



Dean Bank Primary and Nursery School

**Believe, Achieve, Soar with
Pride**

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Newsletter 1

Dear Parents and Carers,

The school may look and feel very different but some things remain the same, lovely smiling pupils who are keen to do their best and, in the main, are glad to be back with us.

These last couple of days have proved that, mostly, we have got things right, in place and actually our return to school has been really positive and smooth. I think it has helped that the majority of parents have accessed the class dojos, school Facebook page and looked at our website. We try to do our best to keep everyone informed but remind parents that it is vital we have up to date contact details, including e-mails, as this will be even more important moving forward in this pandemic.

Entering school has been successful.

Just a reminder that Y5 and Y6 need to come onto the yard at 8:40, Y3 and Y4 join us at 8:50 and Y1 and 2 line up at 9:00. We have found that once the previous year groups have gone into the building that it works well getting the next group of children in. To avoid congregating at the bottom of the yard, once your child has gone through the gates you no longer need to wait, I assure you they are safe and sound and they will only be waiting a few minutes. Go and have that well deserved cuppa.

Please be aware that as children need to enter the school at different times, the gate needs to be clear to allow this.

Little Learners, Nursery and Reception are in their own learning bubble and are arriving at different times at the EYFS entrance. Again, this phased return is going well and it is lovely to welcome those children who are completely new to our school.

The class bubbles are working well, with staff helping children remain in their own areas of the school and playground.

Breakfast club

Breakfast club is reinstated from Monday. Children will come in through the red breakfast club door at 8:30 and move straight to their class where they will be given breakfast and supervised by staff. Doors will be closed at 8:40 as school begins for some children at 8:40.

Please remind children they must observe social distancing, there are blue markings on the floor to support this.

Equipment

Thank you for understanding why we can't have children bringing big bags and things from home. We are unable to sanitise these things so have to keep everything to a minimum in each classroom.

Each child should only bring in a **labelled water bottle**, a **labelled packed lunch box** and their **school book bag or books in a labelled carrier bag**.

The reason behind this being that everything has to be kept in classrooms where we can sanitise them so we need as little 'bulk as possible. Again, thank you for your understanding.

School uniform and PE kits

I want to assure you that we have not changed our school PE kit. It remains a **red T shirt**, **black or navy shorts** and **black plimsolls**. These should be all labelled and kept in a PE bag. All these things can be purchased from the school office at the unbelievable low cost of £10:00!

However, new guidelines mean that children need to come into school in their PE kits. The expectation is we do as much outdoor PE as possible. To support this I suggest that children may want to wear black or navy leggings or jogging bottoms. This is not changing the PE uniform it is only a suggestion to ensure children feel comfortable and warm during the day. Parents can still choose to just send them in shorts and T shirt and their school jumper. Either will be fine. If children want to wear trainers instead of plimsolls on PE days, this is also acceptable as I don't know how comfortable plimsolls will be for the full day. If you want them to just wear their plimsolls, again, this is fine.

School uniform continues to be expected on the days children don't have PE. This includes appropriate black school shoes. A running battle, excuse the joke, with some of our children.

PE Days when children need to come into school in their Kit.

Mr Wood will let parents know about PE days and kits in future weeks as the early years curriculum is slightly different and they do a lot of physical activities initially outside in their school uniform.

As there is currently no swimming allowed all pupils will be doing PE lessons in school.

	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday
Year 1	✓			✓	
Year 2			✓	✓	
Year 3	✓	✓			
Year 4			✓		✓
Year 5	✓	✓			
Year 6			✓	✓	

Lunchtime

This is our most difficult time of the day as children need to eat in their classrooms and then play in certain areas of the playground. The reasons behind this has been explained to children, they know why lunchtimes are staggered and why we have to maintain our bubbles but this is taking a little getting used to . We will continue to remind them but need parents to remind some of our older children, you know who you are!

School lunches cost £2.10 and need to be paid in advance.

What should I do if my child is going to be absent from school?

Please follow the usual school procedures for sickness absence, **contact the school office** and explain the reason for their absence. Where pupils are absent and the school do not receive a phone call from parents/carers, the school will contact them to ascertain the reasons for their absence.

What should I do if any members of my household display symptoms of coronavirus once my child is back at school?

If anyone in the school becomes unwell with a new, continuous cough or a high temperature, or has a loss of, or change in, their normal sense of taste or smell (anosmia), they are sent home and advised to follow '**stay at home: guidance for households with possible or confirmed coronavirus (COVID-19) infection**', which sets out that they must self-isolate for at least 7 days and should arrange to have a test to see if they have coronavirus (COVID-19).

- Other members of their household (including any siblings) should **self-isolate for 14 days** from when the symptomatic person first had symptoms
- The school understands the NHS Test and Trace process and are aware of how to contact their local Public Health England health protection team.
- The school have advised staff and Parents/Carers that they will need to be ready and willing to;
- Book a test if they are displaying symptoms.
- Staff and pupils **DO NOT** come into the school if they have symptoms of COVID-19 and **WILL BE** sent home to self-isolate if they develop them in school.

The school are aware that all children can be tested, including children under 5, but children aged 11 and under will need to be helped by their Parents/Carers if using a home testing kit

- **Self-isolate** if they have been in close contact with someone who develops coronavirus (COVID-19) symptoms or someone who tests positive for coronavirus (COVID-19)

What other routines will be in place to support the health and safety of my child?

- Pupils will be instructed and supervised to wash their hands regularly. Those that need support to wash their hands will be supported by a member of staff.
- Tissues will be available in each classroom. Pupils will be reminded to follow the guidance 'Catch it, Bin it, Kill it', and avoid touching their faces, noses etc. whilst at school. They will also be encouraged to cough and sneeze into their elbow and away from the direction of other pupils and staff.
- Staff and pupils presenting with symptoms during the school day will be isolated in the isolation room and next of kin/parents contacted so please ensure school have updated contact details if these have changed over the holidays.
- Windows and doors will be opened to allow natural ventilation during the school day.
- Where possible, teaching activities will be carried out in the outdoor areas of the school.
- A robust cleaning regime will be in place.

Every day is a changing picture and I know you will appreciate that my main concern is keeping our children and staff safe and well. However alongside this, school needs to fulfil its core purpose, to give the best education to our pupils that we can. So, we still expect children to read at home, do homework and attend regularly so we can make up for lost time.

As always, Mrs Emmerson and Mrs Gilyeat in the office have a fountain of knowledge and if they don't know they will find out, please contact us if we can be of further help.

Kind Regards
Pauline Northcott