Care, Jackie



World Book Day Thursday 7th March

We will be celebrating World Book Day on Thursday 7th March. It would be fantastic if you could help your child take part by helping them dress up as a character from a favourite book. Costumes needn't be expensive, home made improvisations are often the best!

We will be celebrating the day with the usual mix of fancy dress parade, disco and shared class activities.

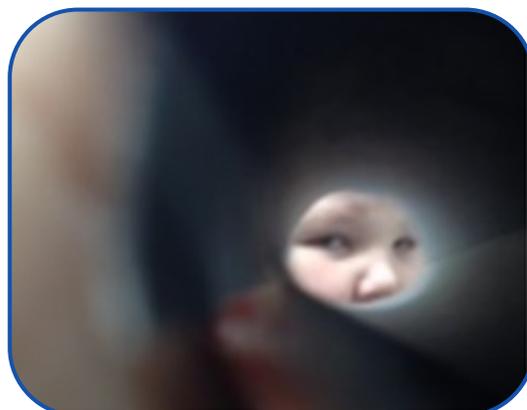
Downs View School

- Teeth cleaning
- 4CF students making a model tank

4CF students have received their hóngbāo (red envelopes) to celebrate Chinese Lunar New Year, these contain money and symbolise good wishes and luck for the year ahead. The students used their money to practice their mathematics buying snacks from the local shops calculating totals and change. Happy Year of the Dragon!



Otters used the shape of the 'Big Top' as idea for mark making in flour. Squirrels wre great at cutting, rolling, sticking and looking in this telescope making activity.



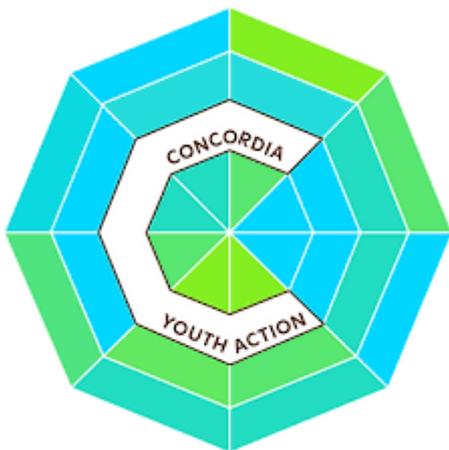
Downs View Link College

Hi all,

The Spring Term is well under way and we are all looking forward to a busy term at DVLC.

The Y13 students have finished their work with Nicky and Indy from Concordia Youth Action. They have participated in afternoon sessions each Tuesday for 12 weeks and have now completed the project which supported communication, collaboration and interaction and had an environmental focus. Well done Y13.

Best wishes, Juliet



MAKATON SIGNS



COLD



SNOW

Downs View Link College

Room 6 at the link college have had a great start to the new year. We have been busy with various activities including the new story of Peter Rabbit, a spring sensology session and group music session.

We have been out on various trips this and last term, particular favourites being the "into film" festival, where we enjoyed a viewing of super worm, with some excellent audience participation. We enjoyed making and eating pizza at pizza express, especially loaded with cheese!

The pupils have enjoyed 2 bowling sessions at the Marina. There were some experts on the bowling lanes pushing the ball as hard as they could down the track.

We also have enjoyed a trip to Brighton museum.

We look forward to many more adventures to come both this term and in the summer.



Downs View Life Skills College

Dear learners, parents and carers,

This term we have continued to see inspiring work from learners.

Learners are focusing on enhancing their skills and awareness of keeping safe and healthy, for example having a healthy diet and keeping fit and active. They are also working on understanding signs and how to be safe at home.

Many are learning how to be ready for interviews and expanding their skills to be a shop assistant and a gardener!

Learners in Room 6 are learning the world around themselves through a sensory story called 'The Secret Garden' where they explore the senses and interact with others.

We have had some fantastic events already this term too. We worked closely with the community and organised a 'plant a tree' day where we planted an orchard in the local park. We had volunteers coming from the community, alumni and also pupils from DV Link College joined us. It was a beautiful day when the community came together. Learners also ran a 'Just one tree' café where they doubled the money from last year. Thank you all for your support, we have helped to plant 63 new trees around the world in areas of heavy deforestation!

Future events includes the Careers week, where different professionals will come to college to run workshops, World Book day, the visit from the fire crew and engine, Speak Out sessions, the road safety officer and oral hygiene workshops. We love going into the community and bringing the community into college!

warm regards,

Raul



All at The Life Skills College were super busy last week making cakes, smoothies and a game using items from a tree. Parents and carers came along to the cafe and we raised £60 for the 1 tree Charity. Every £1 raised plants a tree, so they will be able to plant 60 trees.

Downs View Life Skills College
7 Old London Road
Patcham
BN1 8XR

Tel: 01273 551028
Email: DVLSC-ADMIN@dvpsc.schmail.uk

Downs View Life Skills College

Room 7 learners have enjoyed being part of the community orchard planting day to celebrate the centenary of Patcham Memorial Hall. The orchard is phase one of our exciting community garden project .

We visited the community garden in Preston Park to give us inspiration.

We also have QR code to see the project.



On Wednesday the 31st of January we help to plant fruit trees in the Centenary Orchard at the Peace Garden to mark 100 years since the memorial Hall and Peace Garden were first opened. Room 6 enjoyed a sensory story in class to get prepared before going to the Peace garden for a demonstration of what to do and how to help. We planted an Apple tree with help from old friends and new friends. We look forward to watching it grow.

Downs View School Governors' Update

As School governors, our role is to offer guidance, rather than to be involved in the day to day running of the school. Our relationship with the school leadership team involves supporting them to enable school improvement, and to see that decisions made are in the best interests of the school community. We work with other governors including staff governors and the head teacher to plan the next steps for the school and college, and we keep up to date on the school's finances to see that money is well spent.

We usually meet around 6 times a year but can often be found visiting the school to build relationships with the school community, see how the day to day running of the school is going, and in our roles as parents, grandparents and professionals supporting Downs View pupils day to day. In fact, all our governors have a personal or professional connection to the Downs View Community outside of our work as governors.



This month we'd like to introduce you to our new Clerk to the Governing Board, Michelle McMann. The Clerk provides advice, support and guidance to the governing board, and is responsible for the organisation and administration of our meetings.

Michelle is an experienced Governor, with positions at 2 other schools (Primary and Secondary) in Brighton, with a particular interest in PHSE. She started clerking in 2019 at the suggestion of her line manager and since then she has worked with 12 schools across the City supporting Governing Boards.

Michelle is now navigating the very start of a SEN diagnosis with her own child and has joined the Downs View Governing Board to both share her extensive experience, and to gain a better understanding of SEN provision across the City to support her personal and professional development.

We welcome Michelle to the Downs View community and are keen to learn from her experiences and support her and her family on their SEN diagnosis journey.

FRIENDS OF **DOWNSVIEW SCHOOL & LINK COLLEGE**

Friends of Downs View – Update

Following our committee meeting last week, here are some events for the Spring and Summer and a projects update:

Friday 17th May, 7.30pm, Downs View School – Quiz Night. This has been a very popular event in the past and we are keen to bring it back, hopefully with a curry too! More details to follow and how to secure your tickets.

Saturday 29th June – 1 – 4pm, Downs View School Field – Summer Dun Day. Always a fantastic event, bringing families together for fun and food out in the fresh air! More on this nearer the time and how you can help make it a success!

Save the dates and come along!

Projects Update

Sensory Room – we are thrilled to report that the refurbishment of the sensory room at the Link College has now been finalised. The staff have approved the design and the work will be carried out over the Summer holidays. The Friends charity will be contributing a significant amount to this project, thanks to the generosity of previous fundraising.

Sensory Garden Project – this is an ongoing project overseen by Nick, the PMLD class teacher at the Link College. So far, we have given money to create raised beds and buy tools. We will continue to donate funds as and when needed, guided by Nick.

Your support really does make a difference and allows us to keep providing fantastic equipment and resources. Thank you.

Lisa Burgess, Chair of Friends of Downs View

EMAIL: friends@downsview.brighton-hove.sch.uk • www.friendsofdownsview.org.uk

Charity no: 1013621 • www.justgiving.com/FriendsofDownsViewSchool • www.facebook.com

BRIGHTON . M i L E £ S

SATURDAY 6 APRIL
Come join us from 11:00



Scan the QR code or click the link [HERE](#) to register!

The FREE one-mile event will take place in Preston Park

Finisher's medal

Open to children and young people aged 7-17

LME LONDON MARATHON EVENTS
INSPIRING ACTIVITY

WAVE TIMES

11:00	Girls-only wave (ages 7-9)
11:15	Girls-only wave (ages 9-11)
11:30	Girls-only wave (ages 11-13)
11:45	Girls-only wave (ages 13-17)
12:00	Mixed wave (ages 7-9)
12:15	Mixed wave (ages 9-11)
12:30	Mixed wave (ages 11-13)
12:45	Mixed wave (ages 13-17)