

Dean Bank Primary and Nursery School

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Believe, Achieve, Soar with Pride

Dear Parent/Carers

Newsletter 32 ~ 18th July 2018

We have had a really successful year and I would like to take this opportunity to thank you for the support and understanding you give school. It is not always easy to ensure the smooth running of an organisation with lots of policies and procedures but our positive partnership and my unwavering commitment to do the best for all our children ensures that, for most of the time, we have happy pupils, parents and staff.

We are just updating you on some of the policy decisions and changes we are making in school this year following several reviews we have conducted with external agencies. These include a safeguarding review, a local authority review and professional discussions with other educational establishments.

Breakfast Club will now run from 8:15am. The arrangements are the same, entry through the red door. However all children need to be in by 8.30am as the door will be closed to ensure school staff can clear away in preparation for the beginning of the school day. Children will not be admitted after this time, even through the main door, as this is having an adverse effect on office procedures.

The school office hours are changing in line with staff altered working hours. The new hours are 8:30am until 4:00pm. Phone messages can be left outside office hours for Office staff to receive and respond to. During the school day the staff can be contacted via the main door by ringing the buzzer.

As a reminder, the school day begins at 8:45am for Nursery, finishing at 11:45am. If parents are late then children will be taken down to the office. The remainder of the school begin their day at 8.55am and finish at 3.15pm.

Following the thorough safeguarding review we have been advised to inform parents that they should only be collecting their children from the bottom of the yard and if there is a specific reason that children need to be collected from the main entrance, parents should wait in the lobby 5 minutes before the collection time.

Children finishing after school clubs will also be released to meet parents at the bottom of the school yard, just like the end of day. Clubs generally finish at 4:00pm or 4.15pm and letters will clarify the finishing time. Children must return the permission slips to ensure we are legally allowed to keep them until the finishing time and administer first aid if the need arises. A text message will alert parents if they have received a place if the club is restricted in number.

All parents are expected to complete a Leave of Absence form if a child is missing school. This includes half days for medical appointments. School also expect to see medical evidence to verify 'in the school day' appointments. The welfare of our children is very important and in consultation with the Dr's surgery and School Nurse they are happy to provide appointment cards.

We continue to expect all children to be prepared for school, our younger children need support with this. Our expectation is that all children read 3 times each week and parents make a written comment in the reading record book. All children have homework to complete and it is expected that parents ensure this is done. We have a homework club held after school on a Thursday to enable this.

We also expect every child to have a school PE kit which can be purchased at a very reasonable price from the office. If a child does not have a PE kit they will be provided with a spare one from school for that session but will lose some privilege time as a consequence for not being prepared for lessons.

I am very proud of how smart our children look and thank you for your diligence in this matter. If children are not in uniform, parents will be contacted to bring items into school or children will be dressed in spare clothes from lost property. Just a reminder that all children should be wearing black leather or 'leather look' school shoes. If they do not conform to this then they will be asked to wear their black plimsolls which, as parents, you have provided for PE sessions.

We have been advised to clarify which adults are allowed to collect children from school. We will be sending out the annual data collection sheet with an additional form asking for 4 dedicated adults who are allowed to collect children and a space for parents to disclose if there are any adults that are not allowed to collect their children. Older siblings (aged 14 or above) need to be named as a dedicated adult if parents wish siblings to collect children.

Due to changes in food ordering and following updated guidance on school dinners and school dinner money, we have been advised that children should have either a full week of school lunches or a full week of packed lunch. If a child is having school meals then this must be paid for in advance on Monday morning. School lunches are £2.05 per day (£10.25 per week).

Summer Holidays

We would like to remind parents/carers that school closes at 3:15pm on Friday 20th July 2018 and re-opens on Tuesday 4th September 2018.

Goodbye and Good Luck

We would like to say goodbye and good luck to Mr McIlwaine, Miss Tallintire and Mrs Hemingway. We wish you all the very best in your new ventures.

Welcome

We will be welcoming three new members of staff in September, Mr Wood (Reception Teacher), Mr Walker (HLTA) and Mr Murphy (HLTA).

Friends of Dean Bank

The Friends held a Summer Fair on Monday 16th July 2018 and raised £328.00 towards their funds. Thank you to everyone their support.

FREE healthy snacks for kids on the go this summer

During the school holidays free healthy snacks will be available to children visiting any Durham County Council swimming pool or library, Monday to Friday, all day.

Snacks on offer include Bananas, satsumas, apples popcorn and raisins etc. The snacks will help to ensure that children have access to something quick and healthy to eat during the holidays rather than chocolate and sugary snacks.

Details of local swimming pools and libraries can be found at: www.durham.gov.uk

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 absences persist beyond 1 day, please keep in regular contact (ideally daily) with the school.

9th July 2018 ~ 13th July 2018

Little Learners	Busy Bees	Reception	Class 1	Class 2	Class 3	Class 4	Class 5	Class 6
94.12	86.36	92.50	99.55	97.50	89.62	94.50	93.33	84.21

16th July 2018 ~ 18th July 2018

Little Learners	Busy Bees	Reception	Class 1	Class 2	Class 3	Class 4	Class 5	Class 6

Please note: From September 2018 **ALL** parents will be expected to complete a Leave of Absence form for **ALL** appointments made during the school day.

Although we have seen some improvement in attendance we are still working on improving this further. If you have any concerns regarding attendance please contact Mrs Gilyeat, School Attendance Officer.

Emergency Contact Details

It is **very important** that school has up to date contact numbers and addresses in case of an emergency. Data collection forms will be sent out in the autumn term to ensure we have up to date contact information for all children. We have had several incidents this year where children have been ill or we have had concerns which have needed to be acted upon and we have not been able to contact anyone.

School Uniform

We have several children who are not coming to school in their 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.

Please note: children MUST have appropriate haircuts/styles, this does not include the latest trend of shapes and stars.

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.

First Contact

If you have a concern about a child or young person who lives in County Durham, First Contact is the service to call. First Contact brings together staff from Children and Young People's Services with partners such as Durham Constabulary and Health.

How can I get in touch? First Contact has made it easy for you to get in touch with them. You can contact them using any of the following methods:

Telephone: 03000 26 79 79

E-mail: scd@durham.gov.uk

Website: www.durham.gov.uk/.../firstcontact

What happens if I call First Contact? When you contact First Contact, you will speak to a trained officer who will work with you to decide the level of response needed. Providing early help to children, young people and their families is their priority.

An Early Help Assessment will be started to help inform the next steps, which may be:

- A referral to preventative services such as One Point, with a 'team around the family' and a named lead professional. Giving you appropriate advice and guidance.
- A statutory referral to assessment and interventions teams due to safeguarding concerns, with a 'team around the family' and a named lead professional.

First Contact works to a Single Assessment Framework which can be found on the Durham County Council website.

Free School Meal Entitlement

The regulations for Free School Meals 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.**