



Dean Bank Primary and Nursery School

**Believe, Achieve, Soar with Pride**

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Head Teacher: Mrs P Northcott  
Deputy Head Teacher: Miss K Potts  
Chair of Governors: Mr D Regan

Dear Parents and Carers

Welcome back to school, I hope you all had a great summer, although I know the weather wasn't brilliant. (I was camping!) The children all look really smart in their uniforms and I want to thank you all for ensuring this. It really helps when children feel part of the school and are proud to be part of the Dean Bank Family.

We have attached a uniform order form for you to use if you would like school to order something on your behalf. (Hopefully we will receive this delivery without any hiccups!) We will be placing the order on Friday 24<sup>th</sup> September 2021. We do have a limited number of items available in school which has been donated by other parents if anyone needs a helping hand.

You will have noticed that all children from Year 1 to Year 6 have a new book bag and personal organiser. These are to support children with their independence, trying to give you access to immediate information and to be used as a teaching tool. In order to do this, they need to be taking them home and bringing them back every day. They have quickly got used to these so please support them with this and check in their bags for information going backwards and forwards to school and staff will remind them to get any paperwork out of the bags from home.

### **Congratulations**

I am sure you would like to hear the lovely news that Mr Walker and his partner have had a beautiful BIG (9lb 2oz) baby boy called Tristan and Mr Walker will return from paternity leave next week.

### **Breakfast Club**

Breakfast club has resumed this week! The doors open at 8:15am and close at 8:30am. The children will stay in Breakfast Club until their start times when they will be sent straight to class.

### **Teatime Club**

We have received some funding to run a FREE teatime club for the year, this will run in a similar way to Breakfast Club. Children can have a piece of toast and a drink whilst either completing their homework or doing some reading along with other activities arranged by staff.

Ideally, we would like to know the week before which nights children would like to attend so we can ensure there is enough staff available to run the club. Mr Murphy will be running the club and can be notified at the bottom of the yard or via Class DOJO.

The club will run from the end of the school day until 4:15pm. Children should be picked up at the Breakfast Club entrance near the nursery at the end of the session. Please be aware that pick up time needs to be prompt as staff running the club finish work at 4:30pm. Thanks for your support in this manner.

### **First Aid updates**

Following recent first aid training we are slightly changing what we do in the case of minor bumps and injuries. If a child obtains a minor head injury (any injury from the neck upwards) the class teacher / teaching assistant will inform parents via Class DOJO. If it is a more serious injury then you will be contacted via telephone by a member of staff. If you have any queries regarding the injury please message the member of staff rather than contacting the school office as it is unlikely that the office staff will be aware of what has happened. Injury/bumped head slips will still be sent home at the end of the school day.

### **COVID Isolation Updates**

We have had a couple of concerns brought to our attention by some parents regarding current isolation rules, please visit the link below to ensure you are aware of the current Government guidelines should someone in your household test positive for COVID19.

<https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/covid-19-stay-at-home-guidance/stay-at-home-guidance-for-households-with-possible-coronavirus-covid-19-infection#exempt>

### **Roald Dahl Day**

On Monday 13<sup>th</sup> September 2021 we would like to invite all the children to attend school wearing something yellow or dressed as a Roald Dahl character. There is no charge for this event.

## Friends of Dean Bank

The Friends of Dean Bank are continuing to sell jam sandwiches each Friday for 50p per sandwich. These will be available from Friday 10<sup>th</sup> September 2021 at a morning break.

The Friends of Dean Bank will be holding film nights for the children of Year 1 to 6. These will be held straight after school until 5:00pm at a charge of £2.00 per child and will include a snack and a drink. The children will be collected from the main entrance. Please send your child into school with the money on the day if they wish to attend.

Year 1	Inside Out	15 <sup>th</sup> September 2021
Year 2	UP	22 <sup>nd</sup> September 2021
Year 3	Coco	29 <sup>th</sup> September 2021
Year 4	Luca or Dumbo	6 <sup>th</sup> October 2021
Year 5	Aladdin (2019)	13 <sup>th</sup> October 2021
Year 6	Soul	20 <sup>th</sup> October 2021

The next meeting will be held on Tuesday 21<sup>st</sup> September 2021 at 9:00am, new members are always welcome.

MacMillan Coffee Morning – Friday 24<sup>th</sup> September 2021 – more information to follow.

## Parent/Carers Coffee Morning

Mr. Murphy would like to invite parents/carers to a weekly coffee morning being held in school every Friday 9:00am – 10:00am starting Friday 24<sup>th</sup> September 2021. This will be a time for you to relax, have a conversation, ask questions and generally unwind from the week with a free tea/coffee.

## Swimming Lessons

The children of class 4 and 5 will be starting swimming lessons from Monday 13<sup>th</sup> September 2021. Please refer to the letter on Class DOJO for further information.

## Class DOJO

We know that the majority of parents are connected to Class DOJO, if you are not connected and require assistance in doing so please contact Mrs Gilyeat who will be happy to help you. All of our communication is sent out via Class DOJO and should we ever need to send children home due to COVID, all work will be set this way too.

## Parent Pay

Please ensure you are signed up to Parent Pay, even if you do not pay for school lunches, as we are now a cashless school and will only be accepting cash payments for Fundraising Events.

## Non-Uniform Day

On Friday 24<sup>th</sup> September 2021 we will be holding our monthly non-uniform day and would like to invite all the children to attend school in non-uniform or fancy dress for a donation of £1.00 per child. (If your child wishes to participate)

Money can be sent to school with your child or paid via ParentPay, all proceeds will support the funding of the DOJO store.

September 2021	
Monday 13 <sup>th</sup> September 2021	Roald Dahl Day
20 <sup>th</sup> September 2021 – 24 <sup>th</sup> September 2021	Recycling Week
Tuesday 21 <sup>st</sup> September 2021	International Day of Peace
27 <sup>th</sup> September 2021 – 29 <sup>th</sup> September 2021	Dukeshouse Wood Visit
October 2021	
Black History Month	
Thursday 7 <sup>th</sup> October 2021	National Poetry Day
19 <sup>th</sup> October 2021 – 21 <sup>st</sup> October 2021	EYFS Parent Consultation
Wednesday 20 <sup>th</sup> October 2021	Year 1-6 Parent Consultation
November 2021	
1 <sup>st</sup> November 2021 – 5 <sup>th</sup> November 2021	Parliament Week
12 <sup>th</sup> November 2021	Children in Need
15 <sup>th</sup> November 2021 – 19 <sup>th</sup> November 2021	Inter Faith Week
15 <sup>th</sup> November 2021 – 19 <sup>th</sup> November 2021	Anti-Bullying Week
December 2021	
Wednesday 8 <sup>th</sup> December 2021	Christmas Lunch and Christmas Jumper Day
Friday 10 <sup>th</sup> December 2021	EYFS Nativity
Monday 13 <sup>th</sup> December 2021	Year 1 and 2 Christmas Party
Tuesday 14 <sup>th</sup> December 2021	Year 5 and 6 Christmas Party
Wednesday 15 <sup>th</sup> December 2021	EYFS Christmas Party
Wednesday 15 <sup>th</sup> December 2021	Gala Theatre Visit
Thursday 16 <sup>th</sup> December 2021	Year 3 and 4 Christmas Party
Friday 17 <sup>th</sup> December 2021	Christmas Carol Service



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](mailto:deanbank@durhamlearning.net) or [s.gilyeat201@deanbank.durham.sch.uk](mailto:s.gilyeat201@deanbank.durham.sch.uk). 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 91.98%. (Thursday 9<sup>th</sup> September 2021)**

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 21.88% (Thursday 9<sup>th</sup> September 2021).

### **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.