

Headteacher News

Welcome back to school and a really warm welcome to our new parents and carers. I hope you all had a lovely summer, although it now seems so long ago!

September saw us start the year with another new record number of pupils at Daresbury Primary School – 150 on roll. We can currently accommodate up to 20 in each year group, apart from Reception which has increased to 30 this year, however we are already full in all year groups apart from Y2 and Y5 and have already been oversubscribed in Y1, Y3, Y4 and Y6 following appeals. It is really positive that the school remains a popular choice for local parents. I hope to be able to share with you shortly the plans for expansion, within our current site, to allow for 2 additional classrooms to accommodate our growing numbers over the next couple of years.

Staff News

September saw us welcome Mrs Stewart to our teaching team along with Miss Rowland. It has been lovely to welcome two new teachers to the school who we already know well. In addition we have had Helen Shaw join us as a 1 : 1 Classroom Support Assistant and Zoe Rose, Liz Cockram and Bev Brown-Lee all join us as Midday staff.

As last year, Andrew Curphey (Drama/Music) and Craig Jones (PE) will be covering the Teachers' Planning, Preparation and Assessment time (PPA) with each class too. In addition Mrs Stewart will now be teaching each class Spanish every week. Once again we have lots of students working with us again throughout the year and I am sure your children will soon point them out to you and the ones on longer placements will become familiar faces. These students really enable us to provide greater flexibility in our teaching throughout the school and ensure we provide support where necessary to all our pupils, whilst also ensuring we support the future development of the teaching profession.

Pupil News & Results

Last year's Y6 pupils moved on from us to various High Schools – Sandymoor School, Bridgewater High, Cransley & Ormiston Bolingbroke Academy. We shall miss them but know they were well prepared for the move.

Results 2018EYFS Results 2018

In 2018 each child = 4%

Children achieving a Good Level of Development	78%
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Children achieving Expected or Above National Standard	Reading	Writing	Number	Space, Shape & Measures
	78%	78%	78%	78%

Y1 Phonics Results

In 2018 each child = 5%

Children achieving the expected standard	90%
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KS1 Results

In 2018 each child = 5% (rounded) **NB National results not yet published

Children achieving Expected or Above National Standard	Reading	Writing	Grammar, Punctuation & Spelling	Maths
	76%	67%	62%	90%

KS2 Results

In 2018 each child = 5.88% ** NB National results are provisional

Children achieving Expected or Above National Standard	Reading	Writing	Maths	Grammar, Spelling & Punctuation	Reading/ Writing/ Maths combined
	82% 75% National	100% 78% National	82% 76% National	94% 78% National	71% 64% National

Children achieving a High Level of Attainment	Reading	Writing	Maths
	35% 28% National	65% 20% National	29% 24% National

Average Progress	Reading	Writing	Maths
	1.2	6.3	0.7

Average Scaled Score	Reading	Grammar, Punctuation & Spelling	Maths
	107 105 National	108 106 National	106 104 National

Team Captains

Y6 also have their new Team Captains who will be taking on responsibility for organising our charity work this year. I am sure we will be hearing from them before too long regarding our first event. Well done to Joel, Evelyn, Layla and Callum on their new role.

Medicines in School

Please can I remind parents that the only medicines we can administer are those which have been specifically prescribed for your child by a doctor and need administering 4 times a day. There is a form available on the website which needs completing prior to the medicine coming into school and being safely stored in the first aid area by the school office .



E Safety / Support for parents

We have recently updated our Internet safety advice for parents on our website with lots of useful links. Please visit the Parent Information page then follow the link to Internet Safety which will lead you to a specific page with lots of advice, links and guidance for parents in keeping children safe online whether through social media, gaming sites or general searches.



Reminder

No mobile phones to be used on school premises please. Also no photographs or digital recordings to be taken by anyone other than school staff using school equipment.

Many thanks.

School Council

School Council elections will be taking place shortly in school. If your child is in Y1 to Y6 they will be able to self-nominate and try to win their class election.

Further Reminder

Please, please, please could all parents check that ALL of their children's clothing, water bottles and items are named. We are having an increasing number of unnamed items left in school and it was sad to see how much we sent to the charity shops at the end of last year!

School Development Plan

We are just finishing off our new School Development Plan for this year and we hope to have the Parents' version out to you before the half term break.

Twitter

School has an active Twitter account – so please follow us! Check out our latest news on @Daresburyschool.

Information for Parents

Please remember that every Wednesday you have the opportunity to come into school between 3:15 and 3:40pm to see your child's work and teachers are available for a chat then too. We just ask you to remember that they have to attend a staff meeting promptly at 3:45pm. There are always a couple of weeks each term where it has been necessary to cancel these due to other commitments but I have made sure that these are on the diary list attached, ☺

Please can I also ask that parents return their new emergency contact forms which are coming home today (20th Sept). We will also be checking the data we hold on SIMS with you shortly. As you know we try to send out as much information by text or email as we can, so cutting down on photocopying, and it is vital we have your correct up-to-date information. Also, can I remind parents about the phone system please? We have 2 lines into school, if Mrs Staveley is on one line it will still allow you to leave a message and we can then contact you back if necessary. Lines to school are very busy but she only has one pair of hands!

Governing Body News

The school's Full Governing Body holds 3 meetings a year, 1 per term and in addition there are 3 active committees, Safeguarding, Teaching & Learning and Finance, Premises & Personnel who meet more regularly. The Governors have a strategic role and hold the school to account. For further information on members of the Governing Body and the work of the committees please see our website.

Primary Science Quality Mark

Following a tremendous amount of hard work by both pupils and staff last year, led by Mrs Zuger, I am very pleased to inform parents that school has been awarded Silver Primary Science Quality Mark. This award celebrates a commitment to excellence in science teaching and learning. Jane Turner, PSQM National Director said: *"Gaining a Primary Science Quality Award is a significant achievement for a school. The profile and quality of science teaching and learning in each awarded school is very high. Children are engaging with great science both in and outside the classroom, developing positive attitudes towards science as well as secure science understanding and skills. Science subject leaders, their colleagues, head teachers, children, parents and governors should be very proud."*

Attendance, Punctuality & Absence

We are really proud of our high levels of attendance and wish to maintain this, or even improve on it. We would ask parents to ensure their children are always on time for school and lead in with the rest of their class from the playground. If your child is late, please do not accompany them into class as this disturbs the rest of the class. Please bring them to Reception, sign them in and leave the school staff to take them to their classrooms.

All details of Leave of Absence procedures are on the website and requests for holidays will only be granted in the exceptional cases listed in the policy. Parents should also remember that children do tend to tell their friends or teachers when they are going away too! In these circumstances the absence will be recorded as unauthorised, even if you ring to say they are ill! Can I particularly stress that holidays in May for pupils in Y2 and Y6 cannot be authorised, even under exceptional circumstances, as this is when the children will sit their SATs tests. Y 1 pupils also have statutory assessment in Phonics in June. Dates of these assessments are on our dates list for parents.

Parking

As in all schools, parking at the starts and ends of the day can be a nightmare. Please be aware that our PCSOs do regularly attend and will ticket anyone parking illegally. YOU HAVE BEEN WARNED!

I am also aware of a couple of incidents of careless driving where children have narrowly missed being hit on the pavements as cars have parked or carried out U turns. Please drive carefully and slowly around the school vicinity. Unless you hold a Blue Badge you should not be parking on any of the double yellow lines around school, stopping on the zigzags, or the bus stop or parking in the disabled bays. Please be considerate of the children, our neighbours and other road users. Thank you



The School Website – www.daresburyschool.co.uk

Staff and I have begun the process of updating the school website for the new school year and this should all be finished within the next couple of weeks. Please add our website address to your favourites and make sure you have a look – there is a wealth of information on there about our school. We are keen to encourage any prospective parents of Reception 2018 children to attend our Open Afternoon / Morning for prospective parents, which are being held on Saturday 13th October from 10-

Rewards

For 2018/19 we have moved away from Class Dojos as this had become far too time-consuming and was impacting on teaching and learning. All classes now operate a similar system of sticker charts, although in KS2 we are calling them Merits. The children will get marbles and be called up in assembly for completing each chart. I am sure the children can explain the process to you, but there is information about it on the class pages of the website too.

Homework

For KS1 There is an expectation that the children will read EVERY Night. We also expect the children to be practising their counting or times tables for their Challenges (2x,5x & 10x) and practising their spelling rules and learning their spellings for that week. In addition they have the option to do Homework from the Homework grid.

For Years 3,4 and 5 they should also be reading as a minimum of 3 nights weekly (although we would advocate reading nightly if possible to make the maximum progress). The children also need to be practising for their Times Table Challenges and learning their spellings. The children will also receive one piece of either English or Maths homework each week. All this is compulsory homework. In addition they have the option to do Homework from the Homework grid.

For Year 6 they should also be reading as a minimum of 3 nights weekly (although we would advocate reading nightly if possible to make the maximum progress). The children also need to be practising for their Times Table Challenges and learning their spellings. The children will also receive one piece of English and one piece of Maths homework each week. All this is compulsory homework. In addition they have the option to do Homework from the Homework grid.

Further details are available on the individual class pages on the website.

Flu Vaccination Programme

I have been notified that this year the Flu vaccination programme for schools will focus on pupils from Reception to Y5. These will take place on Thursday 1st November. The information packs about this have already been sent home and you should have returned these as the deadline is Friday 21st September.

And Finally.....

Accompanying this newsletter should be list of dates for your diary. We will try to update this list with each newsletter we produce. We will be aiming to send out a newsletter out each half term.

Mrs Roberts & Staff

11am and on Monday 15th October from 1:30-3pm. Please do let any friends who might be interested know. I have written to all the local nurseries to advertise this too.



If you have any suggestions for future newsletters or other comments to make, please complete this slip and return it to school.