



Daresbury Primary School

News

Spring 1 2022



Principal's News

I can't believe we are already almost at half term! My sincere apologies for the delay in getting this latest newsletter out to you all. As you are aware we have had some significant numbers of Covid Cases in school since we returned in January and absence both of staff and pupils has been a real issue for us to deal with. Thank you to all the parents who continue to support us and test regularly to try to keep everyone in school as safe as possible – it really is appreciated.

Where case numbers have risen above one or two in a class we have added in extra measures and for those classes where numbers reached a significant cluster we returned to Bubble arrangements and even back to forward facing desks whilst the peak passed. I really hope we soon start to see an improvement in this and can get back to some sort of normality in school after all this time.

Staff have updated the class pages on the website with this term's information for their classes so please refer to these for more information. I am also trying to ensure that the diary dates section stays as up to date as possible. It does include a lot of forward dates including Sports Day (which has had to have a date change) and other end of year activities and events which we are keeping everything crossed to once again be able to go ahead in their traditional format. The website also holds all the forms and information that you might require to try to save you having to ask for it from school. We have tried to simplify the website and will continue to work on it this term so that it really can be parents' first 'port of call' for information. There are plans afoot for a new format for the website and some background work has already begun to standardise the formats of these across all the schools in our Trust. I am not 100% sure as yet when Daresbury will move across to the new format but watch this space for more news in the coming months!

Staff News

Mrs Unsworth had her twin boys Theo and Max just before Christmas and the staff and children were all delighted to see her with them when she popped in one day recently. Mrs Zuger will be leaving us for her maternity leave just after Easter and we look forward to meeting Baby Zuger in May and know we will all miss Mrs Zuger whilst she is off. We have just finalised the arrangements for C5 for the summer term and their new full time teacher will be Mrs Molloy.

Miss Rimmer has also resigned for personal reasons and will leave us at February half term. I know this has been a difficult decision for her and we wish her well in her future. She will be calling into school briefly on Thursday 17th February to say her goodbyes to children and staff. We are now in the process of securing a new full time teacher for C2 and will let parents know as soon as this is confirmed.

Ms Goulden, our Caretaker/cleaner and one of our Midday team has also secured another job elsewhere and leaves us at February half term. We wish her all the best for her new role and will miss her. Adverts are currently out for replacements for both her roles. If anyone is interested in these position or in a casual midday position (where you can be called in if someone is off sick or on a course) please speak to either Mrs Staveley or myself.

Since Christmas we have had Mr Keen, a student teacher on placement in C6 and he will remain with us until February half term. Following the holiday, Miss Charnock and Miss Waring will return to Daresbury initially into C5 and C6 again and will remain with us until June. These additional adults, working under our school's staff close supervision, do really help to support your children.

Miss Green began work with us just before Christmas as an Academic Mentor supporting individual, pairs and very small groups of children. We are pleased with the progress being made by lots of the children in her care and we thank those parents who are also supporting their children further at home with this work. We aim to expand the groups to include other children as the year progresses.

Mobile Phones

Can I please remind parents that the school has a policy which says that pupils should not have mobile phones in school. If there is a rare circumstance in which you feel your child needs to bring a mobile phone to school then it must be agreed with the Principal. The phone must also be switched off during the school day and handed into the office for safekeeping until the end of the day.

I also need to remind all parents that the school is a 'no mobile phone' site so please do not use your phone whilst in the school grounds. Thank you



Nail Varnish / Heels/ trainers/hoodies/PE kits

Nail varnish is also not allowed as part of our school uniform. I have also noticed a few children wearing shoes or boots with heels or trainers. Again, these are not really suitable for school wear and I would ask that children wear sensible school shoes with their uniforms. Can I also remind parents that whilst we do have a burgundy school hoodie available it is part of our PE kit and not the main uniform so should only be worn on PE days. Can I please remind parents that wherever possible this should be the set school PE kit. If this is not available then it should be a plain dark pair of shorts with a white T shirt and a pair of trainers. For outdoor PE, especially at this time of the year, then a plain tracksuit or joggers and a sweatshirt can be worn.

PTA Update

Wow, you are all amazing!! You certainly didn't let Covid dampen your Christmas spirit and throughout December we raised a whopping £1268.35. Although sadly due to high levels of local Covid cases the January quiz night had to be postponed, we are hoping to reschedule this ASAP with the Ring o Bells.

High Covid cases didn't deter the children's enthusiasm, and upon returning in January they set about creating their Mother's Day masterpieces using the same format as the Christmas Card Project. There are some exciting things to purchase using their designs; water bottles, tote bags, fridge magnets, mugs and cards. The children will bring home their order forms this week with their unique reference number to allow you to view your child's artwork online. The online shop is now open and last orders are by 23.59 on Tuesday 1st March. Don't, worry, we'll send out a few reminders for you.

Where is this year going, Easter is fast approaching us! We are hoping to run class competitions of 'guess the number' similar to previous years and we are getting 'Eggstra Eggcited' to run another school-wide raffle.

The best way to continue to support us is to purchase lottery tickets. If you can spare just £1 per week, please consider to sign up. Since the school lottery launch in November 2020, ticket sales have significantly dropped. There is a guaranteed school community winner each week of up to £40 and a national winner of £25,000. All new ticket purchases are entered into a national competition. The current competition prize is to win a Forest Staycation, closing date 26th February. You can enter here. https://www.yourschoollottery.co.uk/cause-data/5d64ddea-022b-4080-8788-d7fe77e2758f/leaflets/13a49b36-78a8-47e9-8570-12d4e7f59259/ysl_staycation_jan22%20-%20digital.pdf?updated=637778062560130000

Also, if anyone works for a company who offers match funding please let us know!

Thank you for all of your continued support, Team PTA.

THANK YOU 😊

Residentials

We are aiming to continue with our normal programme of residentials for certain year groups in school over the rest of this year and into next. An overnight visit is already planned to Pettypool for Y3 children (Class 4) on Thursday 16th & Friday 17th June 2022 and information, costings and more detail will be sent out to parents after the half term about this. We have also booked another visit to Conway for next year's Y5 class (current Y4s) on 10th – 12th October 2022, and information, costings etc. will be sent out before the summer about this. Finally we hope to schedule another trip to London for next year's Y6 class during their final summer term in June 2023. We wanted to share this information early with parents to help you plan and prepare for what we hope will become a regular pattern of residential opportunities at Daresbury Primary School.

Medicines in School

Please can I remind parents that we should only be asked to administer 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 or locked fridge if necessary. 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 a requirement. Children should not be sent in with lozenges, lip balms, creams or any form of over the counter medication in their bags to self-administer. Thank you

Big thank you for money raised for Children In Need. We donated £376.57

We hope that you will continue to support us to improve Reading by ensuring you hear your child read at least 3 times per week. This is part of our Homework. At the moment we do seem to have a few children who are not reading the minimum 3 times weekly at home. The half termly 'Reading Raffle' continues too for those children who go 'over and above' with their reading. We are really hoping to be able to reintroduce our helping adults into school very soon and if you can spare any time and don't mind going through the DBS process, we are also always looking for volunteers to do additional reading activities with children in school. Please contact either myself or Mrs Zuger if you would like to volunteer in this way.

Governing Body News

The school's Full Governing Body holds 3 meetings a year, 1 per term and in addition there are 2 active committees which are Teaching & Learning (including Safeguarding) and Finance, Premises & Personnel both of which meet regularly each term. 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, which has been updated to include more information on the work of our Governing Body and its impact statement.

The School Website – www.daresburyschool.co.uk

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.



I am hoping as the year progresses to be able to once again reintroduce our Open classrooms on a Wednesday from 3:15-3:40pm – it has been so long since this has been possible due to Covid. At the moment though we continue to try to make best use of Seesaw to share our in school learning with parents. I will inform all parents as and when the Open Classrooms can resume and you will be able to pop in to see what your child has been up to and chat to their teachers.

Parking

Please can we remind parents and grandparents/carers to be safe and courteous and to respect our neighbours when parking at drop off and pick up times. We have had numerous complaints from residents recently regarding parking in the village. Parents have been parking on the double yellow lines across from school, have blocked residents driveways or are using their driveways to turn around in. Also can we remind parents not to park in either Hatters Close or Village Farm as these are private roads. Our PCSO does visit regularly and has fined parents in the past. I am aware of a couple of incidents involving parents parking in the village and arguments taking place. Remember your behaviour acts as a model for children so please try to stay calm in these circumstances and show them how to handle situations respectfully. Please help us to maintain good relationships with our neighbours and ensure that you make use of the Church car park, which Daresbury Church allows us to use before and after school. It really only is a short walk up the hill to school and the difference this makes to the congestion outside school is quite significant. Can I also politely request that those with Disabled Parking badges also think carefully about where they park to ensure that the area where pedestrians cross the road outside of the main school gate is as clear as possible and visibility isn't blocked by parked cars. Our parking signs are placed to try and encourage people to keep all this area clear.

Can I also remind parents that we do try to encourage everyone to stick to a one way system at drop off and pick up times, driving down the hill with the school on your left hand side. Obviously this is voluntary and resident do not follow this arrangement but again it does help with congestion.

Thank you for your consideration.



Hair & Valuables

We are having to remind quite a few children that long hair should be tied back for school. This is crucial for PE lessons but equally important when doing the full range of lessons, especially where paint, glue or scissors may be used! All children with long hair need to make sure hair is fastened back in pony tails, plaits or bunches etc. so that it doesn't impact on their safety or their learning. Having long hair tied back can also help with avoiding incidents of nits spreading in school. This has been a major issue in some of our classes recently. Hair accessories should be in school colours too. Please can parents also ensure that children do not bring expensive or valuable items into school as we cannot accept any responsibility for these.

Thank you for your co-operation.

School Gateway

Polite reminder to keep your child's school gateway account for school meals/ break snack account topped up. If you have any problems logging on, please speak to Mrs Staveley in the office.

Attendance, Punctuality & Absence

Well done to all those parents who have improved on their punctuality. Our late marks have dropped considerably and I hope this pattern continues now. I am also hoping that our overall attendance figures improve following the end of our recent periods of illness across the school including all our recent Covid cases. Thank you for your help with this matter.

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! Remember too, we do have a policy which imposes fines for holidays taken in term time.

Please can all parents be aware of the statutory assessment times for certain year groups. **It is vital that children in these year groups do not miss any time in the lead up to these assessments. Please can parents of children in Y1, Y2, Y4 and Y6 ensure that they avoid any holidays around these dates.**

For 2022 statutory assessment times are as follows:

Y6 KS2 Sats wk beg 9th May 2022

Y2 Sats (4 week period covering whole of May) formal tests wk beg 16th May 2022

Y4 Multiplication Checks – online tests completed over 3 week period starting 6th June 2022

Y1 phonic screening wk beg 6th June 2022

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 an absolute minimum of 24 hours prior to them returning to school. This will help us control the potential for the germs to spread. We would ask that parents regularly remind their children about thorough handwashing too. Diarrhoea would mean that your child should be kept off school for **AT LEAST** 24 hours and until they have successfully eaten without any ill effects. It is worth noting that many of the children who have recently tested positive for covid have in fact had an upset tummy, headache or complained of generally feeling unwell in the days prior to testing positive.

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 are try our best to continue to send a newsletter out each half term – even though on this occasion it has been rather late.

Mrs Roberts & Staff

