



Headteacher – Mr P M Burgess Deputy Headteacher – Mr M Parkinson

Tuesday 26th January 2016.

Hello and welcome to the third school newsletter of the year.

PUPIL ADMISSIONS – NURSERY AND RECEPTION ENROLMENT - Please be aware that the application window for admissions to Nursery and Reception for the 2016-17 academic year starting in September, is now open. In previous years there have been some parents who have missed the opportunity and their children have had to go to other schools, even though they wanted them to come to our fabulous school. Please don't miss out!

FREE SCHOOL MEALS – If you think you may be entitled to free school meals (even if your child is under 7) then please apply online via Derbyshire County Council or by telephoning 01629 536481, not only will your child be entitled to a hot meal each day, but school receives extra funding which can be used to further enhance the learning experiences at Dunston.

WEBSITE - I hope you have had the opportunity to visit www.dunston.derbyshire.sch.uk for a look at the completely new school website. You will see lots of new things on there, and it is much easier to navigate. Any feedback on how it could be developed further would be greatly appreciated.

FACEBOOK & TWITTER - As explained in the last newsletter, school is now in the digital world as we have developed Facebook and Twitter pages. In addition to the text service, letters and website, this will be a great way to communicate with you in the future.

If you are on Twitter, please follow us at the following handle; @dunston_school

If you are on Facebook, please search for us at; Dunston Primary Nursery.

At the time of writing we have 29 followers on Twitter and 108 friends on Facebook (with some pending but I haven't had the opportunity to get to them yet), which shows an increase since last time.

As you know, both the Twitter and Facebook accounts will only be used to share information from school to you. They will not be used as a medium for people to communicate with school from their own accounts. If you have any ideas about what we could add to these to help communication would be greatly appreciated.

DOGS AND DOG FOULING OUTSIDE – There have been several reports of dog mess near the school gates this week. If you wait outside the gates with a dog, please ensure you pick up after your dog if it fouls. Not only is there a legal duty to pick up after your dog, under the Anti-social Behaviour, Crime and Policing Act 2014, but it poses a real danger to the health of all children. If anyone witnesses dog fouling that is not cleaned up, please contact me in confidence and I will have no hesitation in reporting these people. It may be that this is happening early morning or in the evening, in which case we would encourage parents to report persistent mess to the council to be cleaned.

PE KIT - PE kit is better than last year with an increasing number of pupils wearing the correct kit to support them within their sessions. Please remember that it is extremely important that pupils have their PE kit in school at all times. Pupils in Lower School (Classes 2, 3, 4, 5) should have their PE kit in a small bag which can be hung on their peg. This should be brought in at the start of term and taken home at the end of term to be washed ready for the next term. Pupils in Upper School (Class 6, 7, 8, 9) should do exactly the same but leave their kit in their lockers. As a reminder, PE kit consists of plain white T-shirt (or one with the school logo on), plain black shorts and plain black pumps (however trainers are fine if PE is outside). Please do not send your child with other clothing unless instructed by the class teacher.

The Y5 pupils who have been swimming, have done very well with their kit, goggles, swim-caps and plastic bags (to put their reading books and planners in!) Keep it up.

As PE kit is such an important part of equipment, just like a pencil for writing, it is imperative that this is always in school. Where a child does not have their kit, they will unfortunately have to miss a small part of their lunchtime as a reminder of our high expectations and to make sure they are getting the most from each and every PE session. (Previously this has taken place at playtime, so is not something new.) A way to ensure it is always here is to bring it in on the first day of term and leave it until the end of that term, then taking it home to wash and returning on the first day back. I hope this helps!

READING – As you are aware, it has always been an expectation within school that children read at least 4 times a week, this then needs to be noted in their reading record/diary, please take the time to do this to ensure that class teacher is aware when a child has read to a grown up at home. Again, if a child has not read the expected amount, they will be buddy read for part of a lunchtime to ensure that they are having the opportunity to read to someone and that this is recorded in their diary.

CLARIFICATION OF ARRANGMENTS FOR COLLECTION OF PUPILS FROM EYFS - Parents must be at school on time and waiting outside the door ready to collect their child at 3:05pm. Please always collect EYFS children first.

Collecting adults must be known to school staff and ideally introduced to staff prior to coming to collect.

Please do not engage in conversation with the teachers at arrival and dismissal when other children are present. Teachers are not able to chat in the morning, but if you need to chat at the end of the day, wait till all the children have been dismissed. Messages can be given to the office in the morning before school starts for the teacher, as they are read on RM Integris (schools registration system) on the teachers iPad at registration time.

Pupils are not to come back into the building after they are dismissed. They need to come back through the main door with a parent and walk back up to the classroom if they have forgotten something.

Please be patient, stand well back and listen to the instructions given by the teacher on the door as to which class is coming in or out first, there are a large number of pupils to dismiss and their safety and security is our main priority.

RETURNING LETTERS / FORMS - There has been a real improvement in the returning of forms so thanks for your help with this. Just as a reminder, it is **extremely important** that these are completed as quickly as possible and returned to school in order for them to be processed.

We don't send anything home unless we really need to. If you have a change of details, including phone numbers, please let school know as soon as possible.

BREAKFAST CLUB / LEPRECHAUNS

School continues to provide Breakfast Club every morning. Due to popular demand, it now has longer opening hours. Everyone is welcome and there are 2 options for attendance;

Option 1 – Arrive 7.30am and have breakfast £3.00 per day

Option 2 – Arrive from 8.15am and have no breakfast £2.00 per day

At the end of Breakfast Club, Miss Walker and Miss King will take pupils to their class ready for the start of the day.

Please note, if dropping your child off for Breakfast Club **before 8.00am**, you are welcome to use the staff car park. If dropping off after this time, then the staff car park will not be useable as it is full of staff vehicles and there is not enough room.

At the end of the school day, the local childcare provider 'Leprechauns' use part of the school building for out of school time care to children. There are a good number of pupils from school who attend this, in addition to pupils from other schools. If you are a parent who is looking for some after school childcare

please visit www.littleleprechauns.co.uk or call 01246 208746. Leprechauns are Ofsted registered and aim to provide enjoyable, stimulating and creative play in a safe, caring environment.

STAFFING UPDATE - Unfortunately, as you are aware Miss Molyneux is still absent, further correspondence will be sent to Class 4 parents' in the coming days.

We would like to offer a warm welcome to Mr S Bennett, who is our new site manager and has settled in brilliantly. He is working closely with me to put into place a plan for ongoing school site development.

MID-DAY SUPERVISORS – We are looking to recruit Relief Mid-day supervisors, if anyone is interested in finding out more, please leave your name with the office and further information will be given.

GOVERNING BODY - School is looking to appoint a co-opted Governor who has knowledge of Health and Safety procedures and legislation. The role of a Governor is to work as part of the Governing Body as part of a team and be a critical friend to the school. For more information, please ask at the office.

SCHOOL UNIFORM - Pupils are continuing to look smart in their uniforms but it seems that some pupils are no longer wearing the appropriate school footwear. I have noticed that there seems to be a developing trend for some boys in particular to wear brightly coloured trainers, with some girls wearing boots, and at times heels. School uniform is plain black, flat-soled shoes. I am so proud of how good most of the pupils look and this must continue for all.

PLEASE REMEMBER TO PUT NAMES IN ALL ITEMS OF SCHOOL UNIFORM SO IF THEY ARE LOST WE CAN FIND THEIR ORIGINAL OWNER!

CAR PARK – Please be reminded that the school car park is for staff and visitor use only. It simply isn't big enough to allow parent parking, it is also not safe for pupils to be accessing. The only exception to this, is for the disabled pupils who attend our school (not parents/grandparents who are blue badge holders) or for those accessing Breakfast Club before 8:00am.

PUPIL SAFETY BEFORE AND AFTER SCHOOL – I previously wrote about the need to ensure that you children are safe both before and after school before they are under the protection of the school. Worryingly last week, I witnessed pupils again playing in the tree area outside the EYFS and even some going on to the car park. Both areas pose real risks if not under the supervision of parents/carers who are responsible for their well-being in this time. I have instructed staff to tell any pupils who is where they shouldn't be during these times to return to their parent/carer and then inform me so I can follow it up. Unfortunately, this is only a small number of pupils but needs to stop now please.

SAFEGUARDING REMINDER - School is always mindful of our responsibilities to ensure the safeguarding and welfare of you children and continually speak with them on how to keep themselves safe in a variety of situations. A regular reminder is what to do if their parent isn't here at the end of the day.

Please remind them that if the person that usually collects them at the end of the day is not here, then they should stay with their teacher so we can continue to ensure their safety whilst we find the person collecting.

Thanks for your continued support.

Regards

Mr P M Burgess
Headteacher

Dunston Primary & Nursery School

Dunston Lane, Newbold, Chesterfield, S41 8EY, Telephone: 01246 450601 Fax: 01246 450611

Email: info@dunston.derbyshire.sch.uk www.dunston.derbyshire.sch.uk