

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

Newsletter 11 ~ 8th February 2019

Dear Parent/Carers

We look forward to seeing you for parent consultation evening on Tuesday 12th February.

Parents of Little Learners

Little Learners is closed on Friday 15th February 2019 and will re-open on Monday 25th February 2019 due to staff training.

World Book Day

On Thursday 7th March 2019 the children will have the opportunity to come to school dressed as a book character for a donation of £1.00. If your child does not wish to dress up and pay their donation, they MUST come to school in their uniform.

Governor Vacancies

The Governing Body are looking for 2 co-opted members who have the skills required to contribute to the effective governance and success of the school. If you are aware of anyone who may be interested in joining our Governing Body please ask them to contact the school office for further information.

Money in Envelopes

Please ensure all money is sent into school in an envelope with the following details:

- your child's name
- amount enclosed
- what the payment is for

Chance Drama

Chance Drama are currently on the lookout for youngsters who have an interest in performing arts.

With show rehearsals beginning very soon, it's perfect timing to start. They are a Youth theatre group, who rehearse and perform in Mainsforth Community Centre.

They charge £2 per session, and hold sessions on Sunday Afternoons - Which is split into juniors and seniors. It is perfect for children to make friends, with similar interests in acting, dance and singing.

For information regarding joining, drop them a Facebook message... or email on: chancedramaferryhill@gmail.com

February 2019	
Friday 8 th February 2019	Reception Multi-skills Events
Monday 11 th February 2019	Year 6 Northumbria University
Tuesday 12 th February 2019	Parental Consultation Evening
Wednesday 13 th February 2019	Year 1 Class Assembly
Wednesday 13 th February 2019	Year 3/4 Gymnastics
Friday 15 th February 2019	School Closes for the Half Term Holidays
Monday 25 th February 2019	School Re-opens for Spring Term 2

Homework

Homework is given out every Friday and is expected to be returned by the following Friday. We expect all children to read at least 3 times per week at home along with 3 separate comments in their reading records.

Please remember to check your child's school bag on a daily basis.

A homework club is available for the children in Year 3 to 6 to attend on a Friday, 3:15pm-4:00pm. If you wish for your child to attend this club please contact the school office for a form. If any child is not completing their homework on a weekly basis they may be asked by their class teacher to attend the club.

All children are expected to bring their reading books and homework into school in a bag. We encourage them to have a coloured bag according to their Jewel team, if your child has lost their bag a new one can be purchased from the school office at a cost of £3.00.

PE Policy

It is school policy for children to have a full PE KIT.

We expect that all children keep their PE kit in school at all times to ensure they can take part in any additional activities which may arise. I would like to remind parents that the children are expected to have an indoor and outdoor PE kit.

A number of parents have contacted school recently to complain that the children are doing PE outside in their shorts and t-shirt in cold weather. Following a discussion with PE advisors from County, PE lessons take place outdoors throughout the school year unless the playground is unsafe.

Please could I remind all parents that it is County Policy that children do not wear earrings for PE. If your child is unable to remove their earrings then they will be unable to participate in the lesson.

Indoor PE kit consists of the following items and is available to buy from the school office:

- Red t-shirt
- Black shorts
- Black plimsolls

Outdoor PE kit consists of:

- Tracksuit top and bottoms
- Trainers

All children are expected to have a refillable water bottle in school at all times to ensure the children have access to fresh water throughout the day. Water bottles can be purchased from the school office at 50p each. However we also have washable cups in classrooms so children can have access to water even if they have not got their own bottles.

School Uniform

I am very flexible with where parents buy uniform from and do not expect parents to pay for school jumpers with a logo but I do expect all parents to provide pupils with uniform 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 (no trainers)

A number of parents have contacted school recently to complain that the children are outside at break and lunchtime without their coats on. All children are reminded regularly that they need to wear their coats, with some children being sent back in to put their coats on. Unfortunately some children are choosing not to wear their coats therefore we would like to ask parents to remind their children about the importance of this matter but we understand that children need to make life choice discussions.

30 hours Nursery entitlement

As a school we are now offering 30 hours free childcare. The Government offers 30 hours of free childcare per week for parents of three and four year olds, to help them continue or take up employment.

If you

- Earn, or expect to earn, the equivalent to 16 hours at National Minimum or Living Wage (as a minimum) for the first three months following application.
 - This equates to £120 a week (or about £6,000 a year) for each parent over 25 years old or £112.80 a week (or about £5,800 a year) for each parent between 21 and 24 years old.
 - This applies whether you are in paid employment, self-employed or on zero hours contract.
- Where one parent meets the income criteria above and the other is:
 - Unable to work because they are disabled, have caring responsibilities or have been assessed as having limited capability to work.
 - On maternity, paternity, shared parental or adoption leave, or if they are on statutory sick leave.
- Where you are in a 'start-up period' (i.e. newly self-employed) you do not need to demonstrate that you meet the income criteria for 12 months.
- If you are a non-European Economic Area (EEA) national, you must have recourse to public funds.
- Foster carers who undertake paid work in addition to their fostering commitments may be eligible, contact the childcare places team to find out more.

You will not meet the criteria when:

- Either parent has an income of more than £100,000.
- Either parent is a non-EEA national and subject to immigration control (and has no recourse to public funds).

For more information visit <http://www.durham.gov.uk/3and4yearplaces> or contact Mrs Emmerson for more information.

Friends of Dean Bank

Year 6 Leavers Hoodies

The deadline for ordering your child's hoodie is Friday 8th February 2019. If you require a new order form please contact the school office. We are looking forward to seeing the children in their hoddie's as part of their school uniform after the Easter holidays.

Easter egg Tombola

We are looking for donations towards our Easter Egg Tombola, if you would like to make a donation please drop it into the school office.

Sandwiches

Every Friday jam and chocolate spread sandwiches are on sale at morning break, if your child wishes to purchase these they are 50p per sandwich.

Meeting

We hold a meeting every **Tuesday at 9:15am**, 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.

If you are unable to attend the meeting due to other commitments but would like to offer your ideas or support please speak to a member of our group.



Children's expected attendance is 96%. Our whole school attendance currently stands at 95.00% (4th September 2018 to 8th February 2019) and 52% 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.

21st January 2019 ~ 25th January 2019 (Attendance) National Expectation 96%

Little Learners	Busy Bees	Reception	Class 1	Class 2	Class 3	Class 4	Class 5	Class 6
80.00	88.89	90.63	92.14	93.64	95.71	95.91	92.86	97.60

28th January 2019 ~ 1st February 2019 (Attendance) National Expectation 96%

Little Learners	Busy Bees	Reception	Class 1	Class 2	Class 3	Class 4	Class 5	Class 6
85.00	81.11	83.75	94.29	90.45	95.24	96.82	93.33	96.00

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 **17.68%**.

21st January 2019 ~ 25th January 2019 (Persistent Absence) National Expectation ~ Below 10.8%

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

28th January 2019 ~ 1st February 2019 (Persistent Absence) National Expectation ~ Below 10.8%

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