

Dean Bank Primary and Nursery School

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



Believe, Achieve, Soar with Pride

Dear Parent/Carers

Newsletter 6 ~ 16th November 2018

CHILDREN IN NEED

We raised £156.50 for Children in Need today. Thank you to everyone for their donations.

OPAL

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

Too many children are taking their PE kits home to be washed and are not returning them. Last year school spent over £1000 to buy PE kits for everyone with the expectation that children are ready to participate in sports and can fulfil the legal requirement of 2 hours PE each week and active 30 minutes during the day. Every child needs school shorts and a T shirt (which can be purchased from the office) a pair of plimsolls for indoor PE and some trainers if they are doing outside PE or afterschool clubs. Thank you for supporting us with this.

On **Friday 30th November 2018** all children will have the opportunity to 'Buy an extra playtime' for a cost of £1.00 per child - all money raised will go towards playtime equipment. All children who bring in money on this day will receive an extra 15 minute playtime at the end of the lunchtime break where they have the opportunity to explore the OPAL areas further. Children who do not bring in their donation will still have their entitled breaks.

Friends of Dean Bank

The Friends of Dean Bank meet 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.

Every Friday the Friends sell jam and chocolate sandwiches on a morning break, if your child wishes to purchase these they are 50p per sandwich.

Christmas Fair - Monday 10th December 2018, the friends would like to ask for donations of:

- Raffle prizes
- Tombola prizes
- Teddy tombola prizes

Inspired Through Sport Athlete

Thank you to everyone who sponsored the children for this event. It was really successful. The children had a great time working with the athlete and asked some excellent questions during the assembly session.

Teacher Vacancy

The governors and Head teacher are seeking to appoint an experienced Key Stage 2 class teacher to become part of the Key Stage 2 team from Monday 26th November 2018. If you or someone you know wishes to apply for this post please contact the school office to request an electronic application pack. Visits are strongly recommended during week beginning Monday 19th November 2018.

Completed forms should be returned to school by 12 noon on Thursday 22nd November 2018, shortlisting will take place on Thursday 22nd November 2018 and interviews will be held on Friday 23rd November 2018 at 1:00pm.

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.

Anne-Marie Robertshaw, school nurse, will be attending the coffee morning on the first Monday of every Month beginning Monday 5th November 2018 if you have any concerns regarding toilet training, head lice etc.

Easy Fundraiser

Did you know that whenever you buy anything online - from your weekly shop to your annual holiday - you could be collecting free donations for school? There are over 3,000 shops and sites on board ready to make a donation, including Amazon, John Lewis, Aviva, thetrainline and Sainsbury's – it doesn't cost you a penny extra!

It's as easy as 1, 2, 3...

1. Head to <https://www.easyfundraising.org.uk/causes/deanbankprimary/> and join for free.
2. Every time you shop online, go to easyfundraising first to find the site you want and start shopping.
3. After you've checked out, that retailer will make a donation to your good cause for no extra cost whatsoever!

There are no catches or hidden charges and school will be really grateful for your donations.

Thank you for your support.

TikTok and other social media

Can I please remind parents that apps such as TicTok, Facebook and Instagram are age restricted. We have had a couple of reports of cyber bullying and as a school we do not tolerate this. We appreciate that it is the parent's responsibility to allow their child access to these sites but we would like to remind you of the consequences of incidents such as cyber bullying. If you have any concerns we recommend that police be contacted.

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
- 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 or children will be expected to put on their PE plimsolls if footwear is not appropriate.

Children MUST also have appropriate haircuts/styles, this does not include the latest trend of shapes and stars.

Durham Nearly New Christmas Toy Sale

Preloved parent, children and baby goods are available to buy at Durham's nearly new Christmas toy sale on Sunday 25th November 2018 at St Leonards Catholic School, 1:15pm-3:00pm. Entry to this event is £1.00.

Lots of baby and children's toys, games, books, DVDs and fancy dress. Stalls, refreshments, business stands and much more. This event is sponsored by Busy Bees & Busy Bears Children's Day Nurseries. All profits go to NCT Charity.

Pupil Premium Plus Grant

Has a child in your care attending our school:

- been adopted from care in England or Wales?
- left care under a special guardianship order (SGO)
- left care under a child arrangements order (formally known as a residence order)
- been adopted from 'state care' outside England and Wales

If the answer is yes to any of the above please contact Mrs Temple as school will receive additional funding for these children.

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.

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. You can refer yourself to First Contact if you feel you need support.

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.

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.

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.

2nd November 2018 ~ 8th November 2018 (Attendance) National Expectation 96%

Little Learners	Busy Bees	Reception	Class 1	Class 2	Class 3	Class 4	Class 5	Class 6
90.00	94.55	97.50	95.36	98.64	94.78	97.83	92.86	95.20

9th November 2018 ~ 15th November 2018

Little Learners	Busy Bees	Reception	Class 1	Class 2	Class 3	Class 4	Class 5	Class 6
80.00	87.27	91.88	93.57	95.91	92.61	99.13	96.19	93.60

Although we monitor our attendance very closely we are also expected to report our Persistent Absence. If a child is absent for 10% of their school sessions e.g. their attendance is less than 90%, then they are classed as being persistently absent. The expectation is that our persistent absence is below the National of 10.8%.

Our rate is currently 16.57%.

We are going to publish the number of children whose persistent absence is below 10% so parents can monitor this against the National Figure and help us lower it.

29th October 2018 ~ 2nd November 2018 (Persistent Absence) National Expectation ~ Below 10.8%

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

5th November 2018 ~ 9th November (Persistent Absence) National Expectation ~ Below 10.8%

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

As part of our school Behaviour Policy we award DOJO points depending on each individual child's behaviour and attitude within school. This term we brought in the incentive of a DOJO store where the children can spend their DOJO's on a fortnightly basis.

After thought and discussion it has been decided that we will be awarding green dojos each week to those pupils with 100%.

At the end of each half term all of our children with at least 98% attendance are entered into a draw for the chance to win £5.00, along with this initiative we will also be entering each family that have at least 98% attendance into a draw for the chance to win a £30.00 ASDA voucher.



November 2018	
Wednesday 21 st November 2018	Year 5 Class Assembly
Monday 26 th November 2018	Bags to School
Thursday 29 th November 2018	Year 6 Safety Carousel
December 2018	
Tuesday 4 th December 2018	Gymnastics Festival – Class TBC
Tuesday 4 th December 2018	Year 2 Christmas Journey
Wednesday 5 th December 2018	Whole School Visit to the Gala Theatre
Monday 10 th December 2018	FODB Christmas Fair
10 th December 2018 – 14 th December 2018	Assessment Week
Wednesday 12 th December 2018	School Christmas Lunch and Christmas Jumper Day
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
January 2019	
Tuesday 8 th January 2019	School re-opens for the Spring Term
Wednesday 9 th January 2019	Year 1 Multi Skills
Thursday 24 th January 2019	Year 5/6 Basketball