

# 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 6 ~ 5<sup>th</sup> December 2019

Dear Parent/Carers

## Head lice

As a school, we have growing concerns regarding the number of cases of head lice being reported, please ensure you check your child's hair on a regular basis and treat all the family if head lice are found.

It is not necessary to keep children off school all day when treating head lice, if you as the parent/carer decide to do this the absence will be marked as unauthorised. If you would like further help and support with this matter you can contact a school nurse on 03000269021.

Further information regarding treatment for head lice can be found using the links below:

<https://www.nhs.uk/conditions/head-lice-and-nits/>

<https://www.chc.org/for-parents/>

Early Years Staff are noticing that our young children are using a lot of inappropriate swearing and have also heard parents using this language around children too. Please ensure you consider what it is appropriate to say in front of young children as they learn by copying vocabulary and behaviour.

## Educational Visits

Educational visits, which are organised to enhance the curriculum for the children are heavily subsidised using the schools Pupil Premium funds. Governors have agreed to a small financial loss on every Educational visit in order to support our curriculum however this means that if the school do not receive enough voluntary contributions towards these visits then they will need to be cancelled.

We would just like to remind parents that Educational Visits can be paid for in instalments to alleviate any financial difficulties.

**We are considering setting up a saving fund where parents can send in small amounts of money every Monday and these can then be used to pay for visits during the year. We would appreciate your thoughts on this.**

We offer many other extra-curricular activities, such as Breakfast Club and Afterschool Clubs, for free in order to keep costs down for parents/carers. In comparison to some other schools, we believe this is the right thing to do for our pupils and families.

In order to give further clarity I have decided all future Educational Visits letters will include a breakdown of costs to allow parents to be aware of how much the overall trip is costing.

We only have two enhancement visits each year, the beach and the theatre, where parents need to pay for these. The cost is thousands of pounds for buses and tickets. If your child does not want to attend these they will be kept at school and fun activities are provided by staff. We hope you support the spirit of these visits and encourage your child to attend but understand there are a range of reasons why a child may not want to attend these activities.

### Guess my name

We have been donated a lovely Christmas bear who is in need of a new home, if you can guess his name correctly he could be yours. The winner will be announced on Thursday 19th December 2019. The cost of this fundraiser is £1.00 per name and will be run from the school office, children are welcome to join in the fun at morning play.

### Reception Places 2020

If your child turns 5 between 1<sup>st</sup> September 2020 and 31<sup>st</sup> August 2021 then you need to register them online to attend your preferred Primary school by Wednesday 15<sup>th</sup> January 2020.

### Friends of Dean Bank

The Friends of Dean Bank continue to meet on a Tuesday at 9:15am, if you are interested in becoming a part of the group or would like to know what future events the group have planned please come along. 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 the group or a member of the office staff.

### Parent Governor Vacancies

We have a vacancy for a Parent Governor, if you would be interested in joining our Governing Body please contact the school office for further details.

## SCHOOL Attendance

An information leaflet from Public Health England was sent out recently regarding the current winter illnesses such as diarrhoea / vomiting and flu like illnesses.

Parents have been advised to keep children off school and away from communal settings for at least 48 hours after they last had diarrhoea or vomiting. Where absences persist beyond 1 day, please keep in regular contact (ideally daily) with the school.

For more information about any of the advice please visit:

<https://www.nhs.uk/conditions/flu/>

<https://www.nhs.uk/conditions/diarrhoea-and-vomiting/>

**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.**

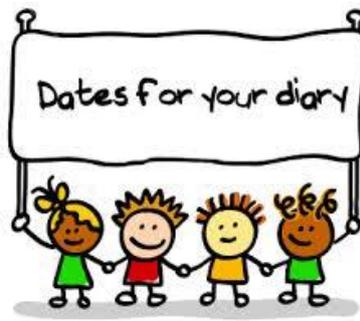
Please ensure **all** appointments are made out of school hours (where possible) and that you contact the school office on the first day of absence to notify us of the reasons for absences, and the expected date of return. **If your child is attending an appointment first thing on a morning please ensure to inform the school office to allow lunch arrangements to be in place upon their return.**

Children's expected attendance is 95.8%, our whole school attendance currently stands at 91.52%. (3<sup>rd</sup> September 2019 to 5<sup>th</sup> December 2019).

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 **28.72%** (4<sup>th</sup> December 2019).

Further guidance for school attendance can be found at: <https://www.gov.uk/school-attendance-absence>

If you have any concerns regarding attendance please contact Mrs Gilyeat, School Attendance Officer.



December 2019	
Friday 6 <sup>th</sup> December 2019	Choir to sing at Town Hall Gardens
Friday 6 <sup>th</sup> December 2019	Year 2 visit to Durham Cathedral
Monday 9 <sup>th</sup> December 2019	Choir to sing at Mayors Carol Service
Tuesday 10 <sup>th</sup> December 2019	Year 2 Christmas Journey – Methodist Church
Wednesday 11 <sup>th</sup> December 2019	Christmas Lunch and Jumper Day
Thursday 12 <sup>th</sup> December 2019	Disability Sports Day
Friday 13 <sup>th</sup> December 2019	EYFS Nativity
Monday 16 <sup>th</sup> December 2019	Special visitor to see EYFS / KS1 children
Monday 16 <sup>th</sup> December 2019	EYFS Christmas Party
Monday 16 <sup>th</sup> December 2019	Year 1, 2 and 3 Christmas Party
Tuesday 17 <sup>th</sup> December 2019	Year 4, 5 and 6 Christmas Party
Tuesday 17 <sup>th</sup> December 2019	Little Learners and Nursery Cake and Coffee Morning
Wednesday 18 <sup>th</sup> December 2019	Whole School visit to the Gala Theatre
Friday 20 <sup>th</sup> December 2019	Christmas Carol Service – St Luke’s Church
Friday 20 <sup>th</sup> December 2019	School closes for Christmas Holidays
January 2020	
Monday 6 <sup>th</sup> January 2020	School re-opens for the Spring Term
Monday 27 <sup>th</sup> January – Friday 31 <sup>st</sup> January	Story Telling Week
February 2020	
Tuesday 11 <sup>th</sup> February 2020	Safer Internet Day
Wednesday 12 <sup>th</sup> February 2020	Year 1 Class Assembly
Thursday 13 <sup>th</sup> February 2020	Parental Consultation Evening
Friday 14 <sup>th</sup> February 2020	School closes for half term holidays
Monday 24 <sup>th</sup> February 2020	School re-opens
Monday 24 <sup>th</sup> February – Friday 6 <sup>th</sup> March	Fair Trade Fortnight
March 2020	
Thursday 5 <sup>th</sup> March 2020	World Book Day
Monday 9 <sup>th</sup> March – Friday 13 <sup>th</sup> March	Science Week
Monday 16 <sup>th</sup> March – Friday 20 <sup>th</sup> March	Shakespeare Week
Friday 20 <sup>th</sup> March 2020	Sport Relief
Wednesday 25 <sup>th</sup> March 2020	Year 3 Class Assembly
April 2020	
Friday 3 <sup>rd</sup> April 2020	Easter Service – St Luke’s Church
Friday 3 <sup>rd</sup> April 2020	School close for the Easter Holidays
Monday 20 <sup>th</sup> April 2020	School re-opens for the Summer Term