



Daresbury Primary School

News

Spring 2



### Principal's Comment

It is lovely to be writing this newsletter again now we are all back in school together again. Where is this year going? I can't believe it is mid-March already! We have had a lovely first week back in school with all your children and really hope those of you still at home are enjoying not having to do the Remote Learning and getting some peace to do what you need to do for yourselves, even if that's only having a coffee without someone interrupting 😊

I have so much information to share I already feel the need to apologise for the length of this newsletter before I even get going! We were delighted with the overall engagement with our Remote Learning and that is in no small part down to you as parents. The extremely high levels of engagement (average weekly engagement across the school and across the 8 week period ranged from 84-93%) which will definitely mean that the children will not have as many gaps as they might have had and we can already see them bouncing back rapidly into their usual school routines and practices. A very sincere and HUGE THANK YOU from us all 😊 Please do keep up with your interaction on Seesaw and Tapestry – the children love seeing you comment and like their work and this shows them we are all working together to help them make the very best progress they can. We will continue to use Seesaw and Tapestry for communication and only send things via email if they are too big or if we feel they need a second back up as they are very important. Thank you also to those of you who took the time to complete our Remote Learning Survey which was circulated by Mrs Zuger. The findings were extremely positive with the vast majority of you very happy with the offered we made available. We have also listened carefully to those few parents who had things they didn't like or suggestions to make. Let's all hope we do not have to go through this again!!!

I have also asked Mrs Staveley to update our dates list and this will be sent out next week, though obviously due to the Government roadmap out of lockdown some things may be subject to change moving forwards so please bear with us. I have tried to include as much information as I can currently in this newsletter for you. Can I apologise if we have caused or do in the future cause any issues for parents regarding notice or dates of events etc.– we do try to give you as much notice as possible but sometimes we get last minute opportunities or only get confirmation of visits or visitor availability at the last minute and don't want to miss out on great opportunities for your children and the current situation only makes this worse

Over the first few weeks of the summer term I will be writing out to parents as we look to update our Home School Agreement. Our existing one is quite old now and we have made many changes to how we work in school and with parents since it was put in place – not least through the use of IT! Watch out for this and please engage with this process.

### Special Days and Weeks this last term

During Lockdown we were still able to enjoy lots of lovely whole school learning through National Story Telling Week, Safer Internet Day, World Book Day, World Maths Day and probably lots of others I have missed too! I tried to share via Seesaw and Tapestry photographs of some of our lovely displays staff have created using work completed both in school and at home during these events. I know how much the children love these times when we are all in school. This week we have all been enjoying Science Week in school and it has been lovely to see every class immerse themselves in even more science activity than normal. Next week we are all looking forward to Comic Relief and our School Council have done a great job along with Mrs Zuger in organising safe ways to get involved this year. See your announcements on Seesaw and Tapestry for details of what to do, what to wear, what is happening on the day etc. Friday 19th March 😊

### Staffing News

Today we say a temporary 'goodbye' to Mrs Lockhart who is due to have her baby next week. We are all going to miss her and wish her and her growing family all the very best. We can't wait to hear of Baby Lockhart's safe arrival very soon!!!

Next week we welcome back Mrs Baldock into school from her shielding. We have been able to work together with our H&S team to ensure we can keep her as safe as possible in school with some strict restrictions in place and she must not be in contact with adults outside of her bubble so please don't think her rude if she shoots in and out of school ☺

We have several teaching students with us currently, Miss Buckingham has returned to Class 2, Mr Shaw is back with Class 3, Miss Rimmer is now with Class 5, Miss Green is with Class 6 and Miss Taylor has joined us in Class 1. All of these students bring additional strength and opportunities to our teaching team and we are very pleased to have them with us. Miss Rimmer will leave us at Easter in order to return to Brookfields School to complete her training – we wish her all the very best for this next stage. Miss Green will be the next to leave us shortly after Easter and again we wish her all the best and thank her for her work with the class. The other student will remain with us into the Summer Term.

Quite often after Easter I start getting parents asking me questions about the next academic year. It is worth pointing out to all parents that although I can confirm a class structure for the school (which will be 6 classes – Reception/Y1 / Y2 / Y3/ Y4&5 / Y5&6 the same as this year) I will be unable to confirm class teachers assigned to those classes until much later and after the end of May deadline for Teacher resignations has passed. I also need to be mindful of the need to provide staff with experience teaching across a range of ages and this is particularly important with a young staff so please do not assume teachers will remain with the same age groups and classes as this year. Please rest assured as soon as I can let you know a confirmed arrangement I will do so. Many thanks.

### Parents' Evenings

As in the Autumn Term, we will shortly be holding another Parents' Evening online for all parents to discuss their child with the individual class teachers. Due to lockdown and us only reopening this week we have decided to push these back a little until after all of our assessments have been completed and our end of term Mini Reports have been shared with parents. These will now be held during the first week back after Easter. Individual class teachers will be contacting all parents via Seesaw and Tapestry to inform them of their availability. Remember Teachers have a lot of parents to see and you will be allocated a 10 minute slot. Please do take up this opportunity – teachers will be chasing you if you don't request an appointment!

### After School Clubs, Swimming and Residential

As I set out in my letter prior to reopening this week, until the Summer Half term holiday (as this largely matches the Government's roadmap out of lockdown) we intend to continue to operate as we did from September to December. This means that there will be no after school clubs operating to avoid any mixing of bubbles. We sincerely hope that come the last half term we can start these once again. Swimming can go ahead now but our concern lies with us needing to transport the children there by bus. We have taken the decision not to do this and will review again next term. We have two residential with provisional bookings for the second half of the summer term. One is to London for some of our Y5&6 children and Mrs Unsworth has been in contact with parents to seek their views and opinions on this one as we are being told this can go ahead. Please respond to her ASAP if you have not already been in contact. The second is an overnight residential to Pettypool which we would normally do with Y3 children. At present the Centre is waiting for new National guidance and clarification due out at the end of next week. Once this is known then I will be in touch with Y3 parents with further information.

We are also hoping to rearrange the Bikeability training we have missed out on for Y5&6 which has been cancelled for this month.

I am also hoping that some of our in school peripatetic music lessons can restart before too much longer so long as the H&S requirement can be met and no bubble mix. Parents will be notified when this is all confirmed

## Reading Vipers

If your child is in Class2 or above, please see the information about Reading Vipers on your child's class pages on our website. These are a great resource to help you with supporting your child in their reading both at home and in school.

## Whole School Assessment, Mini Reports and SATS 2021

Normal assessments will be taking place in school in Reading, Writing, Maths, Phonics and Grammar, Spelling and Punctuation over the next couple of weeks, with our more formal tests in the week beginning 22<sup>nd</sup> March during Assessment week. These will help staff to produce our usual end of term mini reports which will be sent home via Seesaw and Tapestry on 30<sup>th</sup> March 2021.

As parents of children in Y2 and Y6 are aware National SATs tests have been cancelled for this year and all assessments will be via Teacher assessment. We do intend to carry out some formal SATs tests using previous papers with the children however in order to inform our judgements during the Summer Term. Staff will be able to share with you at the end of the year how the children got on.

## Medicines in School

Please can I remind parents that we should only be asked to administer prescribed medicines which 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. There are a number of forms which need completing by school staff and so it can take some time to do this, even when you have already completed the original form at home. I apologise but this is both a Halton and MAT requirement.



## Sickness & Upset stomachs

At this time of year we seem to get an increase in the numbers of children with sickness or tummy upsets. Please can I remind parents that for the sake of avoiding passing any bugs onto others can they ensure that children have not been sick or had any upset stomach and **have eaten successfully** for at least 24 hours prior to them returning to school. Remember, if you suspect Norovirus then the advice is to keep the children off school for 48 hours. We have had cases of children being sent back to school when they are clearly still unwell and this just keeps the bugs circulating round the school!

## Covid-19

School continues to act under the advice of Public Health England, the DFE and our MAT's Health and Safety team. We recently issued all parents with information about this prior to our reopening. School is encouraging all children to follow good hygiene practices and we remain vigilant. I know many of you have taken up the opportunity to use the Home testing Kits for adults to ensure your family stays as safe as possible. Please note we do not need notifying of any outcomes of this testing unless you have a positive result, in which case this needs verifying by a PCR test and the whole family should self isolate for 10 days.

## Information for Parents

Can I remind parents that we have a parents' suggestion box on the little table in the entrance area? Please fill in any ideas you may have and add them to the box – it is checked regularly.

There is a lot of information on our school website plus a link to our Twitter account for those of you who do not have access to Twitter yourselves, so you can at least see what we have posted on there too. Copies of all the holiday dates, Leave of Absence requests, Medical forms, Uniform order forms and letters are all on there too to try to make your life a bit easier. There is also a lot of information about the Governing Body and the work they do.

### Twitter

As you know School has a Twitter account – so please follow us! Check out our latest news on @Daresburyschool. We do try to add information and photos where we can, especially linked to visitors or special days in school etc. I know many of you now are really enjoying Seesaw and Tapestry but for wider family members Twitter can be a good way to include them too and we are trying to add more information on too!



### 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 through the designated drop off door at their allocated drop off time of either 8:45am or 9am. If your child is late and arrives after the class have gone into school, please bring them to the office, sign them in and leave the school staff to take them to their classrooms. All parents will be contacted if their child's attendance is starting to give us cause for concern. It is important that children are in school as much as possible. Any child arriving after 9am will be recorded as late in the register.

I know currently holidays seem very much something we can only dream about but as always I need to point out that 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!

### Parking

As in all schools, parking at the starts and ends of the day can be a nightmare. Please be aware that our PCSO does regularly attend and will ticket anyone parking illegally. Try to avoid doing u turns on Chester Road as these put pedestrians and other road users at risk. Also be considerate of our parents and carers with disabled badges and don't park or drop off in the disabled bays. We are aware that this year we seem to have had a significant increase in the number of cars attending school regularly with disabled badges. Can I politely request that those people still try to keep the crossing area by the main gate as clear as possible to ensure a safe zone for the children to cross before and after school? I can also report that the school has been successful in obtaining a police grant to purchase some safety signs which will be put out before and after school daily. We are now just awaiting their arrival. Please drive carefully and slowly around the school vicinity and make sure you park safely and legally.



PTA

Hopefully you will have seen today's announcement re the amazing £341 which was raised in 48hours with the Mother's Day raffle. Well done to the winners – we hope you enjoy your gorgeous prizes.

The PTA are working hard to still do their very best to fundraise for us in these difficult times so thank you to them and to all of you who support them – the money certainly does help in school too. I know they are already working on ideas for Easter and Father's Day so **be ready!**



And Finally.....

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

**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.