



Principal's News

I can't believe we are already into our second half term and it is November. The approach to Christmas will fly by and I am sure that KS1 & Reception will soon be starting their preparations for their performances in school. This year we promise parents will be made aware of any costume requirements as soon as possible so that you have time to get organised. As our numbers have grown we will need to hold 3 performances in order to be able to accommodate parents. Tickets will need to be strictly allocated this year and it is likely there won't be many extra tickets available so please bear this in mind and remember you won't be able to see every performance. KS2 will be performing in church twice – an evening performance on the last Thursday at 6pm as well as our usual performance on the last day. All parents are welcome, although as in the last couple of years we will not be bringing KS1 & Reception down to watch as they will have already had a chance to see the performance earlier in the week. In this way we hope to make it more comfortable for the other KS2 children and for parents and grandparents and visitors watching. I am sure both KS1 & KS2 performances will be fabulous, even though at this stage the staff may well be feeling a little anxious! Letters about tickets will be issued in plenty of time but if you miss them please check out the letters section on the school website for an additional copy. KS2 costume information will also be issued as soon as parts have been allocated.

Please check the diary dates for times and information about other events coming up in school too as the lead up to Christmas is such a busy time.

Other News

Two Y6 school representatives, Evelyn & Callum B laid the wreath on Remembrance Sunday on behalf of the school at the church service. Thank you.



Thank you to those parents, children and staff who donated to our Poppy Appeal.



Friday, 16th November, will see us celebrating Children in Need once again and the school council have written to parents explaining their plans for the day already. Thank you for all your support



Medicines in School

Please can I remind parents that the only medicines we can administer are those which have been specifically prescribed for your child **by a doctor** and 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.



Parking

As in all schools, parking at the starts and ends of the day continues to be a nightmare. Please be aware that our PCSOs do regularly attend and will ticket anyone parking illegally. The Police are also keen to ensure that parents of children attending Daresbury Kids Club also stick to the law and avoid parking in the bus stop, on the double yellow lines or dropping off on the zigzags. The Police have also asked that we continue to note down licence plates and inform them of persistent offenders.

Please drive carefully and slowly around the school vicinity. Can I also respectfully ask that parents try to

observe the voluntary one way system we try to use on Chester Road so that the traffic flows down the road easier? Please try to make sure you only drive down Chester Rd with the school on your left hand side. This would help to ease the congestion as cars try to pass each other coming up the hill and have to pull into tight spaces or wait for cars to pass. I am aware also that there have been a couple of occasions where adults have 'lost their tempers' and unfortunately some swearing and aggressive behaviour has come out. Can I ask that all parents try to ensure they set a good example to their children especially when they have them in the car with them!



The School Bus still has places available on it for KS2 pupils in both morning and after school runs. Please speak to the office staff for more information. We are currently at less than 50% capacity some sessions and the bus is only subsidised thanks to a very generous donation by the Multi Academy Trust and the Local Area Forum. If numbers do not increase it is looking as if we may lose this service from April 2019. It would be great if we could see numbers increasing on this very valuable service but please ensure you always inform the office if you wish your child to use the bus – do not just approach the driver.

School Gateway

Please could we ask Parents to keep a close eye on their child's School Gateway account to ensure it remains in credit? We do try to check the accounts weekly and we do allow the accounts to go a little bit overdrawn but it would really assist us, and cut down on the number of individual texts we have to send out on a Friday, if you could keep a close eye on the account for your child. Unfortunately, if the account goes significantly overdrawn we are not allowed to continue to provide meals for your child until the account is back in credit. Many thanks for your support with this matter.

The School Website – www.daresburyschool.co.uk

Text Communication

I am aware that we do send out lots of texts but this really helps us cut down the amount of letters we need to send home. I know a phone 'pinging' with texts can be annoying but can I ask that you do read these carefully. Again, we have lots of calls about things we know we have sent texts and/or emails out about already.

Seesaw and Tapestry

Seesaw (and Tapestry in EYFS) is now up and running in every class and it has been wonderful to see the impact it has had on the children's learning. If you're not already signed up to follow your child's learning journey please find all of the relevant information on the school website.

National Poetry Day

National Poetry Day is a lovely day to look at, share and read poems. This year's theme was 'Change' and every class produced a piece of work around this topic. Class 5 worked on a self-written poem about adaptation, which linked nicely to the science they were working on: evolution and inheritance. Then Mrs Unsworth took different verses from each poem to create a whole class version. I personally loved poetry day and my favourite part was before Home time when the whole school gathered together for an assembly to showcase all of the lovely projects that each class had been working on that day.

By Paige Matthews, Class 5

Year 3 Residential to Pettypool

Mrs Roberts, Miss Rowland and Miss Shaw and the Year 3 children enjoyed a fantastic overnight residential to Pettypool and had great fun in the forest, walking, orienteering, den building, making woodland art and roasting marshmallows on the campfire. Mrs Unsworth went down there on the Thursday evening too! We were all particularly impressed by how well this group threw themselves into all the activities – they were great sports!



Staff have recently updated their class pages on the website and you should find all the information you need on the class pages. Additionally we have sent out our parents' version of this year's school development plan.

If you can spare any time and don't mind going through the DBS process, we are also always looking for volunteers to do reading activities with children in school.

This last week we held a special PSHE (Personal, Social and Health Education) week in school and you should have received letters about this by email and hopefully been able to join in with some of the activities or at least see some of them on Seesaw. Each class has been focusing on the 5 ways to wellbeing: Give, Connect, Be Active, Take Notice and Keep Learning. These 5 ways have influenced activities, assemblies and lessons throughout the whole week in school. It was lovely to welcome parents, grandparents and carers into school to join each class at various points in the week. In addition to these lessons staff have also been sharing in the ethos of the week and special 'Guardian Angel' activities have been taking place for them, such as a little treat or a cup of coffee when they least expected it! We all need to remember to be kind to each other and help to look out for each other and make others happy 😊

Attendance, Punctuality & Absence

We are really proud of our high levels of attendance and wish to maintain this, and 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. We do have a small issue arising again currently with a number of children arriving between 8:50am and 9:05am. This can be very disruptive in the classroom and delay registration. Please try to ensure your child is here for 8:50am when the bell rings. If your child is late, please do not accompany them into class as this disturbs the rest of the class. Please bring them to the office, sign them in and leave the school staff to take them to their classrooms. Just as a point to note, if your child is 5 minutes late each day then across the year they miss just under 16 hours of education! 15 minutes late would mean 47.5 hours missed! Children have Maths, Reading, Spelling and Handwriting activities to do daily during registration and this practice of key skills is

essential for good progress. Please ensure your child is in school on time daily. Thank you

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!

Twitter

As you know School has an active Twitter account – so please follow us! Even if you don't have your own Twitter account you can see all our recent tweets via our school link on the home page of our website - Check out our latest news on @Daresburyschool.

Information for Parents

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 also a comments/suggestion box there for Daresbury Kids Club.

Please also remember that every Wednesday you have the opportunity to come into school between 3:15 and 3:45pm 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 so we do need parents to leave before that time.

Can I make a big plea to parents please that you carefully check your child's bags and Reading Records for letters and notes and even homework! Staff are reporting lots of incidences of phone calls or conversations with parents about not receiving something from school and when we look the item is lurking in the bottom of a bag and has been there all along.

School Clubs

Recently we have noticed a big decline in numbers for some of our paid sporting clubs, eg Football, Fencing, Judo. I realise that these clubs do attract a cost for parents and this may be the reason for the decline, however we are seriously having to consider whether it is financially viable for us to continue to offer these clubs

with such a poor uptake. As previously reported we will continue to make use of some of our Sport Premium money to offer some free clubs wherever possible.

Bug Club

A reminder that all children have a Bug Club login and can access lots of reading material through this online resource.

Staff News

Miss Andrew got married over October half term and is now Mrs Unsworth. We wish her and her new husband Andrew all the best for their future happiness!

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 aim 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.