

Dean Bank Primary and Nursery School

Dean Bank, Ferryhill,
Co. Durham DL17 8PP
Telephone: 01740 651 512

E-mail: deanbank@durhamlearning.net
Website: www.deanbank.durham.sch.uk

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



Believe, Achieve, Soar with Pride

Newsletter 8 ~ 13th December 2018

Dear Parent/Carers

Merry Christmas

I would like to take this opportunity to wish everyone a Merry Christmas as this is the last newsletter of 2018.

Christmas Parties

The children will be having their Christmas parties on Tuesday 18th December 2018 and are welcome to come to school dressed in their party clothes.

EYFS ~ Morning / Year 1, 2 and 3 ~ Morning / Year 4, 5 and 6 ~ Afternoon

Christmas Carol Service

On Friday 21st December 2018 we will be holding our annual Christmas Carol Service at Saint Luke's Church, 9:30am. All children are expected to come to school as normal on the morning. Once the Carol Service has finished those children who have parents at the service will have the opportunity to begin their Christmas holiday a little sooner by going home with them at the end of the service. **Please inform school by Friday 14th December 2018 if your child will be returning to school or going home after the service.**

Denehurst Nursing Home Santa Visit

On Saturday 15th December 2018 Santa will be visiting Denehurst nursing home from 2:00pm if your child would like to visit. The children can go along in Christmas fancy dress for the chance to win a prize, refreshments and raffle tickets will be available.

Ferryhill Sports and Education Centre

On Sunday 16th December 2018, FSEC will be holding a Winter Market from 10:00am-4:00pm. Christmas fun for the whole family: handmade crafts, Christmas gifts, collectables, action figures, jewellery, art, holistic gifts, hot food, cosplay competitions, a fully licenced bar and much more.

Friends of Dean Bank Christmas Fair

The Friends of Dean Bank raised £245.26 at the Christmas Fayre. Thank you to everyone who supported this event.

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.

Easy Fundraiser

During the build up to Christmas please remember that as a school we can receive free donations when you or your family use the easy fundraising app when ordering online. There are no catches or hidden charges and school will be really grateful for your donations. 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!

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

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.

December 2018	
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 10 th January 2019	Dental Health Awareness
Monday 14 th January 2019	Year 5 and 6 Money Awareness Workshops
Tuesday 15 th January 2019	Year 3 and 4 Money Awareness Workshops
Wednesday 16 th January 2019	Year 1 and 2 Money Awareness Workshops
Thursday 24 th January 2019	Year 5 and 6 Basketball

Children's expected attendance is 96%. Our whole school attendance currently stands at 95.50% (4th September 2018 to 13th December 2018) and 59% of our children have attendance of 96% or above.

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. **It is vitally important that all absences are reported to the school office otherwise these may be recorded as unauthorised which could possibly lead to referrals to the Attendance Improvement Team or legal proceedings.**

Where absences persist beyond 1 day, please keep in regular contact (ideally daily) with the school. **If your child is attending an appointment first thing on a morning please ensure to inform the school office to allow lunch arrangement to be in place upon their return.**

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.

30th November 2018 ~ 6th December 2018 (Attendance) National Expectation 96%

Little Learners	Busy Bees	Reception	Class 1	Class 2	Class 3	Class 4	Class 5	Class 6
73.33	96.92	91.25	97.14	96.82	96.09	96.54	97.62	93.20

7th December 2018 ~ 13th December 2018 (Attendance) National Expectation 96%

Little Learners	Busy Bees	Reception	Class 1	Class 2	Class 3	Class 4	Class 5	Class 6
83.33	81.54	90.63	97.14	96.82	95.65	96.52	93.81	97.20

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 **12.43%**.

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.

26th November 2018 ~ 30th 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
2	3	3	2	1	4	2	5	2

3rd December 2018 ~ 7th December 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
2	4	2	1	1	3	2	4	2

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 at the end of each term.