



Daresbury Primary School

News

Autumn 1



Principal's Comment

Welcome back to school and a special welcome to those new Reception parents who have joined us this week – we all look forward to getting to know you over the coming weeks. Although we have had a few tears from some children in a morning they have very quickly settled and seem to be enjoying their first days in school. Whilst you and your child are settling in please feel free to ask the staff if you have any questions or queries as you may well not be the only one wondering about an issue we haven't explained properly or even considered from a new parent angle!

As a school we have worked really hard over recent years to improve our communication with parents and to try to involve them in their child's education whether they can physically attend the school themselves or not. The vast majority of parents have been really grateful for the efforts we have made to introduce a whole range of things from email and text communication, to Twitter, Seesaw and Tapestry. I can see many of you have now signed in again to the new classes on Seesaw and I would encourage those of you who still haven't done this to do so asap as this is used such a lot in school and you would really be missing out on lots of things if you weren't accessing this. Tapestry accounts will be activated shortly as soon as all forms have been returned by parents and Mrs Lockhart will notify parents when this has happened, fingers crossed by Monday. Staff have altered their practice to accommodate these communication methods and I know many of them access Seesaw and Tapestry, in particular, well into their evenings to pass on important information or to share your child's work with you. Please be aware that when you comment on a post which is to a group of parents or the whole class then others can read your comments. When you comment on a post which has only gone on your individual child's account then only you, the teacher and Mrs Zuger and I can see it.

Behaviour and Discipline in School

This year there have been one or two changes. As I explained to parents last term, in order to make things simpler and clearer for all the children we are focusing on 3 key words this year – safe, kind and ready. All of our school rules link to these words so for your child to be doing the right thing they simply need to ask themselves- am I being kind? Am I being safe? Am I ready? Each class has a system where every child starts afresh each day with a 'clean slate' – this may be on a traffic light system (green, amber red in Classes 4 & 5) or a sunshine system (sunshine, raincloud, thunderstorm in Classes 1, 2 and 3). If they make a mistake with their behaviour, as always, we would give them a warning first, if that is then repeated then they would move to the next level (eg to amber or raincloud). By keeping their behaviour to a good standard then they can move back into the green/sunshine throughout the course of the day. If their behaviour continues to deteriorate and despite further warnings they do not improve then they would move to the red/thunderstorm. If your child ends up at the end of the day being in the red/thunderstorm you would be informed. At the end of the day we start afresh. Punishments in school can range from being moved away from their own seat, being asked to work out of class for a short while, being asked to speak to either myself or Mrs Zuger or missing a short amount of their playtime. Wherever possible we will inform parents if behaviour has resulted in disrupting your child's or other children's day.

Homework

For 2019/20 we have once again made some slight changes to our Homework policy following our annual surveys of parents and carers. Individual teachers will also outline the home work expectations for each class clearly on their webpages for easy reference but as a principle the following applies: Every child is expected to read daily. Parents are expected to sign the Reading records to say this has happened at least 3 times a week (or you will get a sticker to remind you!). All children, from class 2 upwards are expected to practise their times tables ready for the weekly challenge. Classes 1 and 2 may well be given additional phonic or number/letter formation practice. Children in Classes 4 and 5 will receive one piece of English or Maths work each week – Maths one week and English the next which will be sent home on a Friday and due back in school the following Wednesday. For this year we will not be sending out the optional Homework Grids each term as such a very small number of parents and children engaged with this. For those

parents who wish to do more than staff will include links to relevant websites and activities on their class pages on the school website.

Staffing News

We welcome Mrs Baldock (Class 3) and Miss Higham (Class 2) now as members of staff and hope they have a great year with their new classes. We also welcome Miss Wright to Class 4 as she starts her placement with us for this year as she completes her PGCE through School Direct. Miss Woodward (Class 5) also got married over the summer and really made a beautiful bride - now we all need to get used to calling her Mrs O'Neill. Hot off the press we are delighted to welcome another baby into our school family today as Mrs Unsworth has, early this morning, had her little boy – 7lb 1oz and absolutely gorgeous. No name as yet but we will let you know when we have any news on that score! Both mum and baby are doing well.

We also hope to continue to have lots of other students throughout the year at various stages on their learning journey. As always, all students work under close supervision by classteachers and plan alongside them and have their lessons observed and teaching monitored very closely. These additional students really do help our staff to focus in on individuals and groups within their classroom and often allow teaching to be carried out more in single year groups or much smaller groups.

Reading

Keep on encouraging the children to read and comment in their Reading 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 ☺ If your child is in Class 2 or above, please see the information about Reading Vipers on your child's class pages on our website, which we are in the process of updating for the new year. These are a great resource to help you with supporting your child in their reading both at home and in school.

Uniform and PE kits

I am always conscious of the costs of school uniform and feel that we have been and continue to be quite flexible regarding our uniform, however, I am concerned about some 'slips' in appearance. Remember our school colours are pale blue (polo shirts/summer dresses), grey (trousers/skirts/pinafore dresses/shorts), burgundy (jumpers/cardigans – ideally with school logo) and grey/white/burgundy socks or tights. Shoes should be plain black with no heels. PE kits can be the school burgundy/white set or a plain white T-shirt with plain black/burgundy shorts for indoor PE. For outdoor PE we have the school printed burgundy hoodie and plain black joggers with plain black or white trainers. We have introduced the plain white T-shirts and plain black shorts and joggers as these are so readily available cheaply within most supermarkets and stores. I would be grateful if parents would ensure that their child adheres to the school uniform policy.

Earrings and other Jewellery

Parents should be aware that children should only wear plain studs if they have their ears pierced and that these must be removed for any PE lessons. Staff cannot assist with this nor can we permit plasters etc to cover pierced ears. Teachers will notify parents of the days when classes have PE so that parents can ensure their child removes earrings on that day if they are unable to do so for themselves. The only other item of jewellery which is permitted in school is a watch, which again must be removed for PE. Nail varnish is also not allowed in school.

Mobile Phones

You may also have seen lots of comments over the summer regarding mobile phones in schools across the country. We have always actively discouraged children from having phones in school at Daresbury and the rule is anyone whose parents specifically request their child to bring a phone must do so in writing to myself. In the rare circumstances that I feel this is necessary then I would expect the phone to be handed into Mrs Staveley, kept locked in the office all day and only collected at the end of the school day. The phone must not be used on school premises and if taken on the school bus must only be used to make or receive text messages or calls direct from parents. Anyone bringing a mobile phone into school without permission or without following the rules will have that phone confiscated and parents will need to come and collect it from me.

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 an absolute minimum of 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 historically 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!

Music Lessons

At Daresbury Primary School we are proud to offer our own comprehensive peripatetic music service. Our teachers are all music Conservatoire graduates, such as the Royal Northern College of Music and Birmingham Conservatoire, and working professionals, so offer a high calibre level of tuition.

We offer instrumental tuition from Year 1 onwards in:

Guitar (acoustic), Piano/ Keyboard, Cornet, Trumpet, Trombone, Euphonium, Flute, Clarinet, Saxophone and Singing.

Letters regarding music lessons are available from the school office.

N.B. If your child has already been having lessons these will automatically continue. You do not need to register unless there is a change in grouping etc.

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 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!



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 from the playground if they are in Classes 1 & 2 or come straight in at 8:45am when the gate opens if they are in classes 3,4 or 5. 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. 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! As from this year school policy has changed and parents will be fined if they take children out for unauthorised holidays of a week or more.

Parking

As in all schools, parking at the starts and ends of the day can be a nightmare and at the moment whilst building work is going on opposite the school this is particularly problematic. 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. It also helps with traffic flow if people try to stick to driving one way down the road (with school on the left hand side). 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 and not on the double yellow lines or zigzags or blocking residents' driveways etc. Also we are aware some families have members who car share from the village or leave cars parked throughout the school day - please ensure that these are not left anywhere near to the school so that they are not impacted upon. As you are all aware parking at the school is difficult and we, and the Police, would ask that car share arrangements are situated well away from the school. Thank you.



Open Classrooms

Please also remember that every Wednesday you have the opportunity to come into school between 3:15pm and 3:40pm to see your child's work and teachers are available for a chat then too. We just ask you to remember that they have to attend a staff meeting at 3:45pm ☺



And Finally.....

Early next week we will be sending out a list dates for your diary for the year ahead. 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.