



Dean Bank Primary and Nursery School

**Believe, Achieve, Soar with Pride**

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Website: [www.deanbank.durham.sch.uk](http://www.deanbank.durham.sch.uk)

Head Teacher: Mrs P Northcott  
Deputy Head Teacher Miss K Potts  
Chair of Governors: Mr D Regan

Dear Parents and Carers

### **Congratulations**

We would like to say a huge congratulations to Miss Potts and Mr Hall on the birth of their baby boy who was born on Thursday 12<sup>th</sup> November 2020 weighing 8lb 6oz. Mother and baby are doing well.

### **Wellbeing**

Wellbeing is something as a school we are very passionate about. We have been working very hard to find ways to support everyone's wellbeing in the school, this includes the children, staff and the parents. You will now find a wellbeing tab on the website this will be full of information or websites to access more information.

If you ever feel like you need someone to talk to especially in these unusual times please come speak to us.

**You can arrange a face to face meeting or we can work out a time for someone to give you call.**

Within school the children are aware of the importance of wellbeing and each class will have a designated 'wellbeing buddy'. These wellbeing buddies will have their role for half a term and are there to be a good friend to everyone.

### **Staffing Update**

Following 27 years of dedicated service to Dean Bank Primary Mrs Temple will be retiring at the end of the autumn term. For those of you who know Mrs Temple, she has taught lots of you, you will know that she will not want to make a fuss however we know lots of people have mentioned giving a donation towards a retirement present if you feel this is appropriate you may contact the school office to make a donation.

You know we do not let the grass grow under our feet so her roles will be filled as follows:

SENDCO – Mrs Hay

Designated Safeguarding Lead – Mr Wood

Parent Support Officer – Mr Murphy.

It shows something when we need 3 staff to cover her duties.

### **Tempest Photography**

The closing dates for photograph orders is Friday 20<sup>th</sup> November 2020.

### **Crossing Patrol**

We have been informed that there will be no crossing patrol on the Darlington Road crossing on the morning of Monday 16<sup>th</sup> November and Tuesday 17<sup>th</sup> November, please ensure children are extra vigilant when using the zebra crossing on these mornings.

### **Flu Immunisations**

Flu Immunisations will take place on Monday 30<sup>th</sup> November 2020, if you wish for your child to have this done please return the letter. If you need another copy please contact the school office to arrange for one to be sent home.

### **Parent Governors**

We have 2 vacancies for parent governors, if you are interested or would like further information please contact the school office.

### **Children in Need**

Today we raised £133.30 for Children in Need, thank you to everyone who contributed.

### **Non-Uniform Day**

On Friday 27<sup>th</sup> November 2020 we will be holding our monthly non-uniform day to raise funds towards the DOJO store.

### **Autumn 1 Homework**

We are trialling a new way of doing homework this year to support children and parental well-being. Each child gets 9 pieces of homework which is worth a set number of dojo points. Please find below a summary of how many dojo points were available and how many each class got. The children will also be coming home with very special certificates (on shiny paper)

	Emerald	Ruby	Sapphire	Topaz	Total number of eligible points based on class size
Y1	94	25	29	30	178 / 760
Y2	60	36	69	73	238 / 798
Y3	83	56	89	139	367 / 1026
Y4	128	81	8	102	319 / 874
Y5	107	127	67	84	385 / 836
Y6	16	29	22	43	110 / 988
<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>488</b>	<b>354</b>	<b>284</b>	<b>471</b>	<b>1597 / 5282</b>

This is a great start from some children and classes but I bet we can do better this half term!

### Attendance

Children's expected attendance is 96%, our whole school attendance current stands at 94.01%. (2<sup>nd</sup> September 2020 to 13<sup>th</sup> November 2020)

It is vitally important that **ALL** absences are reported to the school office on the first day of absence to notify us of the reasons for absences and the expected date of return, otherwise they may be recorded as unauthorised which could possibly lead to referrals to the Attendance Improvement Team or legal proceedings.

Absences can be reported by contacting the school office on 01740 651512 or emailing the school / Mrs Gilyeat at [deanbank@durhamlearning.net](mailto:deanbank@durhamlearning.net) or [s.gilyeat201@deanbank.durham.sch.uk](mailto:s.gilyeat201@deanbank.durham.sch.uk)

Where absences persist beyond 1 day, please keep in regular contact (ideally daily) with the school.

Please ensure **ALL** appointments are made out of school hours (where possible). 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. Evidence of appointments must be shown to the school office or emailed to Mrs Gilyeat to ensure our records are correct at all times.

Although we have seen an improvement in attendance we are still working on improving this 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.

Monday 2<sup>nd</sup> November 2020 – Friday 6<sup>th</sup> November 2020 (Attendance)

Little Learners	Nursery	Reception	Class 1	Class 2	Class 3	Class 4	Class 5	Class 6
N/A	95.38	94.37	91.67	98.15	99.26	93.04	97.73	93.46

Monday 9<sup>th</sup> November 2020 – Friday 13<sup>th</sup> November 2020 (Attendance)

Little Learners	Nursery	Reception	Class 1	Class 2	Class 3	Class 4	Class 5	Class 6
N/A	68.18	98.02	94.00	99.51	98.15	87.83	99.09	91.80

Although we monitor our attendance really 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 20.45% (Thursday 12<sup>th</sup> November 2020).

Monday 2<sup>nd</sup> October 2020 – Friday 6<sup>th</sup> November 2020 (Persistent Absence)

Little Learners	Nursery	Reception	Class 1	Class 2	Class 3	Class 4	Class 5	Class 6
N/A	5	6	7	2	2	4	4	7