



Denton West End School

Newsletter

September 2020

Welcome Back



Welcome to the start of a new academic year at Denton West End Primary School. We are pleased that all the children are back and there is some normality back to our lives.

We would like to welcome all of our new nursery and reception children and Robyn, Jackson and Emily Rose in year four.

I am sure all of our children will soon feel settled and make new friends.

This newsletter will contain some reminders for the new school year. As always, with COVID 19 we do not know what may or may not change and how long our current arrangements will be in place but we will update you as time moves along.

Miss Maloney

We said goodbye to Miss Maloney at the end of the year. She has taken an exciting step to go and teach in Dubai. We wish her the very best with her new adventure.

End of the school day

The staff are very careful to check who is picking your child up at the end of the school day. They soon get to know faces. However, if there are changes to arrangements please will you let us know? If we are not certain of who is picking your child up we will check and hope you appreciate that this is for the safety of your child.

Parents of KS2 children can now stand at the back of the playground to meet their child from 3.15pm. Please don't allow younger children to come further into the playground or play on the equipment as they are not supervised by school staff. Also, at this time of the day children are often having a story and this can be distracting. Younger children need to stand with you as part of our safety measures.

Safeguarding and Child Protection

School has a comprehensive policy that ensures children are kept safe. This is available on the School website. Staff are very vigilant and take great care over the children's well being and safety. In most cases, if we have a concern, we will contact you to discuss any issues. Please don't be alarmed if a member of staff contacts you about a disclosure that your child has made as this is our standard procedure in order to keep children safe.

Likewise if you have any concerns we prefer parents to be in touch before an issue escalates.

School Dinners

Costs are £10.75 per week. For children in Reception and KS1 school lunches are free.

The lunchtime arrangements have been difficult to organise so that children stay safe in their bubbles. We will be continuing with grab bags for reception and alternating hot meals and grab bags for year one and year two over the next few weeks. As soon as we are able we will offer a hot meal again. Please be patient with us with regards to this. **We would also remind you not to swap from packed to school dinners week by week. This makes it very difficult to plan and confusing for the children.**

If your child is on packed lunches please ensure these are healthy and don't contain more than one treat item. We also ask that you do not send hot food or nuts into school for health and safety. We have a number of children with severe nut allergies. Our healthy eating leaflet and packed lunch leaflet are on the website if you are stuck for ideas or you require more information.



Milk and snacks

School continues to provide free milk for all children who want it in nursery, reception and key stage one. If your child would like milk in key stage two this can be ordered but has to be paid for. We will also continue to provide fruit for nursery, reception and key stage one as part of the government Fruit in School Scheme. School provides toast or fruit free of charge for all children in key stage two. This is alternated each day.

Water in School

Children have been given a new DWE water bottle. These should be named. Replacements are available for £2. If lids break we will replace these free of charge. Juice, flavoured water and fizzy drinks are not allowed. We prefer these bottles to be used as some alternatives are too large.

Consent and Contact Forms

You will have received an emergency contact form to update for the new school year. Please can you ensure that there are at least two people we can contact if your child becomes ill?



We have also sent out the form for Data Protection which asks for permissions. Again, can you please send this back as soon as possible? We keep this on file for the year.

You will note that there is a box for you to tick on whether we can check if your child is eligible for Pupil Premium. This is a grant that is allocated to the school and can be used to support individuals. Please can you ensure that this is also completed? School can do the check with your permission and then may be eligible for additional funds.



Denton West End School

Newsletter

September 2020

Attendance

Although these are very uncertain times, school continues to monitor attendance very carefully. This is part of our safeguarding procedure.

We are hoping that with the safety measures in place, we will not have to send bubbles of children home or close the school. It is important that pupils stick to the staggered start and finish times to help us with this. Please do not send children to school before their staggered start time as there is no-one in the playground to supervise them. Children also need to arrive promptly. This is so we can keep children in their protective bubbles.

Usually, when the weather has been bad we would open the doors early. We won't be able to do this for the time being.

It is a Government requirement that schools monitor lateness and attendance. For the time being school also has to monitor when children are self isolating or ill because of COVID 19. The figures are collected by the DfE daily.

We have published two guides on the website homepage- What to do if you or your child is displaying symptoms. If over the weekend you get a positive test result please email school at covidresults@dweschool.org so that we can take the necessary precautions.

If your child is going to be absent could you please inform school by 10.00am? This can be done by leaving a voice message on the answering service. A note in planners on your child's return explaining their absence is also required. This is to ensure absence is accurately recorded. We work closely with our Education Welfare and Safeguarding Officer with those children whose attendance and lateness is causing concern. Any unexplained absences will be marked as unauthorised.

You should also have received a letter about holidays in term time. These will not be granted unless there are exceptional circumstances. It may result in a penalty notice from the Local Authority.

Car Parks

May I remind parents that the carparks should not be used by parents. This is for safety reasons. Also, some parents are allowing their children to take a short cut across the carparks; **again this is not safe and is not permitted.**



Class Photographs

Normally we would take our family photographs this term. This involves siblings moving around school to find each other. We can't do this at the moment because children cannot enter different bubbles. Instead we will do the class photographs now and the sibling photographs in the summer term. Hopefully, restrictions will have been lifted by then. The class photographs will be on Tuesday 13th October.

Dogs on Premises

Under no circumstances should dogs be brought onto school premises. This includes the waiting areas near the KS2 playground. This is to ensure that we do not have any accidents involving children. **Dogs should be on the pavement only.**

Uniform and Large Bags

The children look very smart coming back to school. I hope the new online system for ordering uniform has been helpful. Any feedback would be welcome.

Please make sure, however, that children have sensible school shoes and not trainers or canvas shoes for school. The back playground gets very wet when it rains and children can get soggy feet if they step into the puddles. Children also need separate footwear for PE for hygiene reasons. Children will also need to have a waterproof coat as they will have to play out even if it rains due to the staggered lunchtimes.



Our cloakroom space, as many of you know, is very limited and so children throughout school **must not** bring any type of back pack or large bag to school. The reading book bags can then fit in each child's tray allowing more space for coats and PE kits on pegs.

Finally...

The children have made a wonderful start to the new school year. Many have remembered our values of being caring, confident, positive and working together. They have remembered to smile and to treat each other as they would like to be treated. This is very reassuring for us as a staff but also a great credit to you as their parents/carers, and to themselves. Well done!

Please remember we operate an open door policy at school. If you have any concerns or queries then contact school. This can be through your child's planner or by telephone. It is much better than having to worry about your child.