



4th September 2020 Newsletter

September	
Monday 7th	Reception begin – morning or afternoon session- details have been sent to new parents.
Monday 14th	Reception for play session and lunch – details have been sent to new parents
Monday 21st	Reception children start full days
Friday 25th	Birthday assembly for children who have a birthday in September. This will be a virtual assembly in school led by Mrs Kent.
October	
Thursday 22nd and Friday 23rd	Training days – school closed to children
Half Term Monday 26th October –Friday 25th October	

More dates will be shared next week.

Welcome back!

The children have come back to school well, full of energy and enthusiasm which is great to see! They are settling well into their new classes and getting used to new routines. It's been great to see that many children are able to share how they are feeling and the unique journey they have been on. The buzz in the school has been such a pleasurable sound and made all of the planning so worthwhile and most importantly seeing children happy and keeping safe. Thank you for your support in following our new drop off and collection arrangements; please remember to ensure you keep a safe distance when queuing and thank you for your patience at these times.

I am sure you will join me in thanking staff at Downs View who have worked so hard to ensure that the school is an outstanding environment which was safe and ready for all children yesterday.

We hope you have also noticed some changes around the school:

- The amazing mural on the playground – painted by Mrs Little (with a little help from her friends!)
- New windows and doors in the hall which have been long overdue. These will increase security and insulation to the school.
- A new boiler which will ensure that the school is more energy efficient. This has been funded by K.C.C.

Welcome to new staff and pupils:

We are delighted to welcome Miss Allen to Downs View who is Turtle class teacher and Miss Maclean who is Polar Bear teacher. We also have a new cleaner Miss Kingwell. It is great to have new staff members at Downs View. They are enthusiastic and bring many new ideas and expertise. We are pleased to welcome some new pupils to year 1 and 2 this week too who are settling in well and making many new friends.

Communication

Communication is key to us and we are aware that you may be finding it more difficult to adjust to the new arrangements. You should avoid talking to the adults in the morning and at the end of the school day for safety unless you have an appointment. If there are any messages to give the teacher, please send in a note or contact the office via email or telephone. Reading record books should not be used for this as they will not be checked daily.

Reading

Look out for your child bringing home some reading books next Monday for the week. These will be collected in on Fridays and will remain in school and the children will choose new ones every Monday. The children will choose another 'real' book for the weekend which they may need support reading.

Absence – reminder



If your child is poorly and unable to come to school, please ensure that you inform the office via telephone on our attendance line or via Parentmail. This should be done before school on the first day of absence. Please be aware that we will call you if we haven't heard from you or may even come to your

home as we have a duty of care to ensure that all children who are absent from school are safe and accounted for. Remember we can administer prescribed medication so if your child is feeling better but needs medicine, this can be brought to the office and administered as necessary. Attendance is very important to ensure that your child does not miss out on valuable learning time – every minute counts! If you are unsure whether your child can come to school, please call 111 or the office and somebody will be able to advise you.

In accordance with the government guidelines, we would ask that parents are vigilant/alert and if their child or anyone in their households develops any of the following symptoms they should not come into school and arrangements should be made for a COVID-19 test to be taken.

Coronavirus (COVID-19) Symptoms are the recent onset of any of the following:

- a new continuous cough
- a high temperature
- a loss of, or change in, your normal sense of taste or smell (anosmia)

Our attendance leaflet will be sent out next week for further information. Thank you for your support.

Nut Allergies



We have a number of children in school with nut allergies so would kindly request that nuts or nut products (including Nutella) are not included in any child's lunch box. Thank you for your help with this.

Parking

We are aware that parking can be tricky outside of school so please walk whenever possible or do part walk/ part drive. We reward children if they 'walk on Wednesdays' and use their 'feet on Fridays'. If you have to drive, please ensure that you park safely by parking on one side of the road; the right hand side. This will ensure that emergency vehicles and lorries can get through safely.

Keeping your children safe on devices at home

We have had training this week on safeguarding, including keeping your child safe on devices and online. There's lots of good advice to support you as parents at home so please look out for regular advice and links which we hope will help you to keep your child safe at home. This is our first one:

Smart devices promise to make our lives easier. And in many cases - they do. But these new technologies present risks too. Whether you're using a digital assistant to record your shopping list or you're controlling your lights through a smart system, many smart functions can be 'hacked' and controlled by someone outside your home. This guide will help you identify some of the ways you can stay alert and protect yourself.

1

KNOW THE RISKS

The success of any smart device relies on it communicating with other devices using the Internet. It's an unavoidable part of using smart devices, but it does expose you to numerous risks. Attackers could use the Internet connection to steal your data for identity fraud or to make unauthorised purchases through your devices. There is even potential for more sinister exploitation, such as child grooming or cyber-bullying.



2

WHAT IS THE INTERNET OF THINGS?

This is the term given to all the devices connected to the Internet in your home. It includes a new digital doorbell connected to your smartphone, your kettle that boils when you tell it to on your tablet or your heating that comes on when you swipe on your smart watch. The Internet of Things (IoT) is designed to make life easier, but it also opens up your home network to potential cyber-attacks. It doesn't mean you can't enjoy the benefits, but it does mean being aware of the potential negatives.



CHECK ENCRYPTION SETTINGS

Whenever data is sent over the Internet, it is 'encrypted'. This makes it harder to read if it's intercepted. You should look to use a strong encryption setting, such as WPA2, rather than WPA or WEP. Again, you can check your router manual for how to do this.

3

4

SECURE YOUR DEVICES

If you do use apps on your smartphone to control devices in your home, make sure your smartphone is secure. At the very least makes sure the pin function is enabled, as well as any biometric authentication you have. Where possible, it's also a good idea to download some anti-virus software for your smartphone.

5

KEEP YOUR SOFTWARE UP TO DATE

Manufacturers constantly update and improve software used in smart devices. Some will automatically alert you to an update, but not all do. To be on the safe side, it's a good idea to set reminders in your calendar. Check the manufacturer's website for any updates and run them if necessary.

RENAME THE 'GATEWAY' TO YOUR HOME

Your internet router is the virtual gateway to your home network. It needs protecting. To do this, you should change the default name (the SSID) and password. You can usually find steps to do this in the instruction manual. Don't use your family name. Choose something more obscure. Make the password complicated too, using upper and lower-case letters, numbers and symbols. Do this for your router and any other smart devices connected to the Internet.



14 Top Tips To Get Smart About The DEVICES In Your Home



National Online Safety®



7

USE A SEPARATE NETWORK FOR GUESTS

If your router has a feature that allows you to set up a separate network for guests, you should use it. That way, when guests use your Wi-Fi they won't have access to your devices.

8

SAY GOODBYE TO SIRI AND ALEXA

It's a good idea to change the activation words on your smart devices so they are unique to you and your family. This makes it that much harder for people to break into your smart devices.



9

DEACTIVATE ANY UNNECESSARY FEATURES

Though it's a fun idea, you probably don't need to control your kettle from outside the house. In fact there are often many unnecessary features included on smart devices. Where possible, you should look to disable these. Doing so reduces the ability for people to hack your devices. And, when someone sees you've actively taken steps to increase security, they're less inclined to try to compromise them.



10

TRUST YOUR INSTINCTS

If you ever feel something is wrong or your network is being exploited, visit the manufacturer's website or ring their technical support department. It's better to be safe than sorry.

11

UPDATE SOFTWARE

Manufacturers constantly update and improve software used in smart devices. Some will automatically alert you to an update, but not all do. To be on the safe side, it's a good idea to set reminders in your calendar. Check the manufacturer's website for any updates and run them if necessary.

12

BUILD A WALL

You could also purchase a dedicated 'firewall' device. This is something that plugs into your network and stops cyber threats reaching your router. Some routers do have a firewall element included, but they are no replacement for the real thing. A firewall device thoroughly analyses information coming into and out of your network and helps stop malicious attacks. A security device is strongly recommended to anyone who works from home or deals with sensitive information.



13

SECURE YOUR SMARTPHONE

If you do use apps on your smartphone to control devices in your home, make sure your smartphone is secure. At the very least makes sure the pin function is enabled, as well as any biometric authentication you have. Where possible, it's also a good idea to download some anti-virus software for your smartphone too.



14

REGULARLY AUDIT YOUR DEVICES AND CONSOLES

Every now and then you should check through all of your smart devices (including games consoles connected to the Internet). Turn them off at the mains and disconnect them from the Internet. In fact, it's good practice to disconnect any devices that aren't in use. It's a small thing but really does help. Even when you think a device might be in sleep mode, if it's connected to the Internet it could still be listening or streaming data.



Meet our expert

Emma Davis was a secondary school Computer Science teacher for more than decade. Since leaving education, she has been working in a cyber security firm delivering cyber awareness training to businesses and carrying out network testing. She is a mother of a five-year-old, she's had vast experience of controlling and managing how children access online services and use apps.



SOURCES: <https://www.ncsc.gov.uk>, <https://www.getnetonline.org>

www.nationalonlinesafety.com Twitter - @natonlinesafety Facebook - /NationalOnlineSafety

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