



Denton West End School

Newsletter

October 2020

COVID 19 Update

The children continue to do well in school. They have settled back into routines and are trying really hard in class. They have remembered much of their learning and we are starting to see progress even after only a few short weeks. Their behaviour and manners are, as always, excellent.

Thank you to all of our parents and carers for making the start of term run smoothly especially with the morning drop offs and afternoon pickups. We realise this is challenging as some of you need to be in two different playgrounds at the same time.

Could we just remind some parents, especially in the KS2 playground, not to send Y4 and Y6 children before 9.05am? We are trying to keep year groups in their separate bubbles and if children are in the playground too early we cannot do this. Children remain in their bubbles during school time.

Please also remember it is only one adult to drop off. Also, children must stay with their adult and not run around the playground or field. Many thanks.

School Lunches-this continues to be a challenging part of the day.

We have organised the lunches so that every year group has time to eat and play out and stay safe in their year group bubbles. This is working well but does mean that reception will continue to have the picnic type grab bags. Year one and year two will continue to alternate between the picnic grab bags and hot meals. Please remember not to swap each week as this makes it difficult for ordering food and we need to ensure we have enough for meals. We will continue to reassess this over time with the hope that we can return to hot school meals for these children. Arrangements for key stage two stay the same.



Google Classroom-Please check your child can log onto Google Classroom. If children are shielding or we have to close a year group bubble this is how we will set work



Google Classroom

for the children. Unfortunately, we have already had to close Y3 and Y6 bubbles due to COVID 19. This has allowed us to deal with any problems with online learning. If you can check your child's log in this would help with accessing work if needed.

Mental health—We have uploaded Tameside links to mental health services within the local authority that can help you support your child at home. You will find the link on our website under School Information-Mental Health.

Home learning-On our website you will also find additional resources to Google Classroom that you can do with your child if they are shielding or self isolating. These are under Children's Area-COVID 19 Self isolation. This includes a link to Oak National Academy, spelling, phonic and handwriting activities. We would also recommend BBC Bitesize Catch up.

Antibacterial Spray-This continues weekly on Wednesday after school.

Statutory Tests

As you may remember all testing in the summer term was cancelled. The DfE will resume testing again this year.

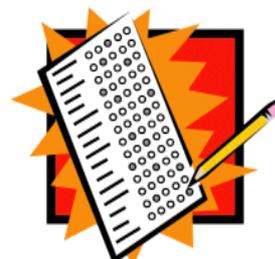
All children in Y2 will take the phonic screening check that they missed in Y1. This will take place during the second half of the autumn term. Children in year two will then complete their SATs tests during May 2021.

In addition, the Key Stage Two tests will be held the week beginning the 10th May 2021. This includes the Y6 statutory SATs tests.

The year one phonic screening check will be held in June 2021.

Last year the DfE also introduced a statutory multiplication check for Y4. This will possibly be held in June also.

It is essential that children are present during this time as the tests are statutory and have to be completed for us to submit data to the local authority and the DfE.





Denton West End School

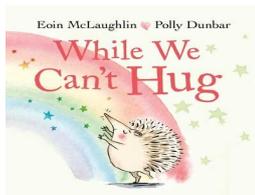
Newsletter

October 2020

Recovery Curriculum

When we came back in September, we wanted to ensure the children settled back well into the routines of school life. As you know they have done really well and it is wonderful to have a school full of children again.

Part of this recovery was to spend time talking about their experiences through PSHE and a literacy topic based on the book *While We Can't Hug* by Eoin McLaughlin. The children have produced displays and work. Please take some time to look at this on the class pages of the website. You will also find lots of other work that we have been doing since returning.



In addition we have worked with Conrad Burdekin. He came to school last year and talked to the children about poetry. He has created a poem (virtually) alongside our children about their experiences during lockdown. We are going to record this and put on the website so please look out for this coming up.

Meet the teacher/AEB

Towards the October half term we would usually invite parents into school to meet their child's new teacher. We have risk assessed this and feel with the current restrictions and the need to socially distance this would not be possible this year.

Instead, we will send out the usual Attendance, Effort and Behaviour cards but add a short comment on what your child is doing well and a target for your child to work on.

During the week beginning 19th October staff will attempt to contact you. This will be a quick check in to ensure all is well. If we can't reach you this means there is nothing to worry about. Please don't ring the school back if you miss our call, we will try again. This is because it will block our phone lines. Staff will still have to teach during this time so please be patient with us.

At other times, please remember that you can contact the school through the planner or by telephone.

Events so far this term:

We have had a busy start to the new term:

Y4 dressed up in their pyjamas as part of their literacy topic. They have started their music lessons learning to play either the flute or clarinet and can join the choir if they wish. They have also started their swimming lessons.

3L are learning to play chess.

Reception have started their art lessons with Mr Doyle and are having dance lessons.

Y1 are doing yoga.

We also have lots more exciting activities coming over the next few weeks for other year groups.

Class Photographs

Class photographs will be taken in school on Tuesday 13th October. Children need to be in full school uniform. Family groups will be taken in the summer term. We have changed the order as we cannot have children moving around school freely collecting siblings at this time.



Reading

Please look out for the Recommended New Reads leaflet coming home. These are also on the class pages of the website. This may give you some good ideas for Christmas gifts. For more recommendations visit lovedreading4kids.co.uk

Early Years

If anyone has any trousers, socks or underwear that would fit nursery and reception age pupils that no longer fit, could you send it in please? We are running short when children have an accident and clothes don't always come back. Many thanks.



Half Term

School closes on Friday 23rd October and reopens on Monday 2nd November.