Weekly News
Friday 10th November 2017

Dear Parents

On Friday we were all dazzled by the colour and sound of fireworks created by Mars Class in their excellent Class Assembly. The children danced, sang songs, showed off their art and acted out the arrest of Guy Fawkes with great style. It was hard to believe that most of them are only 4. Well done Mars and thank you very much to Mrs Meredith-Bennett, Mrs Taperell and Mrs Self for such an enjoyable assembly. It was lovely to see so many of you on Wednesday and Thursday evening at our autumn Parents Evenings. There was so much to celebrate with an extraordinary amount of work completed in just over half a term.

On Wednesday we discussed the forthcoming Remembrance Day annual event which we observed on Friday. We heard the story of the extraordinary 1st World War football game on Christmas eve 1914 when both sides put down their weapons and exchanged handshakes and gifts in No Mans Land. The children were fascinated to hear about this and to understand why the soldiers left their trenches in the first place as well as trying to understand why they returned to them to continue to fight in the brutal and devastating war. It helps us all to understand the poignancy of the services surrounding the 11th November.

Our Librarians Lily C and Sienna S enjoyed handing out the books in the Library Raffle which featured books chosen by our Librarian inspired by National Non-Fiction November with a theme of ‘the world around us’.

On Wednesday we were delighted to hear Iman O play Swans on the Lake entertaining the whole school in assembly. Iman played with evident skill and enjoyment and deserved her certificate. Well done Iman.

On Thursday I visited last year’s Year 2 at Downsend School and thoroughly enjoyed the joyful smiles and hugs as I saw them hard at work, evidently enjoying every moment in their new role as a shiny Year 3.

On Friday we all observed our respectful silence whilst the Blue Bench Monitors Rafferty and Daisy scattered poppy petals from the Poppy Factory. Year 2 then sang In Flanders Fields to complete the beautiful service.

This week’s Lunchtime Superstar is Max T for maturing so beautifully with the range of foods he now tries and enjoys. Bravo Max!

Congratulations to Donaldson House. A splendid total of 1074 Housepoints has taken Donaldson House to the top of the Leader Board.

This Week’s Merit Awards

Philosopher of the week
Andy D

Thought for the week
Are competitions good?

Work of the Week

After reading ‘The Jolly Postman’ by Janet and Allan Ahlberg Mars Class, in Reception chose their favourite character to write a sentence about. 4 year old Jisoo showed fabulous independent sounding out. Well done!
Nursery and Pre-Reception News
This week has seen the launch of our PSED (Personal, Social and Emotional Development) initiative with our Duggee Badges. If your child has been seen displaying the ‘good friend’ qualities of listening to each other, being kind, sharing, helping and having kind hands, they have been awarded a Duggee Badge. Many things have been going on around the Nursery this week to promote good friendship. In the kitchen the children have baked and iced a cake for a friend. The children were delighted to be chosen to eat the cake that had been especially made for them. We have been creating a friendship quilt to be displayed, with many children contributing a hexagon piece to add. During ‘Funky Fingers Fun’ the children have been working with a partner to tweezer bears into a colour coded bowl. The super sharing was lovely to see. The children have also been trying to be a good friend to the adults in the Nursery by helping to tidy and for matching lost coats to owners. The character Supertato has made an appearance this week with a Supertato treasure hunt in the garden. The different characters from the story were hidden in the garden and the children ticked them off when they had been found. You may find a ‘I found the treasure’ card in their bags to celebrate this achievement. Evil peas in jelly were being mashed about in the art room and our wonderful Little Princess role-play is taking shape with the help of the children’s creativity. It was lovely to see many of you at Parent’s Evening this week and we thank you for your continued support.

Reception News
Neptune Class - After an exciting weekend of fireworks the children had lots to talk about. We watched a video of a firework display and thought of all the words we could think of to describe the noises and what we saw. We found it very funny that some of the words sound just like the noise, like ‘Wheee’ and ‘Pop’. To add to the celebration mood we have made some balloon number lines: the children are getting very clever putting the numbers in order and trying to remember which way to write the ‘teen’ numbers. The children have loved practising for their assembly this week and we hope you enjoyed it. In Mars Class we have been investigating numbers within and beyond 20. We have labelled letters and posted them to the correct house numbers. Some of the letters were different shapes and we identified them by their descriptions. Not only were the letters a variety of 2D shapes but we also found that we could make 2D shapes out of playdoh using the modelling tools. Following on the theme of ‘The Jolly Postman’ book we looked at the journey of a letter from post box to house. Inspired by this we decided to make and write our own cards and letters for friends and posted them into our home made post box ready for one of our postmen / ladies to deliver. We were very excited to receive them!

The Foundation Stage Team