



Daresbury Primary School

News

Spring 2020



Principal's News

I can't believe we are already into the third week of the new term! On behalf of all the staff and Governors can I wish a very belated Happy New Year to you all – I hope 2020 brings all of your families' health and happiness. 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 any of our Christmas performances in school or 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 – the profit made will all be put to good use in supporting the children in school.

Staff have already been updating the website with this term's information for their classes 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 and will continue to work on it this term so that it really can be parents' first 'port of call' for information.

Staff News

Mrs Clamp and Miss Rose both left us last term and we have successfully appointed two new Midday assistant – Ms Julie Sim and Ms Lisa Goulden. Mrs Joanne Orme has been off ill for some time now and is awaiting the birth of her child at the beginning of February. We are still seeking a fulltime replacement for her until December 2020. If anyone is interested in this position or in a casual midday position (where you can be called in if someone is off sick or on a course) please speak to either Mrs Staveley or myself.

Miss Wright, our student in Class 4, has moved onto her alternative placement this half term and we are pleased to welcome Miss Halliwell to Daresbury. She will remain with us until half term. Mr Stocker (student last term in Class 5) has now taken the decision not to continue with his training to become a teacher and therefore will not be returning to Daresbury. Further students are now placed in classes 1, 2 and 3 and are in school at various points during the week assisting the classteachers with individuals and small groups. We may well have some further teaching students assigned on longer term placements later in the year. These additional adults, working under our school's staff close supervision do really help to support your children.

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



Nail Varnish / Heels/ trainers/hoodies/PE kits

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 or trainers. Again, these are not really suitable for school wear and I would ask that children wear sensible school shoes with their uniforms. Can I also remind parents that whilst we do have a burgundy school hoodie available it is part of our PE kit and not the main uniform so should only be worn during PE lessons.

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.

PTA Update

Firstly, we would like to say a huge thank you for your support last year – we organised some new events including the pub quiz and tried the disco at a new venue. Both were a huge success, they raised lots of money and those attending enjoyed! Below summarises the money you've helped us to raise for school;

- Quiz and All Hallows' Eve dress up day raised £409.50
- Disco raised £416.39
- KS1 Christmas Performance raffle and refreshments raised £413.41
- KS2 Christmas Performance raffle and refreshments raised £589.10

As a result, already this year we have been able to support the following

- £450 to go towards the Christmas Panto coach costs
- £400 to cover the costs of a storyteller and dancer for National Storytelling Week
- £1,100 to buy next year's Reading Diaries

Dates for your 2020 diary!

We have been busy working on the next fundraising activities and have the following pencilled in;

- Pub Quiz – 3rd February
- Valentines dress up day – 14th February
- Valentines Disco – 19th February
- Junior Warrior – 27th June

Full details will be sent out shortly.

Can you help?

The PTA are always on the look out for help and there are a range of ways you can get involved from attending planning meetings, volunteering time at events, donating raffle prizes, doing your online shopping via the Raise and Give app or just suggesting ideas! If you'd like to join the mailing list please email daresburypta@gmail.com

Also, if anyone works for a company who offers match funding please let us know!

THANK YOU 😊

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.

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.

Big thank you for money raised for Children In Need. We sent off £ 650 and £650 was added to school funds and will be used to pay towards additional resources and visitors to the school later this year.

Thank you also for your support for The Poppy Appeal and for Halton Haven Hospice. We do not yet know how much was raised but will let you know when we hear.

Following on from a visit from the NSPCC before Christmas and assemblies in school, we agreed to hold a non-uniform day to support them which will take place this Friday 24th January. Please could we ask for a minimum of £1 donation in exchange for wearing own clothes. Thank you for your support.

Reading

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 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 process, we are also always looking for volunteers to do additional reading activities with children in school. Please contact either myself or Mrs Zuger if you would like to volunteer in this way.

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 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 and its impact statement.

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 😊

Spelling Bee

Before Christmas we held our 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 Isla McAuliffe

Year 2 Olivia Slinger

Year 3 Amber Fowler

Year 4 Zac McGreary

Year 5 Ryan Healey-Smith

Year 6 Lexy Dawbarn

Twitter

As you know School has an active Twitter account – so please follow us! Check out our latest news on @Daresburyschool.

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 have been told that they intend to call by at various times which may be outside of the usual school drop off and pick up times, so you have been warned! 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 village and arguments taking place. Remember your behaviour acts as a model for children so please try to stay calm in these circumstances and show them how to handle situations respectfully. Please help us to maintain good relationships with our neighbours and refrain from parking in the two estates' Village Farm' and 'Hatters Close' as these are private roads. Please ensure that instead 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.



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 expensive or valuable items into school as we cannot accept any responsibility for these.

Thank you for your co-operation.

Attendance, Punctuality & Absence

Well done to all those parents who have improved on their punctuality. Our late marks have dropped considerably and I hope this pattern continues now. I am also hoping that our overall attendance figures improve following the end of our recent periods of illness across the school. Thank you for your help with this matter.

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! Remember too, we do have a policy which imposes fines for holidays taken in term time.

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 in Y1, Y2, Y4 and Y6 ensure that they avoid any holidays around these dates.**

For 2019/20 statutory assessment times are as follows:

Y6 KS2 Sats wk beg 11th May 2020

Y2 Sats (4 week period covering whole of May) formal tests wk beg 18th May 2020

Y4 Multiplication Checks – online tests completed over 3 week period starting 8th June 2020

Y1 phonic screening wk beg 8th June 2020

For 2020/21 statutory assessment times are as follows:

Y6 KS2 Sats wk beg 10th May 2021

Y2 Sats (4 week period covering whole of May) formal tests wk beg 21st May 2021

Y4 Multiplication Checks – online tests completed over 3 week period starting 7th June 2021

Y1 phonic screening wk beg 7th June 2021

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 in Y1, Y2, Y4 and Y6 ensure that they avoid any holidays around these dates.

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. 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. Diarrhoea would mean that your child should be kept off school for **AT LEAST** 24 hours and until they have successfully eaten without any ill effects.

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