



Dean Bank Primary and Nursery School

Believe, Achieve, Soar with Pride

Dean Bank, Ferryhill,
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Website: www.deanbank.durham.sch.uk

Head Teacher: Mrs P Northcott
Acting Deputy Head Teacher Mr W Haynes
Chair of Governors: Mr D Regan

Dear Parents and Carers

I have had some really positive responses from our parent questionnaires. I have been overwhelmed by how appreciative you have been in supporting myself and the staff in these difficult times. I will collate the information once all the responses have been sent back and let you know the findings. As always, I continue to do my upmost to give our Dean Bank bairns the best all round education and you should be so proud of how resilient they are and how hard they have worked for us to catch up their missed learning. I know we don't always get things right but I do everything with the best intention and appreciate the positive relationships I have with so many of you.

Christmas Activities

EYFS Party	Thursday 17 th December 2020
Year 1 and 2 Party	Monday 14 th December 2020
Year 3 and 4 Party	Tuesday 15 th December 2020
Year 5 and 6 Party	Thursday 17 th December 2020
Christmas Dinner and Christmas Jumper Day	Wednesday 16 th December 2020

Christmas Cards and Gifts

This year due to COVID-19 restrictions there are a few changes to the way in which children can send Christmas cards to their friends in school. Please do NOT send cards to school before Monday 7th December 2020.

Children can only send Christmas cards to the children in their bubble, as cards need be quarantined children will be given any cards they have received during the week to take home on the Friday night.

A few parents have asked about Christmas gifts for teachers and support staff, if you / your child wishes to send in a gift for the staff within their bubble please ensure they are handed into the school office no later than Monday 14th December 2020 to allow us to quarantine all gifts before handing them out to staff. Please ensure any gifts are clearly labelled to allow us to distribute them to the correct staff.

Mrs Temple's Retirement

As you will be aware Mrs Temple is retiring at the end of the Autumn Term. I know Mrs Temple has taught many of our parents over the years therefore if you wish to send any cards/presents into school please could we ask that they are left at the school office no later than Monday 14th December 2020.

November's Non-Uniform Day

November's non-uniform day raised **£110.50**, thank you to everyone who donated towards this event, this money goes towards providing dojo prizes so every child benefits. The next non-uniform day will take place on Friday 18th December 2020.

Parent Governors

We have 1 vacancy for a parent governor, if you are interested or would like further information please contact the school office.

Holiday Dates

School closes on Friday 18th December 2020 for the Christmas Holidays, school re-opens on Monday 4th January 2021.

Uniform Order

I have had several enquiries about parents getting branded uniform. Although we do not expect this we are looking to see if we can do this as a school rather than parents having to organise it themselves. I have asked Mrs Gilyeat to price up fleece/ jackets, jumpers, cardigans and polo shirts. I expect the easy way to do this is send a school order every month. We will update you once we receive more information.

Fundraising

My name is Giedrius and I am a self-employed tradesman and this is my first fundraising attempt. I live in Ferryhill, County Durham, a small town with a population of around 10000 people. Ferryhill is a small community with good schools, but like many other schools in this country most of them do not receive sufficient funding. My local school is Dean Bank Primary School.

Dean Bank Primary School is a school at the heart of the local community and is where our children spend most of their time outside of the home, a place where lifelong friendships are forged. It is also a school situated in a high area of deprivation but the staff do an amazing job nurturing, guiding and preparing our children for the future. The schools' motto is Believe, Achieve and Soar with Pride.

That's why today I would like to raise a £1000 for Dean Bank Primary School, a school which has showed massive improvements in all areas, achieving 4 star rating out of 5 thanks to the brilliant work of all the staff and the Head Teacher Mrs Pauline Northcott.

I'm sure that everyone at school will appreciate any donations toward this great cause as every pound matter. Further information about this amazing school can be found at <http://www.deanbank.durham.sch.uk>

https://www.gofundme.com/f/support-for-a-school-in-small-community?utm_medium=copy_link&utm_source=customer&utm_campaign=p_lico+share-sheet

ParentPay

From 1st January 2021 Dean Bank Primary School is going cashless. This means that we from 1st January 2021 we will only accept payments online for school meals, after school clubs, educational visits etc.

We have selected a company called ParentPay to facilitate this – an approved company used by many local schools.

ParentPay offers you the freedom to make these payments whenever and wherever you like, 24 hours a day, 7 days a week - safe in the knowledge that the technology used is of the highest internet security available.

Over the next few days you should receive an activation letter containing your unique Username and password. Use these details to create your account – it is simple and easy.

Some useful pointers to get you started:

- Have you changed your password to something you'll easily remember? Click on My profile if you'd like to change it.
- Each child has a username and password unique to them so if you have more than 1 child at any school using ParentPay, you can merge their accounts giving you future access using a single set of login details; click on Add a child and follow the simple steps!

Please contact the school office for more details or if you have any queries.



Mental Health and Wellbeing

As a school we care about the emotional wellbeing and mental health of both you and your children. As such we are pleased to share that we are now part of a Mental Health Support Team (MHST). The MHST offer early help to children and their parents who are struggling with mental health difficulties such as anxiety, low mood and much more, As well as working directly with children and young people the team offer advice and guidance to staff members, parents and other professionals.

Kate Riddler, our MHST worker will be working in school from January 2021. She will be available to talk to you about any concerns or worries you may have about your child or any concerns of your own.

Finding time for yourself

For many parents and carers, finding time for yourself can be a challenge as you juggle family and relationships with your home and work life. This can be especially true if you are supporting a child or young person with their mental health.

With the practicalities of day-to-day life, it can be easy to forget to look after your own wellbeing needs, as well as those of your children, which can lead to feelings of stress or being overwhelmed. Factoring in regular time or activities for yourself will hopefully allow you to enjoy the good moments in life more and to find strength during difficult times.

For more information visit <https://www.annafreud.org/parents-and-carers/self-care-for-parents-and-carers/>

Tips for improving your mental health and wellbeing

There are lots of things we can try to take care of our wellbeing but it's not always easy to start. You might find it helpful to:

- Only try what feels comfortable.
- Give yourself time to figure out what works for you, going at your own pace.
- Take small steps. Pick one or two things that feel achievable at first, before moving on to try other ideas.

<https://www.mind.org.uk/information-support/tips-for-everyday-living/wellbeing/wellbeing/>



School Attendance

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 or 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 please contact Mrs Gilyeat.

Children's expected attendance is 96%, our whole school attendance current stands at 93.65%.

Monday 16th November 2020 – Friday 20th November 2020 (Attendance)

Little Learners	Nursery	Reception	Class 1	Class 2	Class 3	Class 4	Class 5	Class 6
N/A	87.69	94.23	94.44	94.55	94.32	94.78	99.09	90.08

Monday 23rd November 2020 – Friday 27th November 2020 (Attendance)

Little Learners	Nursery	Reception	Class 1	Class 2	Class 3	Class 4	Class 5	Class 6
N/A	80.39	93.55	95.65	95.90	94.40	87.93	90.74	86.89

Monday 30th November 2020 – Friday 4th December 2020 (Attendance)

Little Learners	Nursery	Reception	Class 1	Class 2	Class 3	Class 4	Class 5	Class 6
N/A	70.37	93.72	93.19	95.24	94.80	91.56	95.22	85.83

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 21.59% (Thursday 3rd December 2020).

Monday 9th November 2020 – Friday 13th November 2020 (Persistent Absence)

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

Monday 16th November 2020 – Friday 20th November 2020 (Persistent Absence)

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

Monday 23rd November 2020 – Friday 27th November 2020 (Persistent Absence)

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