



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

As we quickly sprint towards the summer break I would just like to update you on a few things that have been happening in school. We look forward to welcoming back Miss Potts and Mrs Hay but are losing Miss Anderson for the year as she begins her maternity leave in September. Miss Collier has been appointed as a teacher to cover her Maternity Leave.

We have also appointed two Teaching Assistants to support in school, Mrs Banner and Miss Walker. Miss Walker, who worked in our school last year will also be supporting in Year 1 for the remainder of the term as Miss Anderson follows COVID advice and works from home or away from the children from Wednesday this week. She will still be the class teacher, carrying out the planning and assessment for the last 2 weeks so continue to contact her on class dojo if you need to.

We are still finalising classes for September at the moment but I will send out a class dojo message once these are arranged. We have a transition morning planned for July 8th when children will be with their new teachers.

Can I also remind you that we have a new uniform supplier if you want to get prepared for September? These can be collected from the office and we will do a bulk order for you, however we are still happy for you to purchase items from other places as long as they conform to our uniform policy. There is an order going out on Wednesday if you want to put in an order this week.

We know this is also the time of year children think about getting their ears pierced and encourage you to get this done at the beginning of the summer holidays so children can take out the studs for PE in September or not wear them on PE days if they struggle to take them out. Just a reminder that studs are allowed but hoops/ring earrings pose a serious safety concern as they can catch on something and be ripped from the ear.

Until we hear further guidance from the Government we are trying to plan September as if we are still with COVID restrictions, therefore we are keeping the staggered start times. This actually works really well and have seen a reduction in the number of children being late. We are reviewing our breakfast club arrangement but envisage this to start at 8:15 and the door will be open until 8:30. We are unsure of where this will be held, we may still be in bubbles, so will confirm this once further guidance is released.

Start Times for September

Reception 8:40 Nursery 12:15 Y1 and Y2 9:00 Y3 and Y4 8:50 Y5 and Y6 8:40



School Attendance

Attendance in schools - Who is a parent?

It's important that schools and local authorities are aware that parents may be recognised differently under education law, than under family law. Section 576 of the Education Act 1996 states that a 'parent', in relation to a child or young person, includes any person who is not a parent (from which can be inferred 'biological parent') but who has parental responsibility, or who has care of the child.

For the purposes of education law, the department considers a 'parent' to include:

- all biological parents, whether they are married or not
- any person who, although not a biological parent, has parental responsibility for a child or young person - this could be an adoptive parent, a step-parent, guardian or other relative
- any person who, although not a biological parent and does not have parental responsibility, has care of a child or young person

A person typically has care of a child or young person if they are the person with whom the child lives, either full or part time and who looks after the child, irrespective of what their biological or legal relationship is with the child.

Example This may be a foster carer or family and friend's carer who does not have parental responsibility but has been delegated the responsibility for taking day-to-day decisions about the child.

In cases where a person is not the biological parent of a child, does not have 'parental responsibility' for that child and that child no longer lives with them, it's unlikely that they will be recognised as a 'parent'. Any disputes about whether a person is a child's 'parent' within the meaning of section 576 Education Act 1996, are for the courts to decide.

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. Messages can be sent via Class DOJO to Mrs Northcott as this account is 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.

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 91.71%.

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 26.40% (Friday 25th June 2021).