



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
Acting Chair of Governors: Mr J Davison

16th February 2024

Dear Parents and Carers,

It seems to have been a long dark January, but as the mornings and evenings get a little lighter we continue to work hard at School. Children have just completed an assessment week and demonstrated all the things they've learned.

We have been blessed with 2 new Dean Bank Babies, Mrs Hall with Noah and Mrs Hay with Charlotte. All 4 are doing well and we look forward to them returning to work towards the end of the school year.



Mrs Geraldine Youll joined us just before Christmas in the office and has been a great help to Mrs Gilyeat.

Money... Money.... Money...

We are in a little bit of a transition period with our school payments. We have been using ParentPay as we move to a cashless school. However, our new office system also offers a payment system which is included in the price. This means that Mrs Gilyeat will be sending out information for the start of the new financial year in April about Arbor payments. It will be very similar to parent pay but linked directly to school and not through another company.



School Lunches

Just a reminder that after the Easter holiday those children who are not entitled to Free School Meals will have to pay for them as the grant that I used for the last 2 years to subsidise everyone's lunches has finished. School meals cost £2.50 per day (£12.50 per week) and must be paid via Arbor.

Lunches must be paid for at the beginning of the week to ensure enough meals can be ordered and stock bought in appropriately.



Attendance

This continues to be of concern and as a school we are put under a lot of pressure to ensure children come to school every day. Mr Murphy has been supporting children and parents in this area and we have seen some attendance improve which is really great. We know childhood illness can be a nuisance but, in many cases, after some liquid paracetamol they are probably ok to come in. If they are really that ill, we'll send them home.

Inclusion Award

Mrs Crute will be leading this award and 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

Our school coats look great and the children love them. They are now getting used to finding their number and some parents have put a key ring on the zip to show easy identification. Genius.

Uniform

Several children are coming into school without items of uniform on. Please discourage this. We have clean unclaimed uniform and we will ask them to change into this if necessary. School shoes are black, these include trainers without colour or logos. Thank you for your support in this as it is a great leveller for our children and ensures no one is discriminated against.

We have had a couple of accidents with drinks spilling in book bags and damaging them. Can you remind children that a book bag is called a book bag for a reason and to only keep books/papers /organisers in them and not water bottles. Thank you.

New Head Teacher

I was very touched at Christmas following my announcement of early retirement. It was a difficult decision but meant that Governors were given plenty time to advertise for a new Head Teacher. Interviews were held last Friday and following a very difficult day for the candidates, including a 'grilling' from our brilliant school council, Mr Craig Brown was appointed as the new Head Teacher. He is currently a Head Teacher in Newton Aycliffe and will be working closely with me over the next couple of months to ensure a smooth transition.



Enjoy the half term break
Mrs Northcott