



Daresbury Primary School

News

Spring 1



Principal's News

A very belated Happy New Year to you all – I hope 2018 brings all of your families' health and happiness. The term has got off to a flying start and I can't believe we are already a couple of weeks in. The staff have asked me to thank all of you via the newsletter for the lovely cards and gifts that were given at Christmas. They were very much appreciated. I am sure those of you who attended either the KS1 & Reception performances of 'Follow the Star' or the KS2 performances of 'Stable Manners' in church will have been as proud as I was of the children. I know the staff and pupils worked really hard on these and the outcomes were great. Many thanks too for all your support in purchasing photos of the children taken by Mr Longstaff – we made over £325 profit which will all be put to good use in supporting the children in school.

Staff have been busy updating the website with this term's planning for their classes and the latest 'How to Help Your Child at Home' sheets so please refer to these for more information. I am also trying to ensure that the diary dates section stays as up to date as possible. It does include a lot of forward dates including Sports Day and other end of year activities and events. The website also holds all the forms and information that you might require to try to save you having to ask for it from school. We have tried to simplify the website over recent weeks and will continue to work on it this term so that it really can be parents' first 'port of call' for information.

Staff News

We are pleased to say Miss Woodward and baby Isabella are doing well as are Mrs Lockhart and baby Charlotte who only arrived on 13th January. Mrs Crowther-Walsh and Mrs Zuger have both taken over their classes full time from January 2018.

Mrs Staveley has taken over in the Office after Mrs Clarke's last day on 5th January. We had a lovely leaving assembly for Mrs Clarke and she was extremely touched by your generosity following the collection from parents which raised £172 - John Lewis vouchers were purchased for her to spend on a gift of her own choice.

Miss Rowland, our student in Class 2, has moved onto her alternative placement this half term and we are pleased to welcome Mr Humphreys (Class 2) and Miss Henry (Class 3) to Daresbury. They will remain with us until half term.

We also have a new member of Midday staff – Mrs Putterill – who started with us after Christmas. We hope all these changes will be positive and everyone will enjoy their time at Daresbury Primary School and become part of our great staff team.

Curriculum News

We sent out our parents' version of the School Development Plan last term so that you can share in what we are working on this year. This is also available on the website if you misplaced it. It is also displayed around the school.

We hope that you will continue to support us to improve Reading by ensuring you hear your child read at least 3 times per week. This is part of our Compulsory element to Homework. At the moment we do seem to have a few children who are not reading the minimum 3 times weekly at home. The half termly 'Reading Raffle' continues too for those children who go 'over and above' with their reading. If you can spare any time and don't mind going through the DBS (CRB) process, we are also always looking for volunteers to do reading activities with children in school. Please contact either myself or Mrs Zuger if you would like to volunteer in this way

Homework

Homework grids are added to the class pages on our website too. Homework is a contentious issue and we have tried to be mindful of this offering 3 stages to our provision: Compulsory, Choice and Extension. Please support your child and the school in ensuring that as a minimum the compulsory elements are completed each week/half term. For those parents and children who like to do more, the choice grids offer lots of activities as do beyond the compulsory 4 or 5 activities from the grid. The extension element is made up of activities suggested on the class pages of the website through website links etc.

Sprouts

On Monday 8th December the children were called into assembly as normal but this time it was to talk about a letter the staff had been sent. The letter was from the National Sprout Growers Association talking about how sprouts were getting less love than they used to. They explained that sprouts were normally the number 1 vegetable to go out of stock at Christmas and that they need us to have at least a couple of sprouts on our dinner plates. The National Sprout Growers Association also sent a sprout each for all of the children to look after in the last week of term.

Medicines in School

Please can I remind parents that we should only be asked to administer 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 or locked fridge if necessary. 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 a requirement.

Booster Groups Y6

Parents of children in Y6 will have received a letter regarding the provision the school is making for Booster sessions. KS2 pupils have more formal testing and are aware themselves that there are a range of tests they will need to complete. Miss Maunder has organised a timetable of Booster classes both before school, at lunch times and after school to help the children. Please see the timetable below and if your child is in Y6 try to encourage them to attend the sessions. They do not need to book in, they can simply turn up.

Monday after school 3:15-4:15pm - SPAG
Tuesday before school 8:30-8:50am – Maths
Tuesday after school 3:15-4:15pm - Reading
Wednesday before school 8:30-8:50am – Reading
Thursday before school 8:30-8:50am – SPAG
Thursday after school 3:15-4:15pm – Maths

Mobile Phones

Can I please remind parents that the school has a policy which says that pupils should not have mobile phones in school. If there is a rare circumstance in which you feel your child needs to bring a mobile phone to school then it must be agreed with the Principal. The phone must also be switched off during the school day and handed into the office for safekeeping until the end of the day.

I also need to remind all parents that the school is a 'no mobile phone' site so please do not use your phone whilst in the school grounds. Thank you



Zumba

This term we are delighted to welcome two new Zumba teachers into school. They are working with Classes 4 and 5 in lesson time.

Smile for a Mile

Each class will take part one day a week in this initiative at lunchtime. All children will be encouraged to walk, jog or run a mile during playtime. Staff are joining in too!

Governing Body News

The school's Full Governing Body holds 3 meetings a year, 1 per term and in addition there are 3 active committees which have recently been slightly amended to include, Safeguarding, Teaching & Learning and Finance, Premises & Personnel and who all meet regularly each term. The Governors have a strategic role and hold the school to account. For further information on members of the Governing Body and the work of the committees please see our website, which has been updated to include more information on the work of our Governing Body.

The School Website – www.daresburyschool.co.uk

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.



Please also remember that every Wednesday you have the opportunity to come into school between 3:15pm 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 😊

PPA changes

As Mrs Zuger is now teaching in Class 2 there have been some changes to how Teachers' PPA (Planning, Preparation and Assessment time) is covered in school. For the rest of the year this will be covered by external staff who are all known to the school and the children. Craig, from Active Soccer, will be working with each class on various PE activities and also Rachel/Andrew from Andrew Curphey Theatre Company will also be working with each class on a mix of Drama and Music activities. This arrangement will remain in place until the end of the summer term.

Spelling Bee

Before Christmas we held our first ever Spelling Bee competition and the 3 top spellers from each year group competed in front of their Key Stage and parents. First place went to the following children:

- Year 1 Adam Kurdziel-Quirk
- Year 2 Frankie Burke
- Year 3 Jessica Prescott
- Year 4 Isabella Jooste
- Year 5 Lucas Hughes
- Year 6 Natascha Bramwell

Following a tweet about this we have been challenged by Litherland Moss Primary, another school within our MAT, to a competition against their winners too which we hope to organise later this term! A second Spelling Bee will take place at Easter.

Parking

As in all schools, parking at the starts and ends of the day can be a nightmare. Please be aware that our PCSOs do regularly attend and will ticket anyone parking illegally. This also applies to Link Club parents dropping off or picking up outside of normal school times. I am also aware of a couple of incidents of careless driving where children have narrowly missed being hit on the pavements as cars have parked or carried out U turns. Please drive carefully and slowly around the school vicinity.

I am also aware of a couple of incidents involving parents parking in the private road at Village Farm. Please respect our neighbours and ensure that you make use of the Church car park, which Rev Felix allows us to use before and after school. It really only is a short walk up the hill to school and the difference this makes to the congestion outside school is quite significant.

Can I also remind parents that we do try to encourage everyone to stick to a one way system at drop off and pick up times, driving down the hill with the school on your left hand side. Obviously this is voluntary and residents and the bus would not follow this arrangement but again it does help with congestion.



PE

Sorry to have to moan, but we are having problems with children not bringing in PE kits. All pupils need a PE kit available in school Monday to Friday. Wherever possible this should be the set school PE kit. If this is not available then it should be a plain dark pair of shorts with a white T shirt and a pair of trainers. For outdoor PE, especially at this time of the year, then a plain tracksuit or joggers and a sweatshirt can be worn. Please ensure your child has the required clothing available in school each week. Pupils without kits are asked to use the limited spare PE kits we have available in school but we do not have enough of these to provide for more than a handful of children at a time.

Hair & Valuables

We are having to remind quite a few children that long hair should be tied back for school. This is crucial for PE lessons but equally important when doing the full range of lessons, especially where paint, glue or scissors may be used! All children with long hair need to make sure hair is fastened back in pony tails, plaits or bunches etc. so that it doesn't impact on their safety or their learning. Hair accessories should be in school colours too. Please can parents also ensure that children do not bring an expensive or valuable items into school as we cannot accept any responsibility for these. Thank you for your co-operation.

Nail Varnish / False Nails/Heels

Some of our older children have recently come to school with false nails. These really are not suitable for school and should not be worn. Nail varnish is also not allowed as part of our school uniform. I have also noticed a few children wearing shoes or boots with heels. Again, these are not really suitable for school wear and I would ask that children wear sensible school shoes with their uniforms.

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. 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. I am also continuing to track the attendance of each class weekly and using Twitter to report on any class achieving 100% attendance that week along with the class with the highest attendance figures.

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! Check out our latest news on @Daresburyschool.



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 24 hours prior to them returning to school.

This will help us control the potential for the germs to spread. We would ask that parents regularly remind their children about thorough handwashing too.

I have attached some information at the end of this newsletter which has been circulated by the NHS to schools specifically regarding Norovirus. If you suspect your child has the Norovirus please ensure they remain off school for 48 hours and follow the advice given.

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 are continuing 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.

Diarrhoea and vomiting in children

There's no specific cure for stomach bugs such as **Norovirus**. See tips to reduce the spread and treat symptoms

Keep kids home from school for



after symptoms have passed.
This is enough time to let the
virus runs its course

If your child already has a serious
illness, or symptoms last longer
than a few days, contact your GP
to seek advice

Visit [nhs.uk/norovirus](https://www.nhs.uk/norovirus) for more

NHS choices



25

different
strains of
norovirus
are known to
affect humans.

They're the most common cause
of stomach bugs in the UK

Home Treatment



Liquid paracetamol is
useful for fever or
aches and pains



Give kids plenty of
water to stay hydrated
and replace lost fluids



If your child feels like
eating, give them foods
that are easy to digest