

# 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 9 ~ 10<sup>th</sup> January 2019

Dear Parent/Carers

I hope you all had a peaceful and enjoyable Christmas break and are keeping all those resolutions you made! The children and staff have all come back raring to go and ready for another successful term so thank you for your continued support with this.

You will be aware that Mrs Bridger has been on long term absence due to ill health and resigned her position at Christmas. We wish her all the best and good luck in her future endeavours. Miss Potts has been appointed as Acting Deputy Head until July.

Mrs Bage, one of our MDSAs also retired at Christmas after 32 years of dedicated service to our school and children and we wish her a peaceful and enjoyable retirement.

I am always looking for ways to develop our school and continue to work hard to ensure your children get the best education we can provide so I will be sending out our annual parental questionnaires to ensure you are happy with what we do for your children and how we can support them even further. It has become a tradition that we put every parent sending back their questionnaire into a draw for £20, surely a good incentive to answer a few questions.

Thank you in advance for completing this, as I speak to parents regularly about a range of issues, including when things do not go as smoothly as we hope, it is still great to receive the positive feedback about things you feel we do well too.

## PE Kits

Please could I remind parents to ensure that all children have a PE kit in school at all times as a lot of children have returned from the Christmas holidays without one.

## Flu Catch up Clinics

To book an appointment call 0300 003 0013

19<sup>th</sup> January 2019 ~ 9:00am-12:00pm ~ The Dolphin Centre, Darlington

19<sup>th</sup> January 2019 ~ 1:30pm-4:00pm ~ Spennymoor Leisure Centre

26<sup>th</sup> January 2019 ~ 9:00am-12:00pm ~ The Louisa Centre, Stanley

26<sup>th</sup> January 2019 ~ 1:30pm-4:00pm ~ Chester le Street Community Centre

## Friends of Dean Bank

The Friends of Dean Bank will be holding an Easter Egg Tombola and would like to ask for donations towards this event. If you would like to make a donation please drop it into the school office.

The Friends 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 will be selling jam and chocolate sandwiches on a morning break, if your child wishes to purchase these they are 50p per sandwich.

### **Easy Fundraiser**

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!

### **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](mailto:scd@durham.gov.uk)

Website: [www.durham.gov.uk/.../firstcontact](http://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.

<b>January 2019</b>	
Monday 14 <sup>th</sup> January 2019	Year 5 and 6 Money Awareness Workshops
Tuesday 15 <sup>th</sup> January 2019	Year 3 and 4 Money Awareness Workshops
Wednesday 16 <sup>th</sup> January 2019	Year 1 and 2 Money Awareness Workshops
Thursday 17 <sup>th</sup> January 2019	Year 1 Parents Meeting regarding Phonics
Thursday 24 <sup>th</sup> January 2019	Year 5 and 6 Basketball
4 <sup>th</sup> February 2019 – 8 <sup>th</sup> February 2019	Assessment Week
Tuesday 5 <sup>th</sup> February 2019	Safer Internet Day
Tuesday 5 <sup>th</sup> February 2019	Year 1 and 2 Infant Games
Friday 8 <sup>th</sup> February 2019	Reception Multi-skills Events
Monday 11 <sup>th</sup> February 2019	Year 6 Northumbria University
Tuesday 12 <sup>th</sup> February 2019	Parental Consultation Evening
Wednesday 13 <sup>th</sup> February 2019	Year 1 Class Assembly
Wednesday 13 <sup>th</sup> February 2019	Year 3/4 Gymnastics
Friday 15 <sup>th</sup> February 2019	School Closes for the Half Term Holidays
Monday 25 <sup>th</sup> February 2019	School Re-opens for Spring Term 2

**Children's expected attendance is 96%. Our whole school attendance currently stands at 95.36% (4<sup>th</sup> September 2018 to 21<sup>st</sup> December 2018) and 56% 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.

**14<sup>th</sup> December 2018 ~ 21<sup>st</sup> December 2018 (Attendance) National Expectation 96%**

Little Learners	Busy Bees	Reception	Class 1	Class 2	Class 3	Class 4	Class 5	Class 6
93.33	88.46	94.79	94.64	96.21	96.74	93.12	85.32	96.33

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 **14.69%**.

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.

**10<sup>th</sup> December 2018 ~ 14<sup>th</sup> 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
3	6	2	1	1	4	2	6	2

**17<sup>th</sup> December 2018 ~ 21<sup>st</sup> 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
3	5	2	1	1	3	2	7	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.