



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



Welcome back to all pupils, parents and staff. I hope you have had a lovely Easter holiday despite some people having to self-isolate, thank goodness you can still eat Easter Eggs in isolation. Thankfully everyone has returned well and hopefully we will be able to enjoy our last term of this school year.

A little reminder to all parents/carers that all information regarding what is happening within school is shared on Class DOJO. If you do not have access please contact Mrs Gilyeat who will be happy to help.

If you need to contact the class teacher for anything please do so using Class DOJO and they will get back in touch with you as soon as possible, teachers have been reminded that if they are changing a timetabled activity etc. to put this on Class DOJO and not rely on children passing on messages and the staff in the office don't always know individual class messages.

Attached to this newsletter is an update letter from Durham County Council regarding Coronavirus, a feedback form regarding Lockdown and a School Uniform order form. If you have not received any of these documents please visit the school website.

<https://www.deanbank.durham.sch.uk/parents/current-school-letters/>

As a school we have made the decision to place a half-termly uniform order to try and alleviate any issues parents may have with buying uniform. Mrs Gilyeat has sourced a local uniform provider and we will be placing our first order next week. If you wish to order any uniform please complete the order form and return it with payments by Wednesday 21st April 2021.



Parent Governor

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



Mental Health and Wellbeing

Wellbeing Award for Schools

In February 2021 we became one of only a handful of schools in the North East to be awarded the Wellbeing Award for Schools. Our hard work has paid off, just over a year after beginning the process – and being affected by three lockdowns – we were recognised as champions of wellbeing! With this attitude at the centre of everything we do at Dean Bank, we know this will give the children that attend the foundation they need to access their learning and achieve everything that they are able to. The award focuses on changing the long-term culture of the whole school, making it a place of emotional wellbeing and support by improving mental health provision for all pupils and staff.

Below is some information regarding what work has been carried out over the past year:

- As a school, we started our journey a little over a year ago, in January 2020, and looked at how we already supported the wellbeing of our pupils, parents and staff and what else could we do. This became the basis for our action plan.
- We know reading and writing are important but we also believe that we should be healthy in body and mind and this award would show that we cared about this. Then COVID hit and we were sent into lockdown.
- We created a 'change team' to help drive any changes we were going to make and to collect evidence showing our support of the mental health and wellbeing of the whole school community.
- We have created a link with the Mental Health Support Team from the Local Authority, who work with us in supporting not only the children's mental health but also that of the parents. This has helped us signpost and direct them to the support and help they may need.
- We have also created 'wellbeing buddies' who are nominated children from each class and are there to support their classmates if they need help or a listening ear. The buddies are supported by our 'Wellbeing Champions', who are designated members of staff from across the school who children know they can bring their worries to.
- Alongside this, the staff have attended mental health conferences as well as other training, building on the whole school ethos and culture that mental health and wellbeing matters.

Mr Murphy will continue to work with the children and parents in his Parent Support Advisor role. If you have any concerns regarding the wellbeing of your child or you would like to speak to Mr Murphy regarding Mental Health you can contact him on his school mobile: 07734773162 or via Class DOJO

Please note Mr Murphy will only access his phone Monday to Friday, 8:00am-4:00pm (Term Time Only).



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
- Emailing the school at deanbank@durhamlearning.net
- Emailing Mrs Gilyeat at s.gilyeat201@deanbank.durham.sch.uk.
- Messaging Mrs Northcott on Class DOJO (messages are monitored by Mrs Gilyeat and Mrs Emmerson)

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.

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 for this school year currently stands at 91.35%. This week's attendance for the whole school was 93.31%. Well done to all of those children who have attended this week.

Monday 12th April 2021 – Friday 16th April 2021

Little Learners	Nursery	Reception	Class 1	Class 2	Class 3	Class 4	Class 5	Class 6
N/A	78.57	84.80	90.95	99.05	96.54	95.83	92.50	96.67