

8.12.23

Dear Parents and Carers,

It's been a great half term with your children showing how hard they can work and how they want to be the best they can be. The snow took us a little by surprise but we battled through, of course we did and had snowball fights and made snowmen.

New Additions to our Dean Bank Family

We continue to have several new families joining us and our children make them very welcome, they bring different languages and culture to our school which enriches our experience of the world outside of Ferryhill.



We continue to use class dojo to send out messages and communicate with you, however it is still vital that we have up to date information like e-mail addresses, as this is the formal way we can send out County Durham Winter Vouchers. In Spring, we will be developing our new school information system which should also help to support communication, for example, you will be able to update your own information that we hold in school without having to contact the school office.

Following the half term break, Mrs Hall began her Maternity leave and I can share the great news that last Thursday she had a baby boy, Noah, they are both well and we look forward to seeing them both in the new year. Mrs Hay will be starting her Maternity leave at Christmas and we wish her all the best.

This means that we have a slight change in staffing, Year 6 will continue to have 2 teachers, Miss Smith who has been with us since September and Mr Chilvers who is starting with us in January. Mr Haynes will be our Acting Deputy Head teacher until Mrs Hall returns in July and will cover for Mrs Hay as SendCo until she returns.



Inclusion Award

We have applied to complete the bronze level of an inclusion award. This equality, diversity and Inclusion Award has been awarded to many schools in County Durham who encourage all children, staff and parents to feel valued within our school community. Mrs Crute is

leading this award and in January will hold a parent's coffee workshop where she will explain the award and share some of the resources and activities we will be doing.

School Coats and Uniform

I have received notice that our school coats are almost complete and these will be distributed as soon as we get them. Each child's coat will be numbered and they will be responsible for this coat until they outgrow it and we replace it. These coats cost £30 pound each and parents will be charged £10 if their child's coat is misplaced to partially cover the cost of a replacement.

Can I mention too that we certainly don't mind children coming to school in boots and wellies but can they also bring their school shoes with them or put on their PE plimsolls as we have had a few children who are getting sore feet or legs where they are rubbing.

Can I please remind you that we have lots of pre loved uniform if you need any. We launder unnamed clothes and sell these for 50p per item. Please contact the office for an order form.



Christmas is Coming

Next week children have their Christmas parties

- On Tuesday afternoon EYFS and Year 3&4
- On Wednesday we have Christmas lunch where we encourage children to wear a Christmas jumper.
- On Thursday morning Year 1&2 and afternoon Year 5&6



Children can wear party clothes for the full day of their party.

We have had to make the decision this year to give the pantomime a miss because of the prohibitive amount of money it costs, around £3,500 for buses alone. Last year school paid for the buses and asked for donations for tickets. Unfortunately, we still had to subsidise many tickets and we really don't want to put parents and carers under anymore financial pressure as we know things are still very difficult.

We break up for Christmas on Friday 15th December and will be holding a Carol Service on our yard at 1:30 where we will be serving a Christmas snack and a hot drink.

Children can then begin their Christmas break early if parents and carers are there to collect them. They can only leave with people who are on the collection list so please make sure these are up to date.

We return to school on Wednesday 3rd January full of treats and sweets ready for a new term.



I hope you have a peaceful time with family and friends over the Christmas break and you've all been good boys and girls and get the treats and presents you deserve.

Best Wishes for the New Year
Mrs Northcott

