



Daresbury Primary School

News

Summer 1



Principal's Comment

I am struggling to believe it is now almost 3 weeks since our lovely Easter break and we have only 2 more weeks of this half term left – time is certainly flying by 😊 It has been so good to have all the children back to virtual 'normality' in school especially re playtimes and lunchtimes and seeing them being able to play out with a wider group and enjoying our lovely school field on the dry days too. We have even managed the odd whole school assembly outside which really has been super for all the children and staff to be together again as one big group. One of the older children said to me 'It feels like everything is going to be ok now' and I knew just what they meant!

KS2 SATs are just about complete as I write this – only one more paper today and I can honestly say I have never been prouder of a group of children – they have been calm, focused and tried their very best. Next week we move to the formal KS1 SATs papers and then we are into the last week of the half term with New Reception 2022 visits to school and of course our school celebrations for the Queen's Platinum Jubilee on our last day!

As the weather gets hopefully nicer can I ask those parents who wait on the playground or stay chatting after pick up that you keep your children by you rather than allowing them to run off and play. On a similar note, can I also remind all parents that no one should be using any of the adventure trail; or playground equipment before or after school as our insurance does not cover this unless a member of my staff is directly supervising. Thank you.

This final half term of the year will fly by I am sure and we have lots of exciting things to look forward to then too from after school clubs, the residential for Y3 to Pettypool, Sports Days on 1st July plus lots of other things too including visits to school by our new Reception children for September and transition visits to their High Schools for our Y6 children. Alongside this newsletter we will update our dates for parents list so please check this carefully in case there have been any amendments. The school website is also a great place for copies of letters, forms and other information too, so make sure it is in your favourites bar!

Staffing News

I know some parents have already begun to think about next academic year and I have had one or two queries. I can confirm that we will definitely be moving to 7 classes with no mixed age classes – this was what I set as a goal when I came to Daresbury over 12 years ago and I am delighted that this has been achieved as I leave. Hopefully following the half term holiday in May I will be able to write to parents to confirm the staffing and class arrangements for 2022/23 as no final decisions can be made until after the teacher resignation deadline of the end of May has passed and some new appointments are confirmed. Parents will have seen the letter from David Donnelly, our CEO, confirming the future leadership arrangements for the school from September with Mr Paul Holloway as Executive Principal, Mrs Kathryn Zuger as Head of School and Mrs Helen McGarry as interim Head of School for the Autumn Term until Mrs Zuger returns from Maternity Leave. Mrs McGarry will be spending quite a few days in school with me next half term and hopefully you will all get to see her on the gate so you can get to know her too 😊. We have also already appointed two new permanent teachers to the school staff from September, Miss Grace Williams and Mr Joe Craven, both of whom will be spending some time with us before the summer. I am also pleased to report we have just appointed someone to one of our Midday vacancies so once all the necessary checks are through we will be welcoming them into the Daresbury Team 😊

Holidays in term time

As many of you know who have spoken with me personally will realise I am not unsympathetic where parents are concerned regarding Holidays taken in term time, but unfortunately my hands are completely tied by policy. I simply cannot authorise holidays which do not meet the EXCEPTIONAL CIRCUMSTANCE criteria as detailed within the Leave of Absence policy on our website.

Our Education Welfare Officer does routinely issue fines for holidays taken in term time which do not meet the exceptional circumstance criteria. It is worth pointing out that any such fines do NOT come directly to the school – they go to the Local Authority who administer the fines system as part of their statutory duties to all schools. 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 who will be in Y1, Y2, Y4 and Y6 next year ensure that they avoid any holidays around these dates.**

For 2022/23 statutory assessment times are as follows:

Y6 KS2 Sats wk beg 13th May 2023

Y2 Sats (4 week period covering whole of May)

Y4 Multiplication Checks – online tests completed over 3 week period starting 3rd June 2023

Y1 phonic screening wk. beg 10th June 2023

It is vital that children in these year groups do not miss any time in the lead up to these assessments. Regardless of the outcome of a decision regarding fines for holidays in term time, please can parents of children who will be in Y1, Y2, Y4 and Y6 next year ensure that they avoid any holidays around these dates.

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.



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.

The School Website – www.daresburyschool.co.uk

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 most of you now enjoy Seesaw but for wider family members Twitter can be a good way to include them too!



Mobile Phones

Can I please remind all parents and carers that our entire site is a mobile free zone, so please do not use your phone whilst inside the school boundaries.

Dogs

Can I please remind all parents that unfortunately dogs are not allowed on the school site and this applies to all sizes of dogs, even if they are being carried. As a dog owner myself I understand that many of you may want to bring the dog when you are walking to or picking up from school but if this is the case please can you drop your child off or pick them up at the school gate rather than bringing dogs onto the school site. If your child is in KS1, either ring the school office or pop a note on Seesaw and let us know the name of another parent you would be happy to allow to accompany your child to the gate, but don't forget to tell them you have nominated them too! Thank you for your cooperation.

Attendance, Punctuality & Absence

We have traditionally been really proud of our high levels of attendance at Daresbury Primary School and this has always been above National figures but sadly we are starting to see this decline and want to try and get this back as it has suffered as a result of COVID and then more recently some of the infections and bugs which have reared their ugly heads! Holiday in term time absence also is having an impact on the school's overall data ☹️ as well as impacting on the standards and work in the classrooms. We would also ask parents to ensure their children are always on time for school. 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, but please remember school will be starting 5 minutes earlier come September so get into good habits now! Gates will be opening at 8:40am and registers will be taken at 8:45am. Gates will be locked from 8:50am and children will be marked as late.

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, especially in bad weather, can be a nightmare. Please be aware that our PCSO does attend whenever possible 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 or near our little people signs. Please drive carefully and slowly around the school vicinity and make sure you park safely and legally, respecting our neighbours and the private roads too. Thank you ☺️



Suncream

In case we have another hot spell I just wanted to remind parents about suncream etc. Suncream should be applied before school and not sent in with your child. As all day one application suncream is readily available this should not cause too much of an issue and avoids a lot of fuss and mess in school. Remember to also ensure your child has a named hat and a named water bottle in school. Thank you.



PTA update

An overwhelming thank you to you all from the PTA for your support with the Mother's Day and Easter fundraisers which raised in excess of £1100. It was our first year running the Mother's Day card project and it was absolutely a huge success and we will be sure to repeat in rotation with Father's Day every other year. The PTA will be hosting a tombola and also providing refreshments at the Sandymoor Community Market on Sunday 29th May 10-2pm in the community hall (next to co-op). Try and pop along to say hello to us if you can, we'd love to see you. To help us raise funds we would be extremely grateful for any donations of tombola prizes. Absolutely anything goes for a tombola!!! If you can help, please hand in any donations to the school office or pass to any PTA members on the school playground, thank you. And finally, there is an increasing amount of un-named lost property. Did you know that all this lost property is donated to charity and preloved uniform for resale. To help reduce lost property and save you having to repurchase uniform, why not purchase heavy duty and personalised stick on name tags. If you use this link you can also help raise funds for our school. These name tags are suitable for use on absolutely anything and are also dishwasher and washing machine friendly! <https://www.mynametags.com/>

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 complete this slip and return it to school.