



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

Today is the last day for this half term, we hope you all have a lovely week off and stay safe. School will re-open on Monday 2nd November 2021.

Thank you to those children who returned their homework books this week, those who returned them have received additional DOJO points to reward them for their hard work. Unfortunately, many children did not complete their homework tasks which is very disappointing. The half termly homework is set so parents can be involved with a variety of tasks and this was requested by a group of parents who wanted to be more involved with their child's homework.

DOJO's – Year 1 to 6

Just to clarify, with staff as much as parents', children get a range of red and green dojos automatically each day.

Green DOJOS

- 1 for morning attendance
- 1 for afternoon attendance
- 1 for more than 3 reading comments
- 1 for 100% accelerated reader score

Red DOJOS

- 1 for no book bag / organiser
- 1 for incomplete uniform
- 1 for no PE kit
- 1 for no reading comments

Each lesson children can get 1 green or 1 red dojo depending on their attitude to learning.

Parental Consultation

We apologise that Parental Consultations had to be cancelled this week, this was due to lack of support cover for teachers. As we are still very wary about COVID we are reluctant to go back to Parental Consultations in the school hall therefore during the first week back class teachers will message parents/carers on Class Dojo to arrange a convenient time to contact you via telephone to discuss your child(ren)'s progress. Please be aware that the number may come up as withheld as some staff may be using personal phones.

H Tempest Photographer

On Friday 5th November 2021 the photographer will be in school to take individual and family photographs. Unfortunately, we are unable to allow younger/older siblings to join us for these photographs due to COVID restrictions.

Children in Need

Friday 12th November is Children in Need; more information will follow closer to the time via Class DOJO.

Contributions can be sent into school or paid via ParentPay using the below link:

<https://app.parentpay.com/ParentPayShop/Foc/Default.aspx?shopid=4130>

Teatime Club

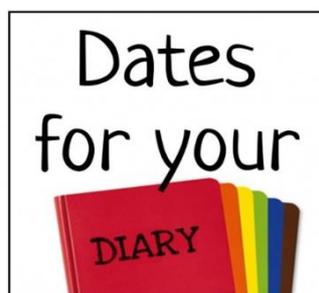
Please message Mrs. Northcott during Mr. Murphy's absence, we will inform parents/carers when Mr. Murphy has returned to work full time.

Places for Tea Time Club must be booked by the Wednesday of each week for the upcoming week so we can ensure there is enough staff available to run the club. Places can be booked by sending a message via Class Dojo to Mr. Murphy or by speaking to him at the bottom of the yard on a morning.

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.

Parent Governor

We currently have 2 vacancies for Parent Governor, if you would be interested or would like more information please contact Mrs. Northcott.



October 2021	
Black History Month	
Friday 22 nd October 2021	Non-Uniform Day
Friday 22 nd October 2021	Break up for Half Term
November 2021	
Monday 1 st November 2021	Children return to school
1 st November 2021 – 5 th November 2021	Parliament Week
Friday 5 th November 2021	Individual Photographs – H Tempest
8 th November 2021 – 9 th November 2021	Year 3 Residential Visit
Monday 8 th November 2021	Year 6 visit to Hardwick Park
Thursday 11 th November 2021	Armistice Day
Friday 12 th November 2021	Children in Need
15 th November 2021 – 18 th November 2021	Year 5/6 Bike-ability Training
15 th November 2021 – 19 th November 2021	Inter Faith Week
15 th November 2021 – 19 th November 2021	Anti-Bullying Week
Thursday 25 th November 2021	Year 2 visit to Durham Cathedral
Friday 26 th November 2021	Non-Uniform Day
Monday 29 th November 2021	Influenza Immunisation
December 2021	
Wednesday 8 th December 2021	Christmas Lunch and Christmas Jumper Day
Friday 10 th December 2021	EYFS Nativity
Monday 13 th December 2021	Year 1 and 2 Christmas Party
Tuesday 14 th December 2021	Year 5 and 6 Christmas Party
Wednesday 15 th December 2021	EYFS Christmas Party
Wednesday 15 th December 2021	Gala Theatre Visit
Thursday 16 th December 2021	Year 3 and 4 Christmas Party
Friday 17 th December 2021	Non-Uniform Day
Friday 17 th December 2021	Christmas Carol Service
Friday 17 th December 2021	Break up for Christmas Holidays
January 2022	
Monday 10 th January 2022	Children return to school



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. 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 91.00%. (Thursday 21st October 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 36.75% (Thursday 21st October 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.