



Headteacher News

We are now on the approach to Christmas and I am sure that the next few weeks will fly by! KS1 & Reception will soon be starting final preparations for their performances in school and parents will soon be made aware of any costume requirements. Following the success of last year, 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 soon be issued 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 shortly.

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 in school.

Pupil News

Huge thanks to Lewis Shaw-Arnold from Class 5 who laid the wreath on Remembrance Sunday on behalf of the school – you did a great job!



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



Friday, 17th November, saw us celebrating Children in Need once again. There were some great spotty outfits and the children also had the chance to have spotty face painting and join in with a sponsored run. We are still waiting on some sponsorship money coming in but the total raised is looking really good! 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 way less than 50% capacity 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 2018. 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.

Governing Body News

There is lots of information available on our school website about the work our Governors do. For 2018/19 we have slightly altered our committee structure so that now we have a Finance, Personnel & Premises

Committee, a Teaching & Learning Committee and a Safeguarding Committee. We are also adding all Part 1 minutes from F, P & P committee and Full Governing Body meetings to our website once they have been approved by full Governors.

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 out about already.

Seesaw and Tapestry

Seesaw 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.

Tapestry is going from strength to strength in Class 1. The children and parents are enjoying sharing their learning at home and in school.

Tuesday

Tuesday evening, around eight o'clock the village of Daresbury was left in a sticky situation...

Staff and children arrived on Wednesday morning to find lily-pads and a green slime like substance scattered around the playground. All children have enjoyed investigating and learning about what had happened that Tuesday night. The children have written some fantastic pieces of writing based around the book 'Tuesday' and are looking forward to sharing their work with other schools.



Year 3 Residential to Fox Howl

Miss Simcock, Mr Parry, Mrs Jones, Mrs Dean and the Year 3 children enjoyed a fantastic overnight residential to Fox Howl and had great fun in the forest, walking, orienteering, den building, making woodland art and roasting marshmallows on the campfire. Some of the other teachers 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!



Y5/6 Residential to Conway

Miss Maunder, Miss Andrew, Mrs Hunt, Mr Jones and the Year 5 and 6 children enjoyed a fantastic two-night residential to Conway earlier in the year. The children took part in many activities from canoeing in the Menai Strait, competitive raft building (children vs teachers), orienteering, Via Ferrata in the forest and zooming down the zip line. Livi Hopkins a pupil in year 6 said, "I felt really inspired and challenged during the trip as we were always encouraged by the instructors to keep going even when it seemed hard. My favourite part of the trip was the Via Ferrata, because it taught me to be fearless and excited to live in the moment." Willis a pupil from year 5 said, "I really enjoyed the trip to Conway, because it was one huge adventure with my friends and the food was amazing. My favourite part of the trip was building a raft, and jumping in the Menai Strait." The trip was a fantastic opportunity for the children to learn and develop valuable life skills and have a great time learning new skills with their friends.



Curriculum News

Staff have recently updated their class pages on the website and you should have received new 'How to help your child at home' sheets for the rest of this term. Additionally we have sent out our parents' version of this year's school development plan. Our main curriculum focus this year continues to be Spelling, Grammar and Punctuation and its link to writing along with developing our science provision.

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.



We also held a really successful Community Week in school in October and it was lovely to see the children giving back to their local community as well as finding out more about the village and local area.



Anti-bullying Week

During anti-bullying week classes took part in many different activities which looked at how to prevent bullying in schools. Rose Sanders a year 6 pupil said, "It has always been important for us to learn about anti-bullying in school. I enjoyed making a class jigsaw as it gave us the opportunity to express how we feel about bullying and the steps we will take as a school to prevent it."

Tom Madden, Reece Brennan, Eve Turner and Abigail Grimes were joined by Mrs Hunt for an anti-bullying conference at Bridgewater High School. The children took part in many different activities. Abigail said, "It was really good, the activities were really fun and the food was amazing!"

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 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 now 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 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

Following a successful appointment process Mrs Pat Marquis-Davies (to be known as Mrs M-D) will be taking on the role of new Admin Assistant from January. Mrs Clarke's last day with us will be on Friday 5th January, 2018 and we shall all miss her but wish her all the very best for her new life outside of Daresbury School! Mrs Victoria Crowther-Walsh will be joining us from January covering Miss Woodward's Maternity Leave and Mrs Zuger will be covering Mrs Lockhart's role. We are all so excited to welcome our two new babies and wish both ladies well as they finish with us on the last day of term.

Miss Rowland will also be leaving us until after February half term and going off to an alternative placement school. We will be welcoming a new student Mr Humphreys into Class 2 in January too.

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.