



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 W Haynes
Designated Safeguard Lead Mr Wood
Chair of Governors: Mrs J Low

Dear Parents and Carers,

20.10.23

Wow, what a busy half term it's been, and a long one, eight weeks. It does mean that next half term will be shorter, but means we have some very tired children and teachers!

Now everyone has access to dojo, most messages get sent out on there and they are immediate and purposeful so we decided that really a newsletter would be useful as a round-up of information, some ongoing information and an overview of some things that you might have missed on our Facebook Page or website.



Communication

This is really important for us and you and on the whole works well. I appreciate the informal discussions on the bottom of the yard on a morning and am glad you come in to see me or my staff when you feel you need to. The dojo works really well for this however, just be mindful that if you are sending dojo messages to staff outside their directed working hours they may not get these messages until they are next in work and if you dojo them during the day, they may very well be teaching so not pick them up until they are free during the day. If you are dojo-ing the school account, again, this is checked throughout the day but if it an absence etc. always ring the school office and speak to someone or leave a message; this also goes for changing the end of day arrangements.

School Uniform

Our children look great this half term. Please remember that we relaxed the rules a little around black school shoes, children can now wear completely black trainers too. They should not have logos on them and please remember to label them as 50 pairs of trainers from Asda all generally look the same. Other items of clothing should be labelled too so we can get it back to people.



I have secured some funding to supply every child with a winter school coat. Each child will be issued with a numbered school coat. When they grow out of this they return it and we give them the next size up. This is working well in another couple of local schools and will hopefully save you some money moving forward. These coats cost £30 pound each and parents will be charged £10 if their child's coat is misplaced to partially cover the cost of a replacement.

We have also bought in bulk, again to try and save you some money, some PE kits, please contact the school office if this is something your child requires, or, you can continue to source your own black shorts, red t-shirt and plimsolls.

Clothes Bank

I would like to thank everyone who has put clothes in our clothes bank. Since last Christmas we have raised £536.00 which we will put towards any shortfall in donations for educational visits. Just a reminder they do not take bric-a-brac or curtains and bedding. Thank you again.

Changes in Staffing



As you may be aware, Mrs Hall and Mrs Hay are due to go off on Maternity leave next half term. We wish them the very best and look forward to welcoming more



Dean Bank Babies. To ensure the continuity of teaching, Miss Smith will continue to teach Y6; she has been working alongside Mr Haynes since September and Miss Crisan will also be joining the Year 6 team. This will give us the capacity for Mr Haynes to become acting Deputy and SENDCo. Think he's going to be busy! They will continue to work alongside Mr Haynes and can meet them at parents evening after half term.

Reading Reading Reading !



We all know that learning to read for some children is very difficult and they need lots of support with this. Please ensure they have at least 3 reading comments every week, however we also want children to enjoy reading so over the next couple of months we are involved in a project called World of Stories. Miss Evans will be leading this project and give you more details as we begin the project but this will involve raising the status of reading across the school. If you are able to give us a couple of hours each week to listen to children read, please contact Mrs Gilyeat who will help you organise a DBS which will allow you to work with children. Thank you in advance for this.

Dinner Money

Again, like last year, I secured some funding to allow every child in our school to have a school meal, even if you are not eligible for free school meals. This will continue until Easter, the funding finishes at the end of this financial year. I know it has made a massive difference to you as school dinners are now over £10 per week. However I just want to make you aware that after the Easter holiday, unless your child is eligible for Free School Meals then payment will have to be made. Alongside our free breakfast club and free teatime club, it means I'm secure in the knowledge that children potentially have access to free food 3 times each day. Again, I hope this helps you to stretch your money a little further.



Just a reminder that although most things can now be paid for on ParentPay, if larger amounts of money need to be paid into school then get an envelope from the office, put on the child's name, amount and reason for payment. This can then be handed into the office. This is not needed for fruit, sandwich or small donation amounts. Thank you.



Please have a lovely half term, when we eventually get there. Enjoy next Friday's non uniform day, Halloween theme, and keep safe over Bonfire Night.

Kind Regards
Mrs Northcott

