



## Daresbury Primary School

### News

#### Summer 1



#### Principal's Comment

My apologies for the delay in getting this newsletter out to you this half term – I can't believe how quickly the weeks are flying by! So far this half term, we have been very busy in school and there always seems to have been something going on over and above the normal week's activities. I hope you have been enjoying our tweets and uploads onto Seesaw and Tapestry (Class 1 only) to give you just a flavour of some of these. Please do also check the updated dates list as we may have had to make one or two changes to our previously published dates. We do try to keep to published dates as much as possible but on occasions a change of date is unavoidable!

Staff have endeavoured to keep their class pages on our website as current as possible so I would always advise you to check out this page if you need a resource. The website is a great place for copies of letters, forms and other information too, so make sure it is in your favourites bar!

#### Parent Governor Election

This Friday, 3<sup>rd</sup> May, we will be holding the election count for our Parent Governor election. Thank you to all those families who have already returned their voting envelopes. If you haven't done this yet then you have till 1pm on Friday 3<sup>rd</sup> May to do so. Many thanks.

#### Staffing News

As parents in Y1 upwards will be aware, Miss Simcock is currently on a 12 month secondment opportunity teaching in Dubai for a year. Miss Simcock has decided to remain in Dubai as she has the opportunity of a leadership position and will therefore be resigning from Daresbury Primary School. Miss Simcock has worked at the school since November 2011 and made a significant contribution to developments in EYFS, History and Geography and DT. We are all going to miss her dreadfully but will obviously keep in touch with her. However, I am sure parents would wish to join me in congratulating her on this exciting opportunity in her career. We will be organising a collection for a leaving gift for her so if any parents want to send in any contributions they can do so via the school office. Thank you.



Currently the school is carrying out an appointment process for both a permanent teacher and a 12 month contract teacher (to cover Mrs Unsworth's Maternity leave). Following the half term holiday I will be able to write to parents to confirm the rest of the staffing and class arrangements for 2019/20 as no final decisions can be made until after the teacher resignation deadline of the end of May has passed.

## SATS 2019

Y6 are now only just over a week away from their tests and are coping brilliantly. Once again we will be inviting them in for breakfast each day in school and working hard with them to keep a calm and sensible approach to the assessments.

As in previous years some of our Governors will be also giving up some of their own time to come and monitor our administration of these tests as an additional security measure for the school. School may also be visited by the LA as in previous years to check we are administering these tests correctly.

Y2 are also preparing now for their formal SATs assessments which will take place wk commencing 20<sup>th</sup> May, 2019 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.

### Holidays in term time

As many of you know who have spoken with me personally will realise I am not unsympathetic where parents are concerned regarding Holidays taken in term time, but unfortunately my hands are completely tied by policy. I simply cannot authorise holidays which do not meet the EXCEPTIONAL CIRCUMSTANCE criteria as detailed within the Leave of Absence policy on our website.

Unfortunately this year school has seen a dramatic increase in the number of requests for holidays in term time – some coming from parents of children in Y1, Y2 and Y6 where they are due to have statutory assessments and no holidays can be granted at all. Governors are currently considering whether to introduce fines for holidays taken in term time as we are currently the only school in our Trust which does not fine parents in this way and we are under increasing pressure from the Trust to do so. It is worth pointing out that any such fines do NOT come directly to the school – they would go to the Local Authority who administer the fines system as part of their statutory duties to all schools. If this decision is made I will of course write to parents to confirm this. 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. Regardless of the outcome of a decision regarding fines for holidays in term time, please can parents of children in Y1, Y2, Y4 and Y6 ensure that they avoid any holidays around these dates.**

### For 2018/19 statutory assessment times are as follows:

**Y6 KS2 Sats wk beg 13<sup>th</sup> May 2019**

**Y2 Sats (4 week period covering whole of May) formal tests wk beg 20<sup>th</sup> May 2019**

**Y4 Multiplication Checks – online tests completed over 3 week period starting 10<sup>th</sup> June 2019**

**Y1 phonic screening wk beg 10<sup>th</sup> June 2019**

### For 2019/20 statutory assessment times are as follows:

**Y6 KS2 Sats wk beg 11<sup>th</sup> May 2020**

**Y2 Sats (4 week period covering whole of May) formal tests wk beg 18<sup>th</sup> May 2020**

**Y4 Multiplication Checks – online tests completed over 3 week period starting 8<sup>th</sup> June 2020**

**Y1 phonic screening wk beg 8<sup>th</sup> June 2020**

We have also now got a draft proposal, approved by the Trust, for our Holiday dates for 2020/21. I hope to be able to share these with parents early next half term following our next full governing body meeting on 6<sup>th</sup> June. Here are also therefore the dates for statutory assessment for 2020/21.

**For 2020/21 statutory assessment times are as follows:**

**Y6 KS2 Sats wk beg 10<sup>th</sup> May 2020**

**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 7<sup>th</sup> June 2021**

**Y1 phonic screening wk beg 7<sup>th</sup> June 2021**

**It is vital that children in these year groups do not miss any time in the lead up to these assessments. Regardless of the outcome of a decision regarding fines for holidays in term time, please can parents of children in Y1, Y2, Y4 and Y6 ensure that they avoid any holidays around these dates.**

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.



ICT Club KS2 Tuesday lunchtime

The children enjoy a variety of activities at ICT Club. They have a choice of creating power points, designing a room using SPEX program, completing interactive activities for Maths/English, using software to create animations or movies and enjoying the apps on the I pads.

The children were asked for their opinions about the club. Freddie and Lucius said that they thought the games were awesome and that a game called Comma Castle is the best. Lexie and Nikita “love making power points.” Toby said, “everything in ICT Club is amazing.”

If your KS2 child does not attend why not encourage them to join? Speak to Mrs Hunt. Club takes place on Tuesday lunchtimes at 12 o’ clock in Class 3.

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](http://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.

Comic Relief

Total raised through non uniform and cake sale was £216.76. Fantastic! Thank you very much ☺

### Lego Club & Minecraft Club

These two clubs are currently running on Monday and Tuesday evening after school with the TAs supporting them. They are managed by outside providers but staffed by Daresbury TAs so that the children know the adults well. The children thoroughly enjoy the range of activities they do and we hope to continue these for the rest of the year and into 2019/20 so why not consider sending your child along?



### Art Club KS1 Wednesday lunchtime Club

At the moment Art club is operating for KS1 (with some older KS2 children helping Mrs Moore and Mrs Jones to run the club) over a Wednesday lunchtime. This club has proved so popular this half term that it has had to be split and the Y2s will get their turn following the half term break 😊



### 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!



### Mobile Phones

Can I please remind all parents and carers that our entire site is a mobile free zone, so please do not use your phone whilst inside the school boundaries.

## Dogs

Can I please remind all parents that unfortunately dogs are not allowed on the school site and this applies to all sizes of dogs, even if they are being carried. As a dog owner myself I understand that many of you may want to bring the dog when you are walking to or picking up from school but if this is the case please can you drop your child off or pick them up at the school gate rather than bringing dogs onto the school site. If your child is in KS1, either ring the school office or pop a note in their Reading Record and let us know the name of another parent you would be happy to allow to accompany your child to the gate, but don't forget to tell them you have nominated them too!

Thank you for your cooperation.

## School Budget and School Trips

As you are no doubt more than aware from the news, school budgets are under tremendous pressure and also this school faces additional challenges as we do not receive the funding for deprivation or indeed Pupil Premium children at the level which a lot of other schools in the area and across the country do. Unfortunately there is nothing which can be done about this. Our budget is mainly based upon the number of pupils we have in the school but, again nationally, this is always based on the numbers from the previous year. As a growing school we therefore have to manage a budget which is based on less children than we currently have on roll. This can impact upon staffing and resources. The Trust supports us currently whilst we have a significant overspend until our numbers reach a point where we are a viable size but they too are bound by restrictions and our budget remains incredibly tight. Having been a head for 9 years now and in senior leadership in local schools for over 20 years I can honestly say that the situation has never been as bad.

One aspect of our provision which we are having to really consider carefully is any trips, visitors and day visits we organise. This is because we simply do not have the money to fund any aspect of these. If parents do not pay the voluntary contributions we ask for then the trip/visit/visitor will have to be cancelled. I know teachers in particular are working really hard researching cost effective trips but every time it seems to be the transport costs which hit us hard, regardless of which particular company we use. So far I think parents have been great at participating on surveys by teachers either done by letter, through Seesaw or Tapestry and giving us feedback about the teacher's plans etc. We hope that you understand this is not something we want to do and we all just wish the situation was different and school was able to subsidise these events as in previous times. We all know the value of a trip and I am sure some of you can remember some of the visits you went on as a child. My sincere apologies for this situation but it is entirely out of my control!

## 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!

## 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.



### Suncream

In case we have another hot spell I just wanted to remind parents about suncream etc. Suncream should be applied before school and not sent in with your child. As all day one application suncream is readily available this should not cause too much of an issue and avoids a lot of fuss and mess in school. Remember to also ensure your child has a named hat and a named water bottle in school. Thank you.

### 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.