



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

Monday 2nd November 2015.

Hello and welcome to the second school newsletter of the year as we look back at Term 1 and into Term 2.

Pupils are now well established with their new teachers and the feedback from parents evening is very positive. There are always teething issues at the beginning of every school year and due to the changes of curriculum, assessment, staff and the opening of the EYFS Unit, this has been something that we worked through during Term 1. Pleasingly pupils are settled and focused on achieving their very best.

I have noticed that at the start and end of the school day, there a number of pupils playing around the front of the EYFS area in the trees and bushes. Pupils have been told that they are not allowed to play in this area as nobody can see them to make sure they are safe. I have had occasions where I have had to stop tree climbing in addition to other things they should not be doing. When pupils are passed back to you at the end of the day, it is your responsibility to ensure their safety. (Sorry if this seems a bit of a moan but it is something we are worried about!)

ASSESSMENT UPDATE

Early in Term 1 we held a parents' event in order to share with you the position school has taken regarding life without levels and pupil assessment. This was well attended with questions being posed to Mr Parkinson and Miss Roe regarding the schools work surrounding this issue. School is using the Sheffield STAT system alongside our EAZMAG tracking software to support teachers and pupils, ensuring that progress is continual and accurate. Should you have any questions concerning this, please do not hesitate to speak to Mr Parkison.

The EYFS team have completed the Baseline assessments for Reception age pupils, and these have been submitted to Early Excellence, who will be collating the information from schools across the country to give us a clear indication of how our pupils compare to others nationally. This is something we will be receiving information back on during Term 2. Should you have any questions, please do not hesitate to speak to Mrs Collis who is the Lower School leader.

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 23 followers on Twitter and 94 friends on Facebook.

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. More information about these accounts will follow soon.

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.

RETURNING LETTERS / FORMS

When letters or forms are sent home from school, it is **extremely important** that these are completed as quickly as possible and returned to school in order for them to be processed. Unfortunately, there are a number of forms that have been sent home during the term which people have not returned to school, which means that in the event of emergency we may not be able to contact you or your child may miss out on an activity. Unfortunately, we cannot continue to chase parents for forms, particularly for educational visits, so in future, as stated earlier in the year, if you do not return the form before the closing date, then your child will be unable to take part.

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. We will aim to have copies of letters on the school website in case of loss.

FRIENDS OF DUNSTON SCHOOL ASSOCIATION (FODSA)

After the plea that went out to you all, it was wonderful to see such a strong number of parents and grandparents attend the specially arranged meeting. As a result, the Halloween disco went ahead and was an astounding success. The members are meeting on Wednesday 4th November at 9am, to organise activities and events for the rest of the academic year. It would be great to see anyone new there to support this wonderful group. A big thanks to the FODSA volunteers, I am really looking forward to an exciting year of fun filled fundraising events.

AFTER SCHOOL / LUNCHTIME CLUBS

There are now a variety of school clubs running but after the break there will be various further options to engage and inspire pupils. The timetable looks like this;

Activity	Day / Time / Where	Year groups	Teacher
Young Voices – singing	TBC (More info to follow)	TBC	Mrs Benger Mrs Collis
Athletics	Monday Lunchtime 1230-1pm Field	Y3, 4, 5, 6	Mr Parkinson
Boccia	Tuesday, Morning Break Hall	Y1, 2	Miss Roe
Coding	Tuesday Lunchtime 1230-1pm Computer Lab	Y3, 4, 5, 6	Mr Hobson
Talk Time	Tuesday & Wednesday After school 315-345 Class 3	Y1, 2	Mrs Peck
Cookery Skills	Wednesday After school 315-415 Class 10	Y1-6 across the year	Mrs Stokoe Mrs Wilson
Football	Wednesday After school 315-430 Field	Y4, 5, 6 School will be entering a mini league in the Summer which is only available to these years.	Mr Hall
Chess	Thursday Lunchtime 1230-110 Class 10	Y4, 5, 6 (This will be extended when these pupils know the rules fully and can help others).	Mr Burgess
Playground games	KS2 every day. KS1 Monday and Friday. Lunchtime 1230-1. Playgrounds	YR, 1, 2 – Lower School Playground Y3, 4, 5, 6 – Upper School Playground	Y6 Play Leaders Lead by Mrs Burgess (MDS)
Handbells	Friday Lunchtime 1230-1 Class 6	Y3 (If successful, this will be extended down to Y2).	Miss Scott
Home Learning	Every day Lunchtime 1230-1 Class 10	Y1, 2, 3, 4, 5, 6	Miss Whitbread, Mrs Garfitt

In the new year Mr Parkinson and I are looking forward to beginning a multi-skills club for Y1, 2 and 3 pupils and other staff have expressed an interest in a variety of other activities to engage the pupils

HARVEST DONATIONS

This year we have decided to send the donations from the Harvest celebrations across to the refugee camp in Calais. Mrs Benger is visiting the camps during the half-term break and upon her return will be sharing her experiences with the pupils through photographs, videos and first-hand accounts of exactly what the conditions are like there.

As a school we feel it is important that pupils understand where we are in the world and what Britain does to support those who are less fortunate in their lives than we are.

School supports a number of charities that affect our pupils directly, but this one will see how their efforts are helping people from another county.

If your child has any ideas about clubs that they would like to see running in school, please ask them to speak to their class school council representative.

UPCOMING EVENTS

DATE	EVENT	TIME
18.9.15	Y5 swimming begins – every Friday Afternoon	Normal school times
2.11.15	First Day of Term 2	Normal school times
3.11.15	Individual School Photographs – more info to follow closer to the time.	Normal school times
13.11.15	Children in Need – Fancy Dress – more info to follow closer to the time.	Normal school times
11.12.15	FODSA Christmas Fair	230pm
15.12.15	Lower School Christmas Concert.	10am and 2pm
15.12.15	Upper School Carol Concert at Littlemoor Shops.	4pm
16.12.15	FODSA Secret Santa Room	Normal school times
16.12.15	FODSA Christmas Disco	TBC
17.12.15	Whole School Panto Visit to Pomegranate	Normal school times
17.12.15	Upper School Christmas Carol Concert	Normal school times
18.12.15	Christingle Service – St Johns Church Parents welcome.	130pm

For updates and times of events, please check out the online school calendar via the website.

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 730am and have breakfast £3.00 per day

Option 2 – Arrive from 815am 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 815am, 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 01246208746. Leprechauns are Ofsted registered and aim to provide enjoyable, stimulating and creative play in a safe, caring environment.

SCHOOL PHOTOGRAPHS

As you will no doubt be aware, the class and group photographs that were taken early in Term 1 have been sent out and they look absolutely brilliant. I have had really positive feedback from some parents and would welcome any future feedback when the individual photographs are taken tomorrow.

STAFFING UPDATE

As you may be aware, Mr Winson has now left school. Miss Kappes will teach Class 8 (Mon-Thur) with Mr Parkinson and I teaching them on a Friday. Replacing Miss Kappes on a Friday for Class 2 will be Mrs Hall. I will confirm who is replacing Miss Kappes on a Wednesday (Class 4) and a Thursday (Class3) as soon as possible.

IN SCHOOL HELPERS

School is always happy to accept help from parents if they have spare time available to them. This could be to listen to children read, help on educational visits (if needed) and other activities / jobs that could benefit pupils. There were quite a few who volunteered to do this last year and as we move in to Term 2, with routines now established, it is something we would be grateful of again.

If you feel you could offer some time to help, please speak with myself so I can share more information with you on what this entails.

GOVERNING BODY

For your information, the Governing Body recently elected a new Chair of Governors. The name of the new Chair is Mrs Tina Shewring. The Governing Body and I feel it is really important that you are aware of who Governors are as they are part of the school. This information can be found on the school website.

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!

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 they 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 come back into school so we can continue to ensure their safety whilst we find the person collecting.

I hope you all have a great break.

Regards

Mr P M Burgess

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