



Dean Bank Primary and Nursery School

**Believe, Achieve, Soar with Pride**

Dean Bank, Ferryhill,  
Co. Durham DL17 8PP  
Telephone: 01740 651 512

E-mail: [deanbank@durhamlearning.net](mailto:deanbank@durhamlearning.net)  
Website: [www.deanbank.durham.sch.uk](http://www.deanbank.durham.sch.uk)

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

Dear Parents and Carers

### Happy News

We would like to share the good news of another Dean Bank Baby, Following Mr Walker and his partner giving birth to Tristan a couple of weeks ago, Miss Anderson had her baby on Tuesday , baby Caitlin. They are both well and looking forward to going home soon.

### Breakfast Club

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

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 a class teacher 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.

### Friends of Dean Bank

The Friends of Dean Bank are continuing to sell jam sandwiches each Friday for 50p per sandwich.

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 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

### 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. 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.

### 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.

### Phoenix Club

This club is held at St Luke's Church Hall on a Monday, 4:30pm-6:00pm, for children in Reception to Year 6 at a cost of 50p per week and includes a drink and a biscuit.

The group is run by DBS checked volunteers, including some of our parents, and the children participate in a wide selection of activities.

## Parent Governors

We have 2 vacancies for Parent Governors, if you would be interested or would like more information please contact the school office. It is a great opportunity to support the school and get involved the strategic direction of the school.



<b>October 2021</b>	
Black History Month	
Thursday 7 <sup>th</sup> October 2021	National Poetry Day
Monday 11 <sup>th</sup> October	Year 6 visit to the Grand Central Mosque
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
Friday 22 <sup>nd</sup> October 2021	Non-Uniform Day
<b>November 2021</b>	
1 <sup>st</sup> November 2021 – 5 <sup>th</sup> November 2021	Parliament Week
Friday 5 <sup>th</sup> November 2021	H Tempest Photographer in School
Monday 8 <sup>th</sup> November 2021	Year 6 visit to Hardwick Park
12 <sup>th</sup> November 2021	Children in Need
15 <sup>th</sup> November 2021 – 18 <sup>th</sup> November 2021	Year 5/6 Bike-ability Training
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
Friday 19 <sup>th</sup> November 2021	Children in Need
Friday 26 <sup>th</sup> November 2021	Non-Uniform Day
<b>December 2021</b>	
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 91.51%. (Friday 1<sup>st</sup> 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 29.27% (Thursday 30<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.