



Daresbury Primary School

News

Spring 2



Principal's Comment

My apologies for the negative start to this newsletter but I do feel that the time has come for me to say something! Most days my job is incredibly rewarding and I feel privileged to spend my days working with such amazing children and staff, but occasionally things happen which can surprise me and not always in a good way. 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. Staff have also altered their practice to accommodate these communication methods and I know many of them access Seesaw and Tapestry, in particular, well into their evenings, impacting on their own family lives. However, in recent weeks I have become aware of a very small number of parents who have chosen to use these tools to be, quite frankly, rude or aggressive towards staff. This also seems to have happened on a couple of occasions face to face in school and on one occasion this has happened in front of a large group of children. Can I politely remind all parents that school will not tolerate rudeness or aggression towards staff. If parents have a complaint or wish to discuss something with a teacher, or indeed myself, then we would ask that they do so politely and calmly and certainly not in any manner which is aggressive or rude whether that is in written form via an app or a child's Reading Record or face to face. I would also ask that this is done away from pupils as children learn by example and I am sure no parent would want their child learning bad behaviour. Staff are human and sometimes we get things wrong but this will never have been done intentionally or to cause upset and whilst we are more than happy to discuss problems or concerns parents may have we do not deserve any aggression or rudeness and can be upset and hurt when it occurs. We always try to put the children first and I know the vast majority of parents really do appreciate the extra mile that staff at Daresbury go for the children in their care. Thank you.

Swimming Bus

Due to circumstances beyond our control our swimming time has been altered and we now return to school from swimming lessons just as school is finishing on a Tuesday. I have been in discussions both with the baths, the coach company and the Police to see what the best solution to this can be. The Police have now provided us with Police

cones which they have instructed us to put out on the road from lunchtime on Tuesday to provide a safe drop off area for the coach. This means that the first 2 spaces after the bus stop and the first space after the gate will be needed for the coach to pull in on its return from the Baths. Please ensure that these spaces are kept clear for a Tuesday afternoon. 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.

World Book Day

The whole school recently enjoyed celebrating World Book Day and I know they all thoroughly enjoyed the staff sharing 'We are all Wonders' with them in class and throughout the day. It was great to see the children dressed in their costumes or wearing their quotes. We hope you enjoyed the updates on Twitter and on Seesaw too. Remember you can still post pictures of your child reading in 'interesting places' in the coming days - I think there has been a big uptake on this from Classes 1 and 2 but less in the older classes.

On the day, staff also wore a whole range of kindness quotes and we have been actively spotting children being kind around the school and rewarding them with a little kindness slip. Children also enjoyed hearing 'Guardian Angel' comments from staff in assembly about other staff members as to why they were a wonder - I know some of the comments made staff laugh, smile and even cry! I know I have kept mine 😊

Staffing News

On a happier note I hope you all received my letter earlier in the week regarding Mrs Unsworth's news. We are really looking forward to welcoming another baby into our school family in early September. Congratulations to both Zoe and Andy and their wider families.

We will also be welcoming hopefully two new PGCE students into school from next week until the end of June. These students are almost there on their journey to becoming newly qualified teachers and we hope they will both be great assets to Classes 4 and 5 in the coming weeks. 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 in single year groups or much smaller groups.

Reading Raffle

Well done to Erin Day, for being the lucky winner of the Reading Raffle drawn recently. It is now only 3 weeks until the next winner will be revealed. Keep on encouraging the children to read and comment in their 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 ☺

Reading Vipers

If your child is in Class2 or above, please see the information about Reading Vipers on your child's class pages on our website. These are a great resource to help you with supporting your child in their reading both at home and in school.

SATS 2019

Y2 and Y6 are preparing now for their SATs but we always try to find ways to do this without putting too much pressure on the children. Please help us by ensuring the children stay calm and don't see the tests as something to worry about. Staff are running booster sessions before and after school as well as at lunchtime for children in both year groups too. Please see your child's classteacher if you have missed any information regarding these sessions.

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 at least 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 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!

Halton Primary Arts Network

Parents may have seen the exhibition which our Y6 contributed towards at Runcorn Shopping City a couple of weeks ago. We have since brought our display back to school and recreated a slightly condensed version in our reception area by the main office. It really was and is a beautiful piece of work and the children should be very proud of what they achieved. Huge thanks to Mrs Jones and Mrs Unsworth for all their hard work too!



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!



Swimming Gala Success!

Huge congratulations to the Swimming Team, Willis, Grace, Joel, Evelyn, James, Layla, Jaden and Kaitlin 😊 On Wednesday afternoon they not only represented the school well at the local swimming gala but they went on to win the whole competition. Their faces were a picture and I don't think I have ever seen such a happy bunch of children. Special mention to both James and Joel who both won individual finals too. They now progress on to the School Games County Finals later in the year!



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!

Crucial Crew

Also on Wednesday this week, our Y5 children once again attended Crucial Crew at Halton Stadium where they were able to access lots of activities to help them learn about keeping themselves and others safe. The children had a great time and were excellent ambassadors for the school.

Parking

As in all schools, parking at the starts and ends of the day can be a nightmare. 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. 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.



Open Classrooms

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 😊



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 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.