

Dean Bank Primary and Nursery School

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Believe, Achieve, Soar with Pride

Head Teacher: Mrs P Northcott
Chair of Governors: Mr J Lindsay

Dear Parent/Carers

Newsletter 2 ~ 14th September 2018

OPAL

Thank you to the parents who came to the presentation and coffee afternoon to find out about this exciting development in our school. We are all excited about the prospect of our children having a more creative, imaginative, and all year round break and lunchtime experience.

Staff have undergone training and Teaching Assistants are supporting children with this initiative at lunchtimes.

We would like to ask for the following donations to assist with our OPAL project:

- Old Blankets
- Pots and Pans
- Large kitchen utensils (spatula/spoons etc.)
- Old Waterproof Toys (dinosaurs etc.)
- Old dress up clothes
- Old wellies which are too small for your child to be used as spares in school

Roald Dahl Day

Thank you to everyone who took part in Roald Dahl Day; as a school we managed to raise £90.00.

Following discussions in the summer term with many parents who felt that it was the same families who were paying for trips and other children were always being subsidised, to try and make things fairer, it was decided that all children should wear school uniform everyday and if parents want children to participate in school dress up days then this would be when parents sent in £1.00.

If parents do not want their children to participate then children should just wear their school uniform like every other day. I have been assured by staff that no children were singled out for either not bringing in money or not getting dressed up, but those children who had just decided to come in non-school uniform for no reason without paying were asked to put on their PE kits or in some cases access spare uniform.

I have had several conversations with parents regarding this and understand that it will always be a controversial and emotive area where people have strong views. I have also had conversations with other Head Teachers to explore if this seems unreasonable and found that some schools just do not allow children to go if a trip is not paid for. I personally think this is morally wrong and in this circumstance I would make the decision that the whole trip was cancelled to ensure fairness for all.

However, I am also aware that parents have a range of financial circumstances and that budgeting for a family is difficult, but in comparison to other local schools I feel we support parents as much as we can by having a free breakfast club, by not expecting logos on all jumpers and offering reasonably priced or free after school clubs.

Our budget this year has fallen by fifty thousand pounds and to ensure we keep staffing and resources, the Governors are having to make difficult financial decisions. We subsidised trips last year to the tune of nearly three thousand pounds, which was the shortfall from parents not making those donations. We are trying very hard to develop our Friends Of Dean Bank who fundraise to supplement our budget but also keep our school fund healthy so we can continue to provide a good education for children who deserve the best we can offer.

PSA Coffee Morning

Mrs Temple will be holding a coffee morning every Monday, this is an informal drop-in where you can discuss any issues you have regarding SEND, Attendance or just want a general chat about school life. If Mrs Temple is unavailable another member of staff will be available.

Friends of Dean Bank

The Friends of Dean Bank will now be meeting every **Tuesday at 9:15am** 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.

Each Friday the FODB will be selling jam sandwiches etc. to children at morning break.

The FODB have already been busy planning some future events:

- Thursday 27th September 2018, 9.30am – 11.30am, World's Biggest Coffee Morning for Macmillan
- Friday 28th September 2018 – Cake stall at morning break for the children
- Wednesday 31st October 2018, 4.00pm - 5.00pm, Halloween disco.

Data Collection Forms

Thank you to those parents who have already returned the data collection forms. Please ensure these forms are returned to school as soon as possible. If you need additional copies of the forms please contact a member of staff in the school office.

Parent Governor Vacancy

We have a vacancy for a Parent Governor, if you feel you would be interested in this position please contact Mrs. Emmerson for more information.

PE Kit

Due to some recent confusion around PE kits I would like to remind parents that we expect the children to wear a red t-shirt and black shorts (available to buy from the school office) and black plimsolls.

Endeavour Woodcrafts

Endeavour Woodcrafts are holding a Christmas Open Day on Saturday 10th November 2018 from 10.00am until 2.00pm.

If you have any unused gifts/toiletries or bottles you are happy to donate, please drop them off at Endeavour, The Old Fire Station, Darlington Road Ferryhill between 9.00am and 3.00pm, Monday to Friday.

Admission to School:

Parents can make their application for Secondary School online by visiting www.durham.gov.uk/schooladmissions and the School Admissions online application facility will be available to parents from Wednesday 12 September 2018. The closing date for Secondary School Applications is Wednesday 31 October 2018.

If parents do not wish to apply online they can complete a paper application form, and these are available to print from our website (same website address as above). Alternatively these application forms can be requested by e-mail to schooladmissions@durham.gov.uk or by telephone from the School Admissions and Transport Team on 03000 265896. Copies of the Parent's guide "Primary and Secondary School Admission Guide 2019/2020" will also be available from our website or on request from Wednesday 12 September 2018.

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.

Flu Vaccine

Please visit the link below to consent for your child (one for each child) to receive their flu vaccine in the autumn term 2018. This consent must be completed by 28th September to ensure we can vaccinate your child when we are in school.

www.hdft.nhs.uk/nasalfu-consent

School Name: Deanbank

Secure school code: 78350

This vaccination programme is in place to help protect your child against flu. Flu can be an unpleasant illness and sometimes causes serious complications. Vaccinating your child will also help protect more vulnerable friends and family by preventing the spread of flu. Please ensure you read and understand all the information at the above link before you complete the on line form.

The vaccination is free and recommended for young children and is given via a quick and simple spray up the nose. If you have any questions or do not have internet access to complete the form please do not hesitate to contact us on: 0300 0030 013

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.

7th September 2018 ~ 13th September 2018

Little Learners	Busy Bees	Reception	Class 1	Class 2	Class 3	Class 4	Class 5	Class 6
90.00	93.33	96.88	98.56	97.14	97.35	94.35	97.47	99.20

Please note: **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.

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.

School 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
- black leather or leather look shoes

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.

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.**

Dates for your diary



September 2018	
Friday 14 th September 2018	Group Photographs
Friday 14 th September 2018	Year 4 Swimming
Monday 24 th September 2018	World's Largest Lesson
Monday 24 th September 2018	Sports Athlete Visit
Thursday 27 th September 2018	FODB Macmillan Coffee Morning
Thursday 27 th September 2018	Football League
October 2018	
Thursday 4 th October 2018	National Poetry Day
8 th October 2018 – 12 th October 2018	Assessment Week
Tuesday 9 th October 2018	KS1 Gymnastics
Tuesday 16 th October 2018	Tag Rugby Competition
Thursday 18 th October 2018	Parental Consultation Evening
Thursday 18 th October 2018	School closes for Autumn Half Term
Monday 29 th October 2018	School re-opens
Monday 29 th October 2018	Reception to Year 5 Flu Immunisation
Wednesday 31 st October 2018	FODB Halloween Disco
November 2018	
Wednesday 7 th November 2018	Individual / Family Photographs
Thursday 8 th November 2018	Netball League
Tuesday 13 th November 2018	Y5/6 Sports Hall Athletics
Monday 26 th November 2018	Bags to School
December 2018	
Wednesday 5 th December 2018	Whole School Visit to the Gala Theatre
10 th December 2018 – 14 th December 2018	Assessment Week
Tuesday 4 th December 2018	Gymnastics Festival – Class TBC
Wednesday 12th December 2018	School Christmas Lunch
Tuesday 18 th December 2018	Christmas Party Day
Friday 21 st December 2018	Christmas Carol Service – Saint Luke's Church
Friday 21 st December 2018	School closes for Christmas Holidays