



Downholland Haskayne CE Primary

Newsletter No: 3

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25th September 2024

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Wednesday Weekly

We have had another exciting and engaging week this week at Downholland Haskayne Primary School. The change in weather hasn't dampened our spirits and the children have loved playing outside on the playground in sun, wind and rain. They have been really enjoying playing in the faith garden at lunchtimes. This is a wonderful space for the children to enjoy and provides a welcome change to the concrete of the school yard.

We have even been visited by a couple of ducks in the pond this week and it was delightful to see them waddling across the playground first thing one morning. I wonder if they would like to wear a school uniform and come and take part in our exciting lessons.

On Monday this week, we welcomed Reverend Susan in to school to lead the assembly. This is the second time already this year that we have been lucky enough to have her come in and speak with the children. This week they looked at an old picture of the church and discussed how the big doors welcome everyone in and let God's love out. We have put some dates in the diary for Reverend Susan to do some more assemblies between now and Christmas and we are very grateful to her for sharing her faith and wisdom with us. Thank you Reverend Susan.

On Tuesday next week, Sean Perkins will be visiting school to promote his new children's book 'Oscar and Ben – The Sleepover.' Sean has written three children's books in the Oscar and Ben series and there will be an opportunity after the visit for you to order signed copies of each of them if you wanted to add them to your personal collections. Details on how to order will be sent home once Sean has visited the school.

Our junior children went for their first swimming lesson last week and it went...well, swimmingly! (Groan!) Miss. Grant and I were thrilled with how well they did in the water and just how keen and confident they all were. Swimming lessons will continue on a Wednesday morning for the juniors for the foreseeable future.

I would like to take this opportunity to remind you of the offer for flexi children to come into school for more days. We would really like to see all children in school for at least 4, if not 5 days a week. We are currently designing and rolling out an exciting new curriculum and it would be fantastic for all the children to have the opportunity to access it as fully as possible. If this is something you would be willing to consider, please arrange to come and see me and we can have a chat. I've been told I make a good brew, so it may be worth your while for that alone.

Thank you all once again for your continued support of Downholland Haskayne. It is a blessing for me to be able to work in this school with such wonderful people – staff, parents, children and all the stakeholders alike. If you know of anyone who has children who are starting school in September or may be considering a move for their children, please mention us and let them know we would love to show them around.

Best Wishes,
Mr Chapman



Star of the week

Lukas



The following Children received Haskayne Values Awards in Assembly today

Riley, Charlotte, Sidney, Eloise, Max,

'LET YOUR LIGHT SHINE WITH JOY'

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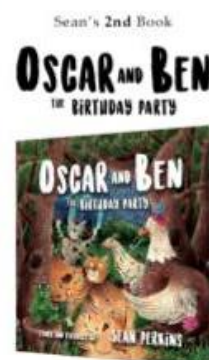
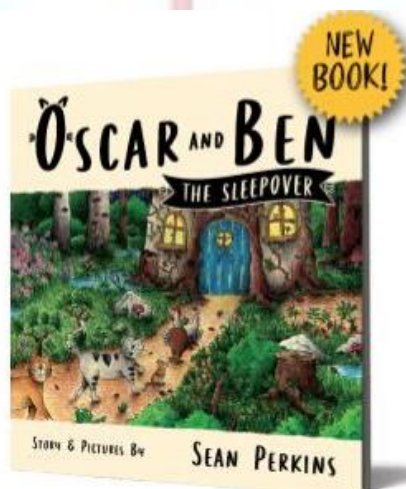
Dates for Diary.

- 28th September – Performance by Madukes Ukulele Band in Haskayne Village Hall 7.30pm. Tickets £10 available from Kathy 01704 841066 or pay on the door.
- 1st October – Visit from Author Sean Perkins
- 2nd October – Flu vaccines
- 21st – 25th October Half Term

DfE changes to Penalty Notices

The Department for Education have recently announced national charges to penalty notices issues for unauthorised absences in term time, these came into effect on the 19th August 2024.

- Penalty notices issued for the offence after the 19th of August 2024 will be charged at the new rate of £160.00 however if paid in 21-days this reduces to £80.00.
- Any second penalty notice to the same parent for the same child in a rolling 3-year period will be issued at the rate of £160.00 to be paid within 28-days with no option for a discount.
- Penalty notice threshold is 10-sessions equivalent to 5-days of unauthorised absence in a rolling 10-school week period.
- Maximum of 2-penalty notices may be issued for the same child within a rolling 3-years period, so at the 3rd or subsequent offence another course of action will need to be considered such a prosecution or one of the other attendance legal interventions.



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