



## Headteacher's Newsletter

### September 2019

#### **Welcome back...**

I hope you have all had a great summer break and are all coming back refreshed and relaxed.

To embed our vision (Enriching generations to serve and flourish) for our school and make it understandable to the children we have decided to link it to the biblical story of Joseph. Our shields in the hall will show the link through pictures-above in the top corner is one of these.

While you have been away we have made some improvements:

**Library** – we have moved our library from upstairs to into the hall. By doing this it has allowed us to go through all the books and ensure they are relevant and can be used in conjunction with Accelerated Reader. It does mean that we are in the process of buying many new books. I would ask if you have any books at home with the school stamp in – please hand them to your class teacher so that they can be labeled up and put back in circulation. Thank you

**Reading rewards** – We are changing the reading reward system to hopefully give more incentive. We will be explaining this to all the children at the beginning of term.

**Reflection room** – Our old library has become a Reflection room. This is the only technology free room where children can be creative and have time to reflect on their learning. We are awaiting the last pieces of furniture before opening this room.

**Celebration Assembly** – From listening to pupil voice last year we have decided to make Celebration Assembly fortnightly and have our Celebration tea in the alternate weeks whilst other children have a mini celebration time in class, which will include birthdays.

**Uniform** – After discussions in parent forum I have decided to tighten up on the uniform expectation. Please see attached/over.

**Homework** – This was also a discussion at parent forum and the suggestion was that it was uploaded to the website. We are currently producing the template to ensure this can be done for all year groups and with consistency. Details to follow.

**Wildlife area** – Our Premises Manager has been busy clearing and bringing our wildlife area to life from the winning design. It will be officially opened in November, but it is currently useable for the children to learn outdoors. We do need some volunteers to create a group that can help with the upkeep and continual improvement throughout the year. If you are able to spare some time please contact our Premises Manager on [dbyers@ditton-jun.kent.sch.uk](mailto:dbyers@ditton-jun.kent.sch.uk)

**New staff** – We would like to welcome a few new members to our team. Mr Knell (Deputy Headteacher), Mrs Nicholls (Teacher), Miss Semark (Teacher), Mrs Gray (Learning Mentor), Mrs Hindry (Teaching Assistant), Mrs Lawrence (Teaching Assistant), Mr Coleman (Teaching Assistant)

**We are looking forward to improving on our successes from last year and are excited for what this year brings.**

A prayer for the new school year

**We have had time to rest,**

**And now we are full of energy.**

**We have had time to think,**

**And now we are full of ideas.**

**We have had time to stop,**

**And now it's time to get going.**

**Be with us God we pray. Amen.**

**Miss A Coulbault – Headteacher**

## **Uniform**

Children at Ditton C of E Junior School enjoy wearing their school uniform as it fosters a pride in personal appearance and a sense of belonging to the school. All uniform should be clean and look smart (no rips or frays).

Our uniform consists of:

- White polo shirt, blue jumper or cardigan
- Grey skirt, shorts or trousers
- Flat black shoes or trainers (no sandals)
- Socks or tights must be white, grey or black
- Hair accessories must be blue or black

P.E. tops need to be purchased in the allocated house colour – red, yellow, green or blue

P.E. kits consist of trainers/plimsolls and grey/black shorts or tracksuit bottoms. *(Our school logo jumpers/cardigans and PE shirts are available from Pages Schoolwear, Lower Stone Street, Maidstone).*

*[www.pages-schoolwear.co.uk](http://www.pages-schoolwear.co.uk)*