



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

Friday June 17th 2016

Hello and welcome to the school newsletter of the Summer Term.

OFSTED REPORT – On the last day of school before the weeks break, you should have received a copy of the Ofsted report from our visit in mid-May. I hope you are as proud of this as staff are, and as I stated in my covering letter, this is where the Journey to Outstanding really moves forward from.

PUPIL ADMISSIONS – NURSERY AND RECEPTION ENROLMENT – If for whatever reason, you have not registered your child for a place in the Early Years Foundation Stage (Nursery and Reception) classes for 2016-17, please see Mrs Dent or one of the administration team who will be happy to help with this. The recent Ofsted outcome, will enhance the name and reputation of the school and this will result in more people wanting to send their children to us. Please don't miss out!

PAYMENTS TO SCHOOL – To ensure that all monies made payable to school are kept secure, please place into the red post box at the main entrance, clearly labelled with your child's name, the date and what the money is for. Please do not send any cash or cheques with pupil to their teachers. The postbox is checked and emptied twice daily by 2 members of staff to ensure we have secure financial management within school. If money is not sent in using this method it is not possible to monitor and should it be lost, any debt will remain with you and will require payment. Thank you for your co-operation in this matter.

DIARY DATES –

Date	Class/Year	Event
22 nd June	40 x KS2 pupils	Quadkids – parents informed
22 nd /23 rd /24 th June	Year 6	Transition at St Mary's
27 th /28 th /29 th June	Year 6	Residential at Whitehall
30 th June/1 st July	Year 2	Lea Green Residential
30 th June	EYFS Sports Day	Nursery AM and Class 2a @ 10.30am Nursery PM and Class 2b @ 2.00pm
4 th July	Year 1 – 6	Sports Day @ 1.30pm
6 th /7 th /8 th July	Whole school	Transition into new classes / Outwood Transition
6 th and 7 th July	Year 6	Transition at Brookfield
12 th July	Year 6	End of year treat to Centertainment
13 th July	Class 2	Visit to Holmebrook Valley Park
14 th July	Year 3 - 6	Visit to Homebrook Valley Park
15 th July	Whole School	Summer Fair @ 2.30pm
18 th July and 21 st July	Whole School	Parent's Evening 3.30 – 5.30pm and 4.00 – 6.00pm
22 nd July	Nursery	End of Term Party
22 nd July	Year 6 Parents/carers	End of Year Assembly @ 2.00pm

CLASSES FOR 2016-17 – In July we will be holding 3 transition days within school. This happens on a yearly basis and allows pupils to spend time with their new teachers and new classmates ready for September. This year, as in previous years, pupils will come into school on day 1 of transition as normal. At an assembly that morning they will be told who their new teacher is and will go with them and their new classmates to their new classroom. On days 2 and 3, pupils will have been shown where to line up as part of their new classes.

As pupils find out their new classes, you will be sent a text indicating which class your child will be part of.

Due to the size of some cohorts and the number of classrooms we have available, there will be some mixed year groups next year. This is unavoidable and is common practice in schools across the county. Teachers have linked together to decide where pupils will be placed next year and there can be no movement in the class organisation for 2016-17. If you have any questions or require further information, please do not hesitate in coming to speak to me.

FODSA – A big thanks to all the FODSA team who continue to work hard, and thanks for the support you give them. The recent Bingo event was a huge success. Watch out for events coming up this term and from September. FODSA are a small, dedicated team of parents and always need support, if you would like to become a member of FODSA, please contact the school admin office or Mrs Cuttriss (Chairperson) via their Facebook page (which is available through the school page).

As we are in the summer term, FODSA and some Y6 pupils will be outside at the end of most days selling ice-cream and lollies to cool you and your children down. These will be available for a very small cost. More info to follow.

EYFS REQUEST – The pupils in EYFS wondered if anyone has any old teacups they no longer need. Each day pupils are able to self-serve their snack, including milk and due to the popularity of our EYFS we need more teacups to allow them to do this. We do not need the saucers or any mugs, just the small teacups as they are the perfect size and shape for small hands.

USE OF SCHOOL FOR COMMUNITY GROUPS – You may or may not be aware that local groups are able to use the school building at evenings and weekends. Currently, the school is used outside of hours by Little Leprechauns each day after school and also in the holidays. In addition to this, Somersall Rangers Football Club use the school pitch to play their home games during the season. If you are part of a local group eg: Zumba, slimming club, language classes and need a meeting space, please contact Mrs Dent in the admin office.

SCHOOL UNIFORM – Now we are into the Summer Term and the weather is much warmer (although as I write this it is cold and raining!) it is a time where girls wear summer dresses and both boys and girls wear shorts. Both are absolutely appropriate for school as they help to keep pupils cool.

However, when wearing shorts, please ensure they are tailored shorts and not sports style PE shorts. Please do not go and spend extra money on shorts that may only be worn for a few weeks, an idea that I know some parents use is to cut down trousers (maybe they have holes in knees or are too short) and sew the hems to create shorts that are still smart.

All other uniform, i.e. jumpers, cardigans and footwear remains the same. Pupils should not wear open toe sandals or flip flops as they are not appropriate for school and present a trip hazard. Also, black jeans are not part of school uniform and should not be worn for school at any time.

PE kit remains the same. However, please note that for sports day, your child will need a t-shirt in the colour for their in school colour team. Your child will know which team they are in.

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 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. Disappointingly, the amount of pupils having to undertake reading activities at lunchtime seems to be increasing. Not only is this putting additional pressure on staff who are already working hard, but ultimately, not reading at home will have a detrimental effect on your own child, as they will not be developing the skill associated with reading including fluency and understanding of text and in addition to this, the time spent with you as parents on an activity that can create lifetime memories for all.

STAFFING UPDATE – Ahead of the new academic year, school has acted swiftly to appoint 2 new teachers to the school team. Miss C Cullen and Miss J Coleman will be joining the Upper School, Key Stage 2 team, with the latter also undertaking the role of school Literacy Leader.

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.

SCHOOL UNIFORM - Pupils are continuing to look smart in their uniforms but as we are now in the final term, with the weather, hopefully being better, could I please remind you of the importance of appropriate uniform. As always, the usual uniform is still appropriate but on those hotter days, boys and girls are welcome to wear shorts. These must be tailored shorts and not sports style shorts. Rather than buy them, the cutting off of trousers is always a good option as these can cut to the necessary length and sewn. For girls, summer dresses are really smart and are much cooler than usual skirts and dresses. In addition to this, it is not appropriate for anyone to wear flip-flop style shoes or open toe sandals. Please ensure all footwear offers good stability and protection to your children's feet.

PLEASE REMEMBER TO PUT NAMES IN ALL ITEMS OF SCHOOL UNIFORM SO IF THEY ARE LOST WE CAN FIND THEIR ORIGINAL OWNER! Children invariably go home with the wrong t-shirts etc, if your child brings home something that does not belong to them, please return to school as soon as possible.

All lost property will be put out at the end of term and anything not claimed will be disposed of.

BREAKFAST CLUB – As you are aware, to ensure the smooth operation of Breakfast Club, there is now a booking system in place. On the whole, procedures are being followed, however there are a number of parents regularly sending their children without having filled in a booking form. Not only does this create administration problems, but, as the breakfast club continues to become more popular, there is a risk of there not being place available. Please ensure a booking form is completed in advance (at least 1 week, but ideally the term before) to secure a place. Obviously we understand that things change and work patterns can be unpredictable, so please ensure you inform the office of any changes as soon as you can.

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 your children are safe both before and after school before they are under the protection of the school. Worryingly, and after previous reminders, I still witness children 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 are found where they shouldn't be during these times, to return to their parent/carer and then inform me so I can follow it up. Although this is only a small number of pupils, it does need to stop. Any injuries incurred will not be at the liability of the school, as before pupils are brought in and following their dismissal, they are under your guardianship and responsibility.

SAFEGUARDING REMINDER - School is always mindful of our responsibilities to ensure the safeguarding and welfare of your 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. If you are running late, please try to contact us (the answer machine is on at all times), as children, particularly the younger ones, tend to worry if their grown up is not there.

If home time arrangements are to be different for any reason, please let class teacher know in the morning or inform the office as soon as you can, preferably before 1.00pm as this allows a note to be put on the register. There are an increasing number of calls coming into school as late as 3.00pm to inform staff of changes to arrangements, as you can appreciate the office is a very busy place at the beginning and end of each day, making it very difficult to pass the message on in time. I understand that there may be the occasional emergency, but as a rule, please try to ring as early as possible.

Y2 & Y3 RUNNERS – Recently the Y2 and Y3 pupils took part in a running event organised by the Chesterfield School Partnership. Well those to all who took part, we are really proud of you.

RAISED BEDS – The Green Ambassadors have been working alongside FODSA to develop a green area where each class will be able to grow plants, fruits and vegetables. This is valuable as they develop their understanding about foods and growing but also their Enterprise skills as they will be able to sell these at events, such as the Summer Fair, to raise money for their own classes. A big thanks to all the work of FODSA in supporting the purchase of these things, but also to B&Q Chesterfield for the donation of equipment. Currently we have a healthy crop of potatoes growing, which could be ready for the Summer Fair. Well done and thanks to all involved.

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 along with the calendar which is updated on a regular basis. Please remember that calendar entries may be subject to change, so please check regularly. 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.

Thanks for your continued support.

Regards

Mr P M Burgess
Headteacher

Dunston Primary & Nursery School

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