



## Daresbury Primary School

### News

Spring 2



#### Principal's Comment

Where is this year going? I can't believe we are nearly at the end of March already! We have had another busy half term and we have only just over 2 weeks until it is our Easter break. We will be holding our usual decorated hat/bonnet competition for KS1 (reception/ Y1 and Y2) and a decorated egg (often with a comical theme or twist eg Eggosaurus/Saturday Night Eggaway etc for KS2 (Y3-Y6) which will be lovely after a year or two without these. There will be prizes for winners in each year group. Individual classes or Year groups may also hold some additional Easter activities but these will not require any input from home!

I have also asked Mrs Staveley to update our dates list and this will be sent out along with this newsletter. Can I apologise if we have caused any issues for parents – 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.

Thank you to all those parents and carers who are interacting with our posts on Seesaw. I know many of you are doing this as both Mrs Zuger and I have access to all posts made in every class (apart from private messages between you and your child's teacher) and I certainly see lots of notifications on my phone every evening.

#### Staffing News

We recently said goodbye to Miss Rimmer and welcomed Miss D'Anza onto our teaching team. We also said goodbye to Mr Keen, PGCE student based in Class 6, as he left us at the end of last half term and moved onto complete his training. We are delighted to welcome back Miss Waring and Miss Charnock who will remain with us till the end of June. We also said goodbye to Ms Goulden and Miss Jackson from our Midday Team. From a staffing point of view we are still seeking new Middays and a new Caretaker/cleaner– if any of you are interested in either of these roles please contact Mrs Staveley for more information. We have also started the process for recruiting permanent new teaching staff for September too. Mrs Zuger will be leaving us just after Easter for her maternity leave and Mrs Molloy will be starting straight after Easter in Class 5.

#### PHONES

Please can we remind parents that children are not permitted to bring phones into school unless written permission has been given by Mrs Roberts? Any phones brought in must be given in to the school office first thing in the morning and collected at the end of the day. We are aware some of the older children are bringing phones into school in their bags.

#### Book Fair

Advance notice for your diaries – we have a Book Fair scheduled to take place in school on 4<sup>th</sup> and 5<sup>th</sup> April so we hope to see many of you there – remember school gets commission in books to use in school from all your purchases too ☺

#### Reading Raffle

Well done to Frankie Rae Grimes and Ella Baxter for being the lucky winners of the Reading Raffles drawn at the end of last half term (we totally forgot at Christmas☺). It is now only just over 2 weeks until the next winner will be revealed.

Keep on encouraging the children to read and comment in their records – we have seen a marked improvement in the children’s attitudes to their reading and books which is fantastic as Reading is so vital to your child’s education 😊

### Bug Club & Reading Vipers

All children in school have access to online reading books via our Bug Club subscription. If you have misplaced your child’s login then do contact their teacher. The books really are great and the additional questions at the end of each book ensure that they are really developing their reading skills further. 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 too.

### SATS 2022

Y2 and Y6 are preparing now for their SATs but we always try to find ways to do this without putting too much pressure on the children. Please help us by ensuring the children stay calm and don’t see the tests as something to worry about.

Please see your child’s class teacher if you have any concerns about their SATs.

Where necessary, individual and small group sessions will be held either during the school day, at lunchtime or through agreement with individual parents at a time before or after school

Phonic Screening Check will be taking place for Y1 children and also Multiplication Tables checks for Y4 children in June this year

### 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.

### World Book Day

Another super World Book Day was held in school with all the children enjoying dressing up and discussing their favourite books. The Masked Reader proved a real hit once again with the children and they loved trying to guess which staff members were behind the masks! They also worked hard in their classes focusing on Tom Percival’s book – The Invisible – and the finished display, showcasing some of their work on the corridor is beautiful too – we hope you saw it on Seesaw and Twitter 😊



### Sickness & Upset stomachs

We seem to be getting 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!



### Coronavirus

School continues to act under the advice of Public Health England, the DFE and our MAT's Health and Safety team... School is continuing to encourage all children to follow good hygiene practices and we remain vigilant. If any parents suspect their child may have the virus please do test them and remain vigilant. We have definitely seen an increase in cases again over this last week ☹️

### Halton Primary Arts Network

Parents may have seen the exhibition which our Y6 contributed towards at Runcorn Shopping City recently. We brought our display back to school and have recreated a slightly condensed version in our KS2 wet area. It really was and is a beautiful piece of work and the children should be very proud of what they achieved. Huge thanks to Miss Thornton for all her hard work too!



### 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 plus copies of lots of other useful documents and school and Trust policies.

### 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 but for wider family members Twitter can be a good way to include them too!



### Red Nose Day

What an amazing day we all had in school for Red Nose Day. The children looked great all in their red outfits and they all joined in with their year group sponsored races brilliantly. I was staggered by the amount of money we raised - £2532.00 – INCREDIBLE!!!! Thank you so much for all your support and donations 😊 We hope you all enjoyed seeing the photos each class uploaded to Seesaw but here's one from each 😊



### Attendance, Punctuality & Absence

We are really proud of our high levels of attendance and wish to maintain this, or even improve on it (as it has taken a bit of a hammering with Covid!). We would ask parents to ensure their children are always on time for school and come straight in at 8:45am when the gate opens. If your child is late and arrives after the gate is shut, 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. We do have a significant number of children who do arrive between 8:50am and 9:00am however, and I would ask that these parents in particular try to address this issue.

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!

### Crucial Crew

Our Y5 children once again attended Crucial Crew at Halton Stadium where they were able to access lots of activities to help them learn about keeping themselves and others safe. The children had a great time and were excellent ambassadors for the school.

### 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.

### 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 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. Please drive carefully and slowly around the school vicinity and make sure you park safely and legally, respecting our neighbours, pedestrians and other road users. 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. Thank you for your consideration.



### Open Classrooms

We are hoping to soon be able to reintroduce our Open Classrooms on some set Wednesdays but are currently following the advice of our Trust and waiting till things settle a bit further re covid. For those of you whose children only started with us during Covid this means that on some Wednesdays you have the opportunity to come into school between 3:15pm and 3:45pm and teachers are available for a chat. There may be opportunities for you to see some of the work your child has been doing but obviously we now upload a significant amount to Seesaw too for you to see, so particularly with the younger children this may not always be a significant amount. We just ask you to remember that the teachers have to attend a staff meeting starting promptly at 3:45pm. We will let you know when we are able to restart this and the dates available. In the meantime if you do need to speak to your child's teacher, then please contact them via Seesaw and they will arrange a mutually convenient time. 😊



### PTA

Wow! our Mother's Day combined fundraising for the children's uniquely designed gifts and cards plus the raffle is currently at £600. This is the first time we have run the Mother's Day project and it has been very popular. Moving forward the PTA propose to alternate this each year with Father's Day, which was also very successful last year. You may

be wondering what we will be spending the money upon. Well, it's that time again to place the biannual order for the reading diaries for both KS1 & KS2 ready for September.

It's almost Easter 🐰 and it's become a fun regular thing for the PTA to run a classroom competition of 'guess the number of ???' there will also be another raffle for you. We will launch this w/c 4th April. There's also a fabulous new competition running for all new ticket purchases for the school lottery to win a £500 bike voucher. We currently have 110 tickets entered in each weeks school lottery, someone each week is guaranteed to win. Did you know, there are no limits on how many you can have and they also make great gifts too for friends and family, I believe you can get gift vouchers! You all just keep surpassing yourselves and keep digging deep. Thank you so much for your continued support, it's quite overwhelming and you should be very proud. Bec, PTA Chairperson.



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 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 do let us know either by filling in a slip in the parents' comment box in reception or dropping us a message via Seesaw 😊