

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 12 ~ 7th March 2019

Dear Parent/Carers

It is with a very sad heart that I must inform you that Mr Moore, our caretaker of over 14 years, will begin his well-deserved retirement on Monday 11th March 2019. He has been an invaluable member of staff who has kept us warm and dry and, in the Breakfast Club, well fed. We wish him a happy and healthy retirement and will always have coco-pops and warm buttered toast ready for him if he's passing.

World Book Day

It was lovely to see so many children and staff dressed up today to celebrate World Book Day, we raised £115.00. Thank you to everyone who contributed. This money will be used in June to replenish books in the school library when we have the scholastic book fair and are given the chance to buy heavily discounted book, you know I like getting more for our money and this means our £115.00 will go a little further.

Head Lice

I would just like to remind parents to check their child's hair on a regular basis as we have had a number of children absent due to head lice.

School Sports Partnership - Fit for Life

Lots of our pupils enjoy doing Fit for Life and we would like to share with you that we won the SSP competition last week. The SSP are running Fun Functional Fitness Classes for children aged 7-11 at Ferryhill Sport and Education Centre (FSEC) on Thursday evenings, 4:15pm-5:00pm starting Thursday 7th March 2019. Each session costs £2.00 but if your child is interested in participating please request a leaflet from Miss Potts as this will enable the children to attend the first session for free.

Governor Vacancies

The Governing Body are looking for 3 co-opted members and a parent Governor who have the enthusiasm 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.

We also have a parent governor vacancy, if anyone is interested please contact Mrs Emmerson.

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.

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

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 hour's 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.

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.

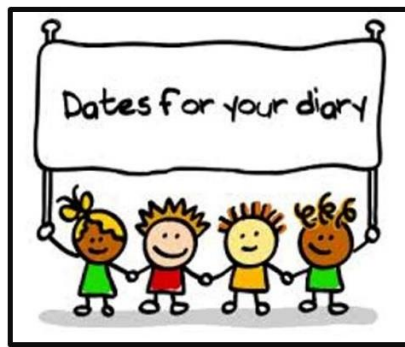
Pupils must have:

- 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 decisions.

Mother's Day Afternoon Treat

Last year our school were pleased to support Glenys and Approach TOO with their mother's day afternoon tea. They will be holding the event again on Saturday 30th March 2019, 1:00pm-2:30pm or 3:00pm-4:30pm, Ferryhill Methodist Church. A chance to treat mams and grandmas to a lovely afternoon of scrumptious food and good company. A selection of freshly made sandwiches, scones, sweet treats and tea or coffee will be available. Tickets cost £3.00 per person available from the school office. Tickets are limited and will be sold on a first come, first served basis.



March 2019	
Tuesday 12 th March 2019	Football Team to play at St Charles Primary School
Friday 15 th March 2019	Red Nose Day
Friday 15 th March 2019	Science Ambassador Event at Chilton Academy
Monday 18 th March 2019	Reception Vision Screening
Tuesday 19 th March 2019	Football Team to play at St Charles Primary School
Tuesday 19 th March 2019	Year 5 Easter Journey at Ferryhill Methodist Church
Thursday 21 st March 2019	Shakespeare Performance at King James 1 Academy
Tuesday 26 th March 2019	SSP Dance Festival – class TBC
Tuesday 26 th March 2019	PTA Spring Disco
Wednesday 27 th March 2019	Year 3 Class Assembly
April 2019	
Thursday 4 th April 2019	Netball Festival at FBEC
Friday 5 th April 2019	Easter Service at St Luke's Church
Friday 5 th April 2019	School Close for Easter Holidays
Monday 22 nd April 2019	School re-opens for Summer Term
Monday 29 th April 2019	Year 5 and 6 Money Awareness Workshops
Tuesday 30 th April 2019	Year 5 and 6 Money Awareness Workshops
May 2019	
Wednesday 1 st May 2019	KS1 Money Awareness Party
Wednesday 1 st May 2019	Money Awareness Coffee Afternoon for Parents
Wednesday 1 st May 2019	Class 3 Visit to Botanical Gardens

Friends of Dean Bank

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.

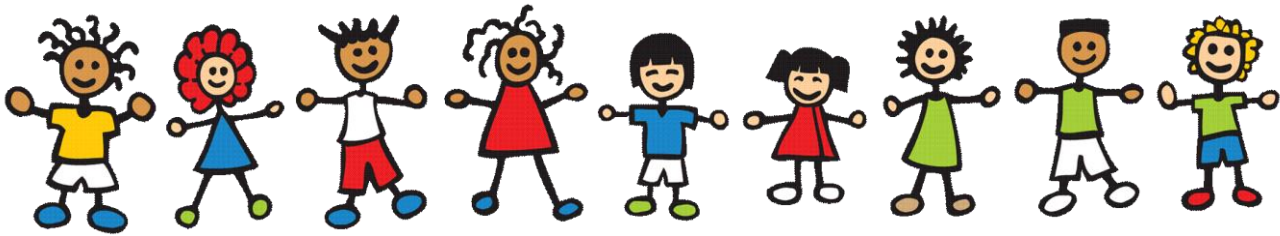
Sandwiches

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.



Spring Disco
Year 1 – Year 6 children only
Tuesday 26th March 2019
4.15pm – 5.30pm



The Friends of Dean Bank are holding a spring disco on **Tuesday 26th March 2019** from **4.15pm until 5.30pm** for the children in **Year 1 to Year 6** classes.

Tickets cost **£2.00** and includes refreshment - so there is no need for your child to bring money on the night!

Please note:

- Admission will be by ticket only
- Tickets are available from the school office
- Places are restricted to 60 and will be allocated on a first come, first served basis.
- Please drop off your child at the school main entrance and
- collect your child from the school main entrance at 5.30pm



Children's expected attendance is 96%. Our whole school attendance currently stands at 95.01% (4th September 2018 to 1st March 2019) and 55% 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.

4th February 2019 ~ 8th February 2019 (Attendance) National Expectation 96%

Little Learners	Busy Bees	Reception	Class 1	Class 2	Class 3	Class 4	Class 5	Class 6
66.67	94.44	87.50	97.50	93.18	96.19	96.36	92.38	98.40

11th February 2019 ~ 15th February 2019 (Attendance) National Expectation 96%

Little Learners	Busy Bees	Reception	Class 1	Class 2	Class 3	Class 4	Class 5	Class 6
92.86	96.67	90.00	90.71	92.61	95.25	92.73	92.86	99.20

25th February 2019 ~ 1st March 2019 (Attendance) National Expectation 96%

Little Learners	Busy Bees	Reception	Class 1	Class 2	Class 3	Class 4	Class 5	Class 6
82.50	98.89	97.65	95.00	95.65	92.27	97.73	96.36	96.80

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 **15.59%**.

4th February 2019 ~ 8th 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	3	2	3	2	2	6	2

11th February 2019 ~ 15th 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
3	5	2	2	4	1	2	5	2

25th February 2019 ~ 1st March 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	6	2	2	4	2	2	5	2