



Daresbury Primary School

News

Autumn 2



Principal's Comment

I am very conscious that this half term in particular can be quite demanding for parents in terms of what we ask of parents for charity contributions, Pantomime trip, Christmas events etc, etc. We do try to be mindful of this and where possible provide plenty of notice of upcoming events.

Covid_19 continues to create an impact in school currently and we have had a small cluster of cases in Class 5, which Public Health have been involved with and provided us with additional support as they report an increase in cases across Halton in general. We have temporarily reintroduced some Bubble measures in this class and asked parents to regularly lateral flow test children even if they are not displaying symptoms. Additional hygiene and cleaning and ventilation measures along with mixing restrictions have been put into place for the next 2 weeks. They also organized for some additional PCR tests to be delivered to the school which were sent home with Class 5 and also some lateral flow tests which were sent home to all classes. Their advice is to continue with our Christmas plans currently but to keep Class 5 separate for rehearsals etc until we know what the next 2 weeks brings. So far we have had no new cases since the start of the week.

The current position re Christmas performances is that across the school we will be restricting adults attending all performances being held at the Church to no more than 2 adults per child and asking all adults to please wear a mask. For Y1/Y2 performances in school we will need to restrict things further due to our small school hall. Each child will be allowed one adult at each performance and again we ask that all adults coming into the school building wear a mask – again further details on this will come out in a letter on Seesaw nearer the time. We are currently hoping that the pantomime trip will still go ahead as planned. Obviously all of these events will be risk assessed and subject to review right up to the date of the event. Please be reassured these will only go ahead if we feel comfortable we can do them safely. We will try to ensure that performances are recorded where possible so that these can be shared with wider family members. Staff organising each performance will be in touch via Seesaw with details of what is necessary for your child.

The trip to the Pantomime is still going ahead at this present time. Please could you return the permission slip along with your voluntary contribution of £16 by Monday 13th December (this is less than was stated on the letter due to a generous donation from the PTA). Permission slips are still needed from Class 1 too please.

We have taken the decision NOT to hold the usual Reception Coffee afternoon in school (previously in the diary for Friday 3rd December) as we cannot safely accommodate all parents. Mrs Lockhart will be getting in touch though to see if she can still hold a raffle and a couple of the other small fundraising activities we usually do at this event specifically for Class 1 – so watch out for Seesaw announcements on this.

Thank you all in anticipation of your understanding as we approach what is probably the busiest time of the school year and navigate our way through the ever changing Covid climate.

Other News

Two Y6 school representatives, Alyssa and Paige laid the wreath on Remembrance Sunday on behalf of the school at the church service. Thank you and a big thank you to those parents, children and staff who have donated to our Poppy Appeal. Through the webinar contributions we were able to donate £274.86 to the Royal British Legion along with a very heavy collection tub following the total sell out of our snap bands and other merchandise. Thank you.



Phones in School

Can I please remind parents that we actively discourage children bringing mobile phones into school but if this is essential then any child bringing a mobile phone in school should have brought a letter in and have obtained permission from Mrs Roberts? We have noticed an odd phone or two creeping into school this week!

Children in Need

Friday 19th November, saw us celebrating Children in Need once again and the school council did a great job getting us all organised. There were some incredible hairstyles and it was lovely to see the children being able to have fun, dressing up and having faces painted again. We raised an amazing £376.57 Thank you for all your support



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 stored in the office.



Parking

As in all schools, parking at the starts and ends of the day continues to be a nightmare. Please be aware that our PCSOs do regularly attend and will ticket anyone parking illegally. The Police are also keen to ensure that parents of children attending Daresbury Kids Club also stick to the law and avoid parking in the bus stop, on the double yellow lines or dropping off on the zigzags. One issue we have had lots of complaints about is children being dropped off either in the disabled bays/on the zigzags or in the bus stop and then parents slowly driving down the road whilst watching their child go up the path and therefore not keeping an eye on the road in front of them. Please do take care outside school.

Please drive carefully and slowly around the school vicinity. Can I also respectfully ask that parents try to observe the voluntary one way system we try to use on Chester Road so that the traffic flows down the road easier. Please try to make sure you only drive down Chester Rd with the school on your left hand side. This would help to ease the congestion as cars try to pass each other

or wait for cars to pass. Remember we are bay areas and the walk from there is only a



coming up the hill and have to pull into tight spaces allowed to use the church car park in the marked short distance.

School Gateway

Please could we ask Parents to keep a close eye on their child's School Gateway account to ensure it remains in credit? We do try to check the accounts weekly and we do allow the accounts to go a little bit overdrawn but it would really assist us, and cut down on the number of individual texts we have to send out on a Friday, if you could keep a close eye on the account for your child. Unfortunately, if the account goes significantly overdrawn we are not allowed to continue to provide meals for your child until the account is back in credit. Many thanks for your support with this matter.

The School Website – www.daresburyschool.co.uk Please remember to check on here for copies of forms and other valuable information. We are constantly updating this site and adding new information, so please do check it out regularly.

Seesaw

The vast majority of parents are fantastic at using Seesaw now and engage well with this. I cannot stress how much difference it makes to your child to see you commenting on work they/ their teacher uploads. As you know our Seesaw Parents App is our method of sharing all letters and important information from school. It is great for us as we can see who has read the messages and seen the announcements too. I'm always staggered by how quickly some of you reply too 😊 Remember you all have the facility to privately message your child's classteacher and also me if necessary. We will always get back to you but this may not be instantly, especially if messages are sent during the school day when people are teaching or late into the evenings or weekends.

If your child is ill, please continue to ring in to school by phone and leave us a message on the answerphone – we cannot guarantee staff picking up messages on Seesaw whereas the school phone will always be checked. Thank you.

A Massive THANK YOU!

We just wanted to say a huge THANK YOU to various parents who have given of their time and/or money to support our school recently

Mandy Roscoe (mum of Xander in C1) has provided our 3 KS2 classes with free drama workshops linked to Anti Bullying Week

The Price family (Hugo Class 1) have very generously paid for all of Class 1 to attend the pantomime

The Fletcher family (Henry Class 5) have spent some considerable time tidying up the pond and outdoor classroom area and would really welcome any other adult help to carry on this work (speak to Mrs R if interested in helping)

You are all superstars and really do model our school values beautifully for the children 😊

Y5/6 Residential to Conway

Mrs Stewart, Mrs Roberts, Mr Pomfret and PC Hampson and the vast majority of Years 5 & 6 visited Conway and had a fun packed 3 days on the water, participating in raft building, paddle boarding and Canoeing as well as nightline and other activities. The children were a credit and all the adults enjoyed spending time with them away from school.

Attendance, Punctuality & Absence

We are really proud of our high levels of attendance and wish to maintain this, and even improve on it. We would ask parents to ensure their children are **always on time** for school and arrive with the rest of their class. We do have a small issue arising again currently with a small number of children arriving between 8:50am and 9:05am. This can be very

disruptive in the classroom and delay registration. Please try to ensure your child is here for 8:50am when school officially starts. If your child is late, please do not accompany them into class as this disturbs the rest of the class. Please bring them to the office, sign them in and leave the school staff to take them to their classrooms. Just as a point to note, if your child is 5 minutes late each day then across the year they miss just under 16 hours of education! 15 minutes late would mean 47.5 hours missed! Children have Maths, Reading, Spelling and Handwriting activities to do daily during registration and this practice of key skills is essential for good progress. Please ensure your child is in school on time daily. Thank you

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! School also has a policy of issuing fines for holidays in term time as with almost all Halton Schools.

Twitter

As you know School has an active Twitter account – so please follow us! Even if you don't have your own Twitter account you can see all our recent tweets via our school link on the home page of our website - Check out our latest news on @Daresburyschool. The Twitter account is also regularly providing E safety updates for parents and links to some great resources for this too.

Information for Parents

We have a parents' suggestion box in the entrance area. Please fill in any ideas you may have and add them to the box – it is checked regularly. There is also a comments/suggestion box there for Daresbury Kids Club.

Bug Club

A reminder that all children have a Bug Club login and can access lots of reading material through this online resource.

PTA Update

If you shop online, then you could also help the school raise money at no extra cost to you. We have two shopping platforms we can use with over 4000 shops and sites; you can use either one or both as sometimes one may be affiliated to your choice of shop and the other one may not so it's worth checking on both.

It's super easy and all you must do is click on the link and register/create an account. These links are already connected to support our school. Once you are registered, it's very easy to shop, first before shopping open the shopping platform website of your choice and then you just search for the shop you wish to use e.g., M&S and it will then take you to their website and you shop and checkout as you would normally. A percentage of your shopping bill is converted into a cash donation for us.

On your account you can keep track of your school fundraising donations and periodically the shopping platform will make a payment direct to the PTA account. You can even book your holidays on there! We have just received a donation of £45 which was generated by someone booking online through The Giving Machine with TUI.

We especially feel this could be particularly beneficial to the school as people are now already preparing for Christmas and are already starting their shopping. Plus, we have the online shopping joys of Black Friday to look forward to!! These donations really mount up and make a BIG difference to us, so we'd really appreciate it if you could take a moment to sign up and support us. It's completely FREE and only takes a moment.

You only need to use these links once to create your account

The Giving Machine <https://www.thegivingmachine.co.uk/causes/daresbury-primary-school>

Staff News

On Friday we will say goodbye to Mrs Unsworth as she starts her Maternity Leave. We wish her well for the safe arrival of her twins which hopefully should be with us before Christmas. I am sure you will all join me in wishing her all the very best. Miss Kilpatrick will take over as class teacher from Monday for Class 4 up to the end of the academic year and has been preparing with Mrs Unsworth so there should be a seamless transition for both children and parents. We are still seeking a new 1:1 Teaching Assistant and a temporary Middy so if anyone knows anybody who may be interested then please contact the office.

I would also like to thank the huge number of parents who have taken the time to either message, call or email me following my announcement last week. I am very touched by your kindness and it means a lot. As I have said to the children and staff, this is old news now and we just crack on till July when I really will have to face leaving this lovely school ☺

And Finally (although VERY early).....



Mrs Roberts & Staff

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