

Dean Bank Primary and Nursery School

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Believe, Achieve, Soar with Pride

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

Newsletter 8 ~ 5th February 2020

Dear Parent/Carers

We have had several issues recently with children using social media sites inappropriately. Below is a guideline of age requirements for certain social media and gaming apps. If children have these accounts under age then police see this as a parental safeguarding concern.

- Facebook ~ Age 13
- Instagram ~ Age 13
- Snapchat ~ Age 13
- Tik tok ~ Age 12 and over
- Fortnite ~ Age 12
- Roblox ~ Age 7+

Coronavirus – Advice for all early years providers, schools and further education providers

The government is closely monitoring the spread of the Coronavirus and is taking action at home and abroad.

The overall risk of Coronavirus to the UK remains moderate. However we understand that people may be concerned where there are children, students or staff returning from or visiting China.

Public Health England and the Foreign Office have issued advice for anyone travelling to the area. This can be found at:

- <https://www.gov.uk/foreign-travel-advice/china>
- <https://www.gov.uk/government/news/wuhan-novel-coronavirus-and-avian-flu-advice-for-travel-to-china>

Latest information and advice can also be found at <https://www.gov.uk/coronavirus>

Advice for parents/guardians

You should not be unduly worried about the possibility of your children catching the Coronavirus.

There is no reason why your children should not continue to attend their early years, school or further education setting as normal.

We recognise that some families or children may be planning to travel to China during the forthcoming half term period. If so, please refer to the FCO's latest travel advice via the link above.

What action you can take

A UK wide campaign has been launched to provide clear advice on how to slow the spread of Coronavirus. Please help to support the campaign which promotes basic hygiene practices, such as regularly washing hands and always sneezing into a tissue, to stem the spread of viruses.

School is considering setting up ParentPay, in line with other local schools. We will be shortly sending out information to help you understand the changes that will come into place in September 2020.

Parent Governor

We have a vacancy on the Governing Body for a parent Governor. If this is something you feel you might be interested in, please come into school to speak with Mrs Northcott.

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/>

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.

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 free of charge, 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.

Attendance

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 91.08%. (3rd September 2019 to 5th February 2020).

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 **32.98%** (4th February 2020).

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.

February 2020	
Tuesday 11 th February 2020	Safer Internet Day
Tuesday 11 th February 2020	Year 3/4 Gymnastics Event
Wednesday 12 th February 2020	Year 1 Class Assembly
Thursday 13 th February 2020	Parental Consultation Evening
Friday 14 th January 2020	Reception Move with Max Festival
Friday 14 th February 2020	School closes for half term holidays
Monday 24 th February 2020	School re-opens
Monday 24 th February – Friday 6 th March	Fair Trade Fortnight
Friday 28 th February 2020	Fit for Life Festival
March 2020	
Wednesday 4 th March 2020	KS2 Martial Arts Festival
Thursday 5 th March 2020	World Book Day
Friday 6 th March 2020	New Age Curling Competition
Monday 9 th March – Friday 13 th March	Science Week
Monday 16 th March – Friday 20 th March	Shakespeare Week
Friday 20 th March 2020	Sport Relief
Tuesday 24 th March 2020	SSP Dance Festival
Wednesday 25 th March 2020	Year 3 Class Assembly
April 2020	
Thursday 2 nd April 2020	Netball Competition
Friday 3 rd April 2020	Easter Service – St Luke's Church
Friday 3 rd April 2020	School close for the Easter Holidays
Monday 20 th April 2020	School re-opens for the Summer Term