



Dean Bank Primary and Nursery School

Believe, Achieve, Soar with Pride

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Head Teacher: Mrs P Northcott
Deputy Head Teacher: Mrs K Hall
Assistant Head Teacher: Mr Haynes
Chair of Governors: Mr J Davison

Dear Parents and Carers

First, I'd like to say a big **THANK YOU** to everyone in our Dean Bank Community for their patience, understanding and support over the past few weeks, with our staffing issues, COVID absences and our lack of internet and telephones.

We have all been trying to cover for each other to ensure school can still run as smoothly as we can with office staff, cleaners, lunchtime supervisors as well as teaching staff and even myself, absent for a couple of weeks, and I'm never ill. I hope we've turned a corner and are expecting most people back following the half term holiday.

Parent Governor

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

Lunchtime Supervisory Assistant

School has a vacancy for a Lunchtime Supervisory Assistant to supervise and ensure the safety of children throughout the mid-day break, the role involves supporting children in the dining room and encouraging pupils to treat each other with respect and to follow the schools Behaviour Policy at all times.

The post is for 7 hours per week over the lunchtime period during Term Time only

For further details and an application form please contact the school office. School will shortlist on 11th March and interviews will be held the following week by mutual agreement.

Can I just remind everyone of the following:

- **Spring Half Term holiday**
School closes on Friday 18th February 2022 for the Spring Half term holiday and re-opens on Monday 28th February 2022.
- **School Uniform and PE kits**
Uniform consists of red polo shirts, navy blue sweatshirt/jumper/cardigan with black leather like shoes
PE kit consists of plain red T shirt and black or navy shorts with plimsols
Children not wearing the correct school uniform or PE kit will receive a red dojo point

- **Earrings**

Children are not allowed to wear them for PE. If your child has recently had their ears pierced they may not be skilled enough to remove their earring or put them back in themselves so please ensure you do this for them before they come to school as we are not allowed to do this for children.

- **School bags**

It is important that children bring their reading bag into school every day – however, staff do not have the time to check every bag on a daily basis, so please remind your child if they need to hand items to their class teacher.

- **Medication in School**

School is allowed to give medication to children in school if it is prescribed by a GP or hospital.

Medication needs to be brought to school in the original packing with the pharmacy label attached.

Parents **MUST NOT** send medication to school in their children's bags, as this is a danger to other children. For school to administer medication a series of forms need to be completed and these are available from the school office.

School also can administer Calpol rather than send a child home but we will always seek permission from a parent first.

If a doctor prescribes a course of antibiotics for your child, school will happily give your child this providing they need to be given 4 times per day and the correct paperwork is completed.

- **ParentPay**

School is **cashless**, so please if you have not already done so register your child(ren) for ParentPay. Please contact the school office if you have mislaid your password.

- **Parking, Smoking and Obstructing footpaths**

I have had several complaints from parents about people double parking when dropping their children off on a morning or collecting them at home time, as well as cars driving too quickly and turning around at speed. There has, also been complaints about parents with prams and pushchairs blocking the footpaths around school, so please be aware that due to staggered start times, parents and carers need to get children to school safely, on time and then leave quickly, again to ensure social distancing. Some parents have also commented that smoking parents are having little concern for children standing waiting to go into school.

The main message is, please be sensitive to those other adults and children around you.

After half term:

- **World Book Day**

This year World Book Day is **Thursday 3rd March 2022**.

Children are invited to come to school dressed as their favourite book character for the day. Any donations will be used for buying new books to use as prizes in school.

- **Dinner Money**

The LEA will be Increasing the cost of a school meal from **4th April 2022**

The cost of a meal will be **£ 2.20 per day £11.00 per week** payable on Parent Pay

- **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.

- **Tea Time Club Reminder**

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 Mrs Watson or class teacher.

Please be aware:

- If your child is not pre-booked then unfortunately they will not be able to attend.
- Children cannot change their mind once booked, they will be expected to attend.

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 **DO NOT** have access to ParentPay so if your child is joining in any of their activities cash can be sent to school in an envelope but this must be clearly labelled with your child's name, the amount enclosed and what the money is for.

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

The Friends of Dean Bank hold regular 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 which includes 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 morning of the day if they wish to attend. If there is insufficient interest the film club may be cancelled.

Year 1 and 2	Chicken Little	Wednesday 9 th March 2022
Year 3 and 4	Hop	Wednesday 16 th March 2022
Year 5 and 6	Guardians	Wednesday 23 rd March 2022

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.

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 sending a class dojo message or emailing the school deanbank@durhamlearning.net 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 school 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 school.

Children's expected attendance is 96%, our whole school attendance current stands at 90.53%. (Friday 18th February 2022)

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 38.42% (Monday 14th February 2022).