



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

Friday September 23rd 2016.

Hello and welcome to the first school newsletter of the new academic year. It is great to see the pupils looking smart in their uniforms and so eager to be part of their new classes. I am looking forward to what will be another positive year where school, families and pupils work together to make sure each individual receives the best possible start in life.

SCHOOL EXPECTATIONS -

READING – It has always been an expectation within school that children read at home at least 4 times a week, this then needs to be noted in their new reading record/diaries. Please take the time to complete this to ensure that class teacher is aware when a child has read to a grown up at home. 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. The development of reading skills is imperative to ensure pupils develop various skills including: fluency, understanding of text, understanding of the wider curriculum and world and in addition to this, the time spent with you as parents on an activity that can create memories for all.

HOME LEARNING – Each week pupils across the school will receive activities to complete as part of their home learning. The expectations are as follows

Lower School (Class 1 and 2) –Phonics sounds / high frequency words to learn and completion of reading expectation.

Lower School (Classes 3, 4, 5) – Each week pupils will receive for completion at home – Spellings (these will be in diaries), X-tables (for Y2 pupils), (these will be in diaries). There will also be a simple piece of Literacy / Maths based learning to consolidate in school learning (and provide an opportunity for them to share their understanding with you and completion of reading expectation.

Upper School (Classes 6, 7, 8, 9, 10) – Each week pupils will receive, for completion at home – Spellings to learn (these will be in diaries), x-tables (the x-table to learn will be marked in the diary), 1 activity from the homework menu and completion of reading expectation.

SCHOOL UNIFORM – As a school we pride ourselves on providing pupils with a high quality, smart, learning environment, high quality, smart staff and high quality, smart resources to make the experience of learning enjoyable and engaging. With this in mind, it is important that pupils are always smartly dressed for school. I am so pleased that the overwhelming majority of pupils are smartly dressed in their school uniform each and every day. Uniform is hard wearing, durable and made to support pupils within their learning for these reasons. A uniform can provide each pupil with a sense of belonging, in this case a belonging to a school that always aims to take care of their educational and emotional needs. Please ensure that your child always arrives for school in their uniform, with appropriate footwear (plain black shoes / trainers with no coloured branded markings on them). The pupils have a real pride in their school and its uniform, as they helped to decide the new logo when it was introduced in 2014.

Uniform can be ordered online through School Trends, if this is not an option, order forms are available from the office and there a many outlets that sell durable, hardwearing and smart footwear.

For information, please try to avoid pupils coming to school with stick-on tattoos on their arms. I appreciate they are fun for children but they are not appropriate for school.

PE KIT - Please remember that it is extremely important that pupils have their PE kit in school at all times. Pupils in all classes should have their PE kit in a small bag which they can keep 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 will be swimming will need the following kit; swimming trunks for boys (not board shorts or swim shorts), 1 piece swimming costume for girls, towel, goggles (if required), swim-caps and plastic bags (to put their reading books and planners in!). They may also bring a comb and deodorant if required.

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!

Also, when undertaking PE, pupils are not allowed to wear jewelry. If your child wears earrings, please ensure that they are able to take them out and put them in by themselves or do not send your child to school wearing jewelry on PE days. Please also note that if wearing earrings, these should be studs only. This is for the safety of your own child.

PLEASE REMEMBER TO PUT A NAME INTO ALL CLOTHING AND EQUIPMENT SENT IN TO SCHOOL!

PAYMENTS TO SCHOOL – To ensure that all monies made payable to school are kept secure, please ensure that they are placed into the red post box at the main entrance. Please do not send any cash or cheques with pupils 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. All money is counted and checked and balanced against any outstanding invoice i.e. trip money, lunch money. If money is not sent in using this method and becomes lost, any debt will remain with you and will require payment. This is in place to protect you and the money you work hard to earn every day to support and provide for your children. Thank you for your understanding in this matter.

FODSA – A big thanks to all the FODSA team who continue to work hard to support school. I know they have a number of events planned throughout the year, so please support them.

If you would like to become a member of FODSA, please contact the school admin office or contact Mrs Cuttriss (Chairperson) via their Facebook page (which is available through the school page).

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 school 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. Over the summer break, a Boccia court was marked out in the hall and it is hoped this will be able to be used by community groups. If you are part of a local group i.e. Zumba, slimming club, language classes, badminton/volleyball clubs, need a meeting space, please contact Mrs Dent in the admin office.

BREAKFAST CLUB – Schools Breakfast Club continues to be popular and is open from 7:30am every morning. If you need to make use of this service, please contact the office for more information. Please remember that a booking system is in place and that forms are available from the school office as well as from breakfast club.

STAFFING UPDATE – You will by now have met your child's new teacher and will be building a positive relationship with them. For your information here is an update on staffing at Dunston;

Miss Roe will be leaving us at half-term to undertake her maternity leave. In her absence Miss Hanson will be undertaking the SENco role and we are in the process of appointing someone to cover the ERS Lead Teacher role.

At the end of November Mrs Peck will be leaving us to undertake her maternity leave. Until that point Mrs Peck is working with Y6 in a morning and leading additional interventions in the afternoon and will therefore not require covering during her absence.

Mr Bennett, the Site Manager leaves us at the end of September to undertake college studies as he looks for a change of career. Mr Bennett will be difficult to replace but we wish him well on his new journey.

In the coming days, school will be advertising for a permanent midday supervisor, due to Mrs Longden undertaking a new post in adult care. We wish Mrs Longden well. If interested, please keep your eyes open on the DCC website.

School is always looking for new additions to the team and we are currently looking to appoint relief midday supervisors. This role is working directly with the pupils at lunchtimes. As it is a relief position, you would not be required to work every day, just when needed. If you are interested, please contact the office.

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 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. Fortunately, this is only a small number of pupils but needs 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 require someone different to collect your child or they are going home alone then school need to know this beforehand to ensure safety, please let us know before lunch if possible as this allows messages to be passed on to teachers via the registers.

SCHOOL LUNCHES – If your child has a school meal and you wish them to change to sandwiches (or sandwiches to lunches), please remember that the Catering staff requires at least 2 weeks-notice (in writing) as this affects their ordering.

DINNER MONEY – As stated in the school dinner money policy, all dinner money **MUST** be paid in advance at the beginning of the week or month if this is easier.

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.

EXTRA-CURRICULAR ACTIVITIES – Over the next few weeks a number of extra-curricular activities (clubs) will be available for the pupils to take part in. There will be a variety of lunchtime and after school activities that will be wide ranging to suit the interests of everyone. More information will follow on this. With this in mind, if anyone has any old/spare knitting needles, could you please let school have them because one proposed club needs them.

YOUNG VOICES - We are very excited that this year we will be taking part in the Young Voices concert at the Sheffield Arena. This is a brilliant event which brings together school choir groups from across the region. As a school, we will be taking a group of KS2 children who will be rehearsing the songs (and dance moves!) throughout the first two school terms, ready for the concert in January. Mrs Benger, Mrs Collis and Mrs Sheldon are looking forward to working with the children who will be in the school's choir group. You can find out more information on the YV website: www.youngvoices.co.uk

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.

LOWER SCHOOL READING MORNING – This will take place every Thursday morning between 8:50am and 9:00am. This will start on 22.9.16. Please come along, it would be great to see you.

Y6 CYCLING TO SCHOOL– At the end of last year, the now Y6 pupils undertook Bikeability training. This means that those who completed and successfully achieved the required safety standard are now able to come to school on their bikes. We have special storage for the bikes so they are safe during the school day. If coming on a bike, pupils must wear a helmet, as they did when completing Bikeability. Also, when they are on school premises, they need to dismount and push their bikes to ensure the safety of everyone on school site. It has been great to see a number of pupils already coming on their bike so far this year, long may that continue.

PARENT INFORMATION SESSIONS – In the coming weeks, we will be arranging a number of parent information events at school in order to share with you the things we do in school. These will vary in their content, ranging from assessment, to phonics and maths etc. This will also include some learning time with pupils where possible. More information will follow, however, if you feel there is something that you feel you may need ideas with on how to support your child, please speak to their class teacher.

OUTSTANDING FORMS – If you still have any forms that need returning to school, including emergency contact numbers, please let school have them as soon as possible. Also, whenever you change any information (particularly phone numbers) please ensure that school has up to date information straight away so we can contact you in the event of emergency. Please also take note of deadlines for letters and forms and ensure they are returned to school on time.

DIARY DATES

Friday 7 th October	FODSA Bingo Night (tbc)
Thursday 20 th October	FODSA Halloween Disco
Friday 21 st October	Harvest Celebration Assembly, 2pm in school
Monday 31 st October	Parent Consultation Evening
Wednesday 2 nd November	Individual and family photographs.
	Parent Consultation Evening
Friday 18 th November	Children in Need Day
Thursday 8 th December	FODSA Christmas Disco
Wednesday 14 th December	Pantomime
Friday 16 th December	Christingle at St John's Church, 9.30am

Thanks for your continued support. Here's to a great 2016-2017!

Regards

Mr P M Burgess
Headteacher

