

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 ~ 6th March 2020

Dear Parent/Carers

Following a safeguarding update and new recommendations we are asking parents, carers and child minders, who are collecting children from the front door at the end of the day to understand that they will no longer be allowed into the main part of school until 3:15.

The main entrance area is still part of our thoroughfare for children using the hall and KS2 library and as such, used until the end of the school day. Thank you for your understanding in this matter.

CORONAVIRUS

Like all schools, we take advice from the Local Education Authority and Public Health. We have previously informed you on newsletters, advice about encouraging children to wash their hands, to see advice via the NHS number 111, and avoiding taking children to Dr's Surgeries.

This advice still stands, however, we will update you with other information as school receives it.

Wellbeing Award

We are working towards a Wellbeing Award and have an initial action plan, statement and vision that I would like to share with parents and carers. We will be holding a coffee afternoon from 2:15 on 20th March. We hope you can join us.

Improving School Communications with ParentMail

Communicating with parents is an important part of what we do, making sure you get the correct information about school news, activities and things that really matter is something we care about. ParentMail is a service used by over 6,000 schools, nurseries and children's clubs to communicate to parents.

ParentMail is beneficial to you because you can:

- Use a free mobile app on Android and iOS to pick up school messages instantly.
- Have an account simply for school messages (away from your busy email inbox!)
- Connect to other schools, nurseries or clubs that use ParentMail.
- Highlight important messages or archive old messages to make life easier.
- Messages can be sent directly to mums, dads and carers – even grandparents!

Please be assured that ParentMail is registered with the Information Commissioner and guarantees that all information you provide will be kept private and will not be passed on to any other organisation.

Once registered, if you have an Android or Apple smartphone, we would highly recommend you download the ParentMail App for the best user experience. To do this, simply search for "ParentMail" in your App store.

If you need any additional information or assistance, please visit the help site: www.parentmail.co.uk/help/parenthelp/ or if you have not received any contact from ParentMail please contact the school office.

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. It is a great opportunity to support the school and bring in a different view point.

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/>

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.

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 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 are holding a coffee afternoon on 20th March at 2:15 where I would like to collect parent and carer views around this issue.

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.



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 90.91%. (3rd September 2019 to 5th March 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 **34.54%** (5th March 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.



March 2020	
Monday 9 th March – Friday 13 th March	Science Week
Monday 16 th March – Friday 20 th March	Shakespeare Week
Wednesday 18 th March 2020	KS2 Sports Skills
Friday 20 th March 2020	Sport Relief
Friday 20 th March 2020	Coffee Afternoon for Well Being Award Information
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



**SPENNYMOOR TOWN
BAND PRESENTS...**



EASTER BRASS WORKSHOP

THURSDAY 16TH & FRIDAY 17TH APRIL 2020

10.30 - 4.00pm at Spennymoor Settlement, DL16 6RY.

Ages 8+

Cost is £3 per day or £5 for both days.



**For more information and to register for the event
please go to www.spennymoortownband.org**