

Dean Bank Primary and Nursery School

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Believe, Achieve, Soar with Pride

Dear Parent/Carers

Newsletter 22 ~ 19th April 2018

Welcome back

I hope you all had a great break over Easter. We have a busy half term planned. It's a very important half term for Y6 & Y2 with their SATs looming and I would like to remind parents that we continue to work on attendance as a priority but especially with children in these two year groups. Every session is used to prepare them for these important assessments so they need to be in school.

Emergency Contact Details

It is **very important** that school has up to date contact numbers and addresses in case of an emergency. We have had several incidents where children have been ill or we have had concerns which have need to be acted upon and we have not been able to contact anyone.

Safeguarding

Please note parents are not permitted to enter school via the green doors from the yard due to safeguarding issues. If you need to speak to staff then they are available on the yard from 8.45am.

Free School Meal Entitlement

The regulations for Free School Meals are changed on the 1st April 2018. If you claim any of the following benefits you may be eligible to claim a Free School Meal:

- Universal credit with an earnings threshold that does not exceed £7,400.
- Income support
- Income Based Jobseekers Allowance
- Income related Employment and Support Allowance
- Child Tax Credit provided you are not entitled to Working Tax Credit and have an annual income, as assessed by HMRC that does not exceed £16,190.
- Guaranteed Element of State Pension Credit.
- Where a parent is entitled to Working Tax Credit run-on (the payment someone receives for a further four weeks after they stop qualifying for Working Tax Credit.)
- Support under part VI of the immigration and Asylum Act 1999.

Application Forms can be obtained from the school office. All applications are dealt with in strict confidence. Though some children prefer to bring in a 'packed lunch', it is important that all those entitled to a free school meal are registered.

Please note: It is YOUR responsibility to inform school if there are changes to your claim.

EYFS Contributions

We would like to remind parents that the Early Years team would like a contribution of £1.00 per week per child to help to buy consumables e.g. flour and oil for playdough.

Mobile Phones

Pupils should not be bringing mobile phones into school, if you wish for your child to have their mobile in school then please call into the school office to sign the relevant form. Children with permission to bring them into school will be expected to hand them into the school office on a morning and collect them at home time. Any child found to have a mobile in school without permission will be expected to hand their phone into the school office and a parent MUST come into school to collect it.

School Uniform

We have several children who are not coming to school in uniform. Can I just remind parents that I am very flexible with where parents buy uniform from and do not expect parents to pay for school jumpers with logo etc. but I do expect all parents to provide pupils with uniforms which adhere to our policy.

Pupils must have

- grey or black trousers or skirts / red or blue summer dresses
- a red polo shirt
- a navy blue sweatshirt or cardigan
- all black shoes or black trainers

If children are not adhering to this then parents will get be contacted by text to bring replacements items.

Friends of Dean Bank – Donations Needed

The Friends meet every Monday at 9.30am and everyone is welcome to join for coffee and biscuits. This meeting is to discuss fund raising events and how parents and carers can support the school. We have an established committee but would appreciate parents who may just be able to help with specific events or just wish to hear some of the ideas and events already planned.

The friends are continuing to hold a weekly stall every Friday at the bottom of the yard and they continue to want donations for this.

KS1 and KS2 SAT's

The Year 6 children (Miss Potts' Class) will be completing their KS2 SAT's week beginning 14th May 2018.

Full attendance is needed that week so please ensure no holidays or appointments are booked during this time.

The Year 2 children (Miss Heseltine's class) will be completing their KS1 SAT's during the month of May 2018. Again we would be very grateful if you could avoid booking holidays or appointments during this time.

Attendance Figures

Can I remind parents that attendance was highlighted as an issue during the OFSTED inspection and is something which is a priority in school this year. **Children's expected attendance is 96%**. Please ensure all appointments are made out of school hours (where possible) and that you contact the school office on the first day of absence to notify us of the reasons for absences, and the expected date of return. Where medical absences persist beyond 1 day of illness, please keep in regular contact (ideally daily) with the school.

26th March 2018 ~ 28th March 2018

Little Learners	Busy Bees	Reception	Class 1	Class 2	Class 3	Class 4	Class 5	Class 6
100	81.48	96.30	97.22	91.67	94.00	96.67	94.67	90.15

16th April 2018 ~ 19th April 2018

Little Learners	Busy Bees	Reception	Class 1	Class 2	Class 3	Class 4	Class 5	Class 6
88.89	97.26	97.35	92.98	98.74	98.84	89.29	97.02	94.10

NSPCC's Speak out, stay safe programme

The NSPCC's *Speak out. Stay safe.* programme is visiting our school to make sure our pupils have the knowledge and understanding they need to stay safe from abuse.

I'm pleased to tell you that we will be working with the NSPCC, the UK's leading children's charity, who'll be delivering their *Speak out. Stay safe.* programme this term. This is a nationwide programme for every primary-school-aged child in the UK and Channel Islands. With the help of their friendly mascot Buddy, they'll be presenting an assembly to the children in our school as well as a workshop for Years 5 and 6.

"NSPCC has helped me to build the confidence to tell people about my worries and problems." Child's feedback.

What is the *Speak out. Stay safe.* programme?

Through child-friendly, interactive assemblies and workshops their specially trained staff and volunteers will give our children information about how to keep themselves safe from harm and how to get help if they have any worries, sensitively discussing issues like bullying and sexual abuse, without using scary words or adult language.

We have studied the content of the materials and heard from other schools who have participated and are extremely confident that they are appropriate for primary-school-aged children. By the end of their visit, we're convinced children will feel empowered – knowing how they can speak out and stay safe.

"This service provides important information in a child-friendly way – it should be made mandatory in all schools. A brilliant service!" *Teacher, Wistaston Primary, Crewe*

If you would like any more information about the NSPCC *Speak out. Stay safe.* programme, including frequently asked questions, you can find it on the NSPCC website

nspcc.org.uk/schools or please come into speak to me and I can provide more information.

Talking about the Underwear Rule with your children

The NSPCC's work in schools will help encourage conversations about staying safe – and they have a number of child-friendly materials to help you carry on the conversation afterwards. That includes 'The Underwear Rule', a simple way for parents to help keep children safe from sexual abuse – without using scary words or even mentioning sex.

The guide uses the rules of PANTS to teach children that their body belongs to them and them alone. You can find out more and download the free resources at nspcc.org.uk/pants

If you'd like to know more about the NSPCC's work, or take a look at the wide range of information and advice which is available for parents and carers, please visit their website

nspcc.org.uk/preventing-abuse/keeping-children-safe/

Dates for your diary



April 2018	
Tuesday 24 th April 2018	Hoopstarz Day
Monday 30 th April 2018	FBEC Blazer Fittings
May 2018	
Throughout the Month	KS1 SAT's
Thursday 3 rd May 2018	Year 5 and 6 NSPCC Workshops
Monday 7 th May 2018	School Closed for May Day
Tuesday 8 th May 2018	School Nurse Drop-in
Wednesday 9 th May 2018	Class 3 Assembly
14 th May 2018 – 18 th May 2018	KS2 SAT's week
Monday 21 st May 2018	Year 6 visit to Northumbria University
Wednesday 23 rd May 2018	Girls Football Cup
Friday 25 th May 2018	Year 5 and 6 Athletics at Shildon Athletics Club
Friday 25 th May 2018	School Closes at 3:15pm for Half Term
June 2018	
Monday 4 th June 2018	School re-opens at 8:55am.
Tuesday 5 th June 2018	Year 6 Cricket at Mainsforth Cricket Club
11 th June 2018 – 15 th June 2018	Phonics Screening Week
Tuesday 12 th June 2018	School Nurse Drop-in
Tuesday 12 th June 2018	School Nurse to visit Year 5 and 6
Tuesday 12 th June 2018	Sedgefield Dash
Wednesday 13 th June 2018	Year 6 Durham Cathedral
Thursday 14 th June 2018	Year 5/6 Multi Skills
Thursday 14 th June 2018	Year 5 Puberty Talk
13 th June 2018 - 14 th June 2018	Art Exhibition
18 th June 2018 – 22 nd June 2018	Refugee Week
25 th June 2018 – 29 th June 2018	Sports Week
Wednesday 27 th June 2018	Year 2 Class Assembly
Wednesday 27 th June 2018	Go-givers celebration event
July 2018	
Thursday 5 th July 2018	Year 3/4 Sports Skills
Friday 6 th July 2018	Reports to Parents
Monday 9 th July 2018	FBEC Transition Day
Tuesday 10 th July 2018	Year 5 Cricket Competition
Thursday 12 th July 2018	Parental Consultation Evening
Friday 20 th July 2018	Year 6 Leavers Assembly