



Dean Bank Primary and Nursery School

Believe, Achieve, Soar with Pride

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

Dear Parents and Carers

Thank you to everyone who returned our parent questionnaires. Calvin's mam won the £20 draw from those returned. Here are some of the comments made with some percentages of how people agreed or strongly agreed.

Q1: 100% of parents said their child liked school.

Q2: 100% of parents said their child made good progress.

Q3: 100% of parents said children behaved well.

Q4: 85% of parents said their children were not bullied or harassed at school. (I have spoken to children of parents who thought their children were bullied and sometimes it is the interpretation of the word used, however I agree that sometimes, some of our children can be thoughtless or even unkind, we're always working on this one).

Q5: 100% of parents said that teaching is good.

Q6: 100% of parents felt they were well informed.

Q7: 100% of parents feel comfortable about approaching school with any concerns.

Q8: 100% of parents believe that staff expect their children to work hard and do their best.

Q9: 100% of parents believe the school is well managed.

Q10: 100% of parents believe that staff treat their children fairly.

Q11: 95% of parents said that the school seeks their views and takes account of their suggestion (2 parents said they did not know as they were new to the school).

Q12: 93% of parents feel there is an appropriate amount of homework.

Q13: 100% of parents feel our school helps their child become mature and independent.

Q14: 98% of parents feel there is a good range of activities that children enjoy. (After school activities are halted at the moment due to COVID but will resume as soon as possible, in 'normal times' every teacher and teaching assistant runs at least one after school club and these change termly).

Q15: 100% of parents think that the arrangement for children starting school, either in reception, nursery or new to the area, are good.

Here are some comments parents made

In these 'new times' is there anything that you feel we could do to support you and your child further?

You're doing an amazing job

I'm really happy with what you've put in place, you're the only school locally not to have had to close a bubble.

More help with homework

School gives loads of support

I think you're all doing a fantastic job

My child copes well but doesn't understand why they are not allowed to mix with others

Not at this time

What is working really well since we had to change how we work?

Even though we can't go onto the yard, using the dojo messages is actually faster and answered more quickly by teachers.

Everything is in place, seems to be working well and my children feel safe

You always keep us updated, thank you

Only having a few classes on the yard at a time

Class bubbles being together

The staggered start in the morning

PE, wearing the uniform for school, saves loads of time as they don't have to look for it and forget it.

My child is trained really well about washing hands and using gel

Each bubble having a rota at lunchtime, they have to play with different things in different places

Everything is great, I am confident in sending my child to school

Emotional Wellbeing ~ Is there anything more we can do as a school to support your wellbeing and mental health
Someone who isn't involved with the school there for the children to talk to.

We do have a school councillor but she is only in 1 day a fortnight so unfortunately children have to be prioritised, however staff do share concerns with her and she sees as many children as she can
My child loves company and has struggles during lockdown, they feel they are being punished.
We know how difficult it has been and have spent time reassuring children and settling them in but some children, like some adults, will be finding this more difficult and will need ongoing support and care. We do this well at Dean Bank.

Is there anything else you feel you want to tell us to help us to continue to improve our super school?

If my child is struggling with something I would like to know sooner so I can give them extra practice

I would like to thank you all for doing such an amazing job during these difficult times

My child gets too much homework

I want you to make parents stand away from the school and only one family member bring them to school

Great school, great staff!

Just to say well done to all staff in keeping the school open and COVID free

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 Thursday 17th December 2020 for the Christmas Holidays, school re-opens on Monday 4th January 2021.

Mental Health and Wellbeing



10 ways parents can support their children to build positive mental health habits:

1. Encourage your child to openly talk about their feelings and thoughts.
2. When your child is worrying help them to effectively problem solve.
3. Support them to connect and build positive relationships with others.
4. Encourage them to look after their physical health (Sleep, food, exercise).
5. Help them to stay focused on the present moment using mindfulness.
6. Highlight the importance of looking after both physical and mental health.
7. Be a mental health role model, demonstrate positive behaviours.
8. Praise, encourage, motivate and regular support your child to build their self-esteem.
9. Work together to learn some coping skills such as deep breathing.
10. As your child grows up encourage and support independence.

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.

School Attendance

Children's expected attendance is 96%, our whole school attendance for the Autumn Term stands at 93.51%.

Nursery	81.57%
Reception	91.40%
Class 1	93.61%
Class 2	95.84%
Class 3	96.35%
Class 4	92.50%
Class 5	95.20%
Class 6	92.06%

Traffic Light System Registration Certificates

We are very pleased that 55% of children received a green certificate for outstanding attendance, Well Done. 27% of children received a yellow certificate for satisfactory attendance and 17% of children received a red certificate for poor attendance.

Each week the class with the best attendance wins £10.00 which can be spent on something fun for the children of that class. The children and teacher can decide when they would like to use the funds and what to spend them on. Below are the current totals for all classes.

	Autumn 1	Autumn 2	Autumn Total
Class 1	£10.00	£10.00	£20.00
Class 2	£20.00	£30.00	£50.00
Class 3	£20.00	£20.00	£40.00
Class 5	£10.00	£10.00	£20.00
Class 6	£20.00		£20.00

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

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.

Monday 7th December 2020 – Friday 11th December 2020 (Attendance)

Little Learners	Nursery	Reception	Class 1	Class 2	Class 3	Class 4	Class 5	Class 6
N/A	80.00	93.72	95.41	93.69	92.31	90.87	93.81	92.61

Monday 14th December 2020 – Thursday 17th December 2020 (Attendance)

Little Learners	Nursery	Reception	Class 1	Class 2	Class 3	Class 4	Class 5	Class 6
N/A	75.00	93.22	95.63	87.06	96.63	94.79	92.86	91.15

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 20.99% (Wednesday 16th December 2020).

Monday 30th November 2020 – Friday 4th December 2020 (Persistent Absence)

Little Learners	Nursery	Reception	Class 1	Class 2	Class 3	Class 4	Class 5	Class 6
N/A	5	5	5	1	3	3	4	8

Monday 7th December 2020 – Friday 11th December 2020 (Persistent Absence)

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