

where your child matters



new starter information



DENBY
C.E. (VA) FIRST
SCHOOL

SCHOOL WEBSITE

We have recently updated the schools website. It has been designed to provide an information bank for both pupils and parents. Please visit us at:

www.denbyfirstschool.kirklees.sch.uk

Denby C.E. (VA) First School

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Upper Denby
Huddersfield
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This information is published in compliance with the Education Law. The details given were correct at January 2012.

Changes may take place before the beginning of the school year. Any changes may be published in a supplement. Published by the Governors of Denby C.E. (VA) First School.

WHO'S WHO . . .

CHAIRPERSON	Mrs K. Smith
HEADTEACHER	Mrs C. Minogue
CLASS 1 TEACHER	Miss L. Dickinson
CLASS 2 TEACHERS	Mrs D. Capner/ Mrs R. Ackroyd
CLASS 3 TEACHER	Mrs J. Travis
COVER SUPERVISORS	Mrs S. Dickinson Mrs S. Mosley
E.T.A.s	Mrs J. Slater Mr N. Woodcock
SCHOOL BURSAR	Mrs E. Hirst
ADMINISTRATION ASSISTANT	Mrs S. Harrison
COOK-IN-CHARGE	Mrs L. Hirst
SENIOR MEALS SUPERVISOR	Mrs S. Harrison
ASSISTANT MEALS SUPERVISOR	Mrs J. Slater
CARETAKER	Mr K. Thompson

WELCOME . . .

In this leaflet we have tried to provide a handy guide to aid the transition of your child into school life. If there is anything that you are unsure of please don't hesitate to contact the school.

SCHOOL DAY

School opens at 8.50 am each morning. Lessons: 9.00 am - 3.20 pm (Lunch 12.00 pm - 1.00 pm).

SCHOOL UNIFORM

The school has a uniform of blue and grey/navy clothing. Items can be purchased at school or privately. Details are given at parent visits. Pupils are required to wear white t-shirts and black shorts, pumps or trainers for P.E. A pump bag is needed.

Pupils who qualify for free school meals (i.e. those whose parents are in receipt of income support) will automatically qualify for assistance with school clothing

If you receive family credit, council tax benefit, housing benefit or a disability working allowance, your child will also qualify for assistance with school clothing.

Please apply to the Education Social Work Service at Upperhead Row, Huddersfield. Tel: 01484 221919.

SCHOOL MEALS

From September 2015 the price of school meals will be £2.00 per day (£10.00 per week) payable via ParentPay or half termly if preferred. School meals are provided under a mini restaurant self service system. There is a choice of main courses and desserts daily. The children enjoy these meals and are encouraged to partake of them. Families who are in receipt of Income Support qualify for free school meals for any child attending school.

Forms may be collected from the address below: The Education Social Work Department, Upperhead Row, Huddersfield. Tel: 01484 221919.

All matters concerning free school meals are dealt with confidentially, and I would urge any parent who feels they may qualify to

apply to the above address. If free meals are granted, please bear in mind that you will have to complete a form each year and entitlement cannot be backdated. If you require your child to change from school dinners to packed lunches or vice versa, the school requires two weeks notice.

PACKED LUNCHES

We ask that you send your child with a healthy alternative if you choose not to have school dinners. We have the healthy School Standard and do not allow sweets or chocolate bars in school as snacks, so please don't include them in your child's packed lunch box. If you require your child to change from packed lunches to school dinners or vice versa the school requires two weeks notice.

MEDICINES

If your child needs medicine during a school day, a medication form has to be completed. These forms are kept in the school office and must be completed before the medication can be administered. Bottles of medicine should be marked with the child's name stating dosage and timing. Our medical needs policy is available upon request.

HEAD LICE

The school health department no longer carry out termly inspections for head lice and nits. They are very common and are nothing to be ashamed of (they only like clean hair).

Please check your child's hair weekly and obtain medicated shampoo or lotion from the chemists should the need arise.

ABSENCES FROM SCHOOL

If your child is absent from school please phone into the school office no later than 9.00 am. We will contact you if you forget to phone us. If your child needs to leave school during the day, for a dental appointment for example, please ring our office or send a note in your child's planner, rather than sending a verbal message with your child.

HOLIDAYS IN TERM TIME

The school does not authorize holidays during school time. The law states that a head teacher can only give permission for a holiday absence in exceptional circumstances. Please ask at the office if this is the case.

OUR VISION

From our place at the heart of the community, we offer our children a safe environment in which they have the best opportunities to achieve excellence and grow in knowledge and faith.

OUR AIMS

To provide each child with opportunities where they are challenged to achieve their full potential, build confidence and independence to shape their own future

To hold the Christian ethos of care and concern for one another at the core of life and learning at Denby

To recognise that each child is a unique individual, possessing talents, abilities, goals and dreams

To ensure that our children feel safe and happy in an exciting, nurturing and challenging environment

To foster strong relationships between the school, home and the wider community

THE FEDERATION GOVERNING BODY . . .

Consists of Denby CE (VA) First School, Farnley CE (VC) First School and Thurstonland Endowed (VC) First School.

Chair Mrs K. Smith

Vice Chair Mrs L. Broadhead

Correspondence may be sent to the Chair at the school. Whenever a vacancy for a parent governor occurs, the head teacher will send written notice of the election in a letter to be taken home by pupils.

A SUMMARY OF POLICIES

BEHAVIOUR POLICY

Our Behaviour Policy is designed to complement the aims of the School Mission Statement, through Code of Behaviour and a system of rewards and sanctions that reinforce positive attitudes and actions.

Staff are responsible for ensuring that the policy and procedures are followed and consistently and fairly applied. Mutual support is essential to ensure implementation of the policy. We have a responsibility to provide a high quality learning environment where children are motivated and keen to learn. It is essential that we are proactive in our approach to securing desired behaviours rather than simply react after the behaviours have occurred. It is our intention to build on our relationships with parents and carers in order to ensure their support in encouraging appropriate behaviour both inside and outside school. Pupils are expected to take responsibility for their own behaviour. They are aware of the school policy, procedures and expectations.

Further details of our Behaviour Policy are available from the school.

“ Policies are applied consistently and fairly to reinforce positive attitudes and actions.”

SUPPORT FOR LOOKED AFTER CHILDREN

Here at Denby, the staff and governors are committed to providing quality education for all our pupils, based on equality of opportunity, access and outcomes. We adhere to DfE guidelines with regard to Looked After Children which state that every school should have a designated teacher for Looked After Children and that all Looked After Children should have Personal Education Plans.

SAFEGUARDING

Denby CE (VA) First School is committed to ensuring the welfare and safety of all children in school.

All Kirklees schools, including Denby CE (VA) First School, follow the Kirklees Safeguarding Children Board procedures. The school will, in most circumstances, endeavour to discuss all concerns with parents about their children. However, there may be exceptional circumstances when the school will discuss concerns with Social Care and/or the Police without parental knowledge (in accordance with Child Protection procedures).

The school will, of course, always aim to maintain a positive relationship with all parents. The school's child protection policy is available on request.

The Senior Designated Person for safeguarding is Mrs Claire Minogue and in her absence Mrs Jane Travis.

CURRICULUM

In Literacy and Numeracy, we use the National Strategy Unit Plans as the basis for our work in these areas. In all other subjects, we use the National Curriculum schemes of work as the basis for our curriculum planning. Our curriculum planning is in three phases - long term, medium term and short term. Our long term plan maps the topics studied in each term during each key stage. Our medium term plans give details of each unit of work for each term. Because we have mixed age classes, we do the medium term planning on a rotational cycle (2 years for the Infants, 3 years for the Juniors) to ensure that children have complete coverage of the National Curriculum but do not have to repeat topics.

Each class teacher creates a plan for each lesson. These plans list specific learning objectives and expected outcomes for each lesson.

Details of all school policies are available from the school on request.

“ Denby School plans for the short, medium and long term to ensure the curriculum is fully covered.”

TEACHING AND THE MONITORING OF PROGRESS

We use a variety of teaching and learning styles in lessons. We recognise the fact that there are children of widely different abilities in our classes, and we provide suitable learning opportunities for all children by matching the challenge of the task to the ability of the child. We achieve this by:

Setting tasks which are open-ended and have a variety of responses.

Setting tasks of increasing difficulty.

Grouping children by ability in the room, and setting different tasks to each ability group.

Providing resources of different complexity, according to the ability of the child.

Using classroom assistants to support the work of the individual children or groups of children.

Teachers will assess children's work by making informal judgements during lessons. On completion of a piece of work, the teacher assesses the work and uses this information to plan future learning. Written or verbal feedback is given to the child to help guide his or her progress. Older children are encouraged to make judgements about how they can improve their own work. Once they complete a whole unit of work we make a summary judgment of the work of each pupil in relation to National Curriculum levels of attainment. We record these attainment grades and we will use these to plan future work with that pupil, to provide the basis for assessing the progress of the child, and to pass information on to the next teacher at the end of the year.

OFSTED

The school was last inspected by OFSTED in November 2011. Here are some of the things that the report said about us:

“. . . In this very friendly, safe, warm and welcoming setting, pupils demonstrate good attitudes to learning and their behavior is consistently outstanding. ”

“. . . Pupils are eager to contribute positively towards their school. From a young age, they enjoy taking on opportunities for making their school a healthy and happy place to learn, and play an active role within their local community. ”

“. . . The confidence, ease and maturity with which pupils discuss their learning together, with adults, visitors, along with their good progress demonstrates that they are well placed to be successful at middle school. ” Ofsted 10.11.11

We are very proud of the good OFSTED that we received but we are a forward thinking and outward looking school. We want to build upon and extend all that is good about the learning and teaching at Denby. Our current School Development Plan has a focus upon improving our reading skills and ensuring that everyone achieves their full potential.

SWIMMING

Years 3 to 5 attend swimming lessons on Thursday afternoon. The swimming teachers require girls to wear one piece swimming costumes and the boys to wear trunks (rather than baggy shorts). All children have to wear a swimming cap.

WALKING BUS

On a Monday and Tuesday we run a walking bus.
The bus meets at the George Inn at 8.30am. It goes along Denby Lane to school.

If you would like to know more about the walking bus please call the school office.

JEWELLERY

Children may wear wrist watches. Children with pierced ears may wear ear studs, but for safety reasons must remove them for P.E., games lessons and swimming. Other forms of body piercing are considered inappropriate for school at this age. If children are unable to remove and replace ear studs themselves, parents may wish their child to leave ear studs at home on P.E., games and swimming days. No other jewellery is to be worn to school.

BREAKFAST CLUB

Our Breakfast Club opens at 7.30am - 8.50am and runs each morning Monday to Friday. A Healthy drink and snack is provided.

OUT OF SCHOOL CLUB

The Out Of School Club started in September 2007 and is committed to providing a happy, safe and welcoming club at an affordable price. Under the supervision of well qualified, caring staff; children of different ages will have access to a wide range of stimulation, creative, fun-filled activities as well as the opportunity to just quietly relax. Our Out of School Club runs from 3.20pm - 6.00pm.

If you are interested please ring or call at the school office for a prospectus and registration form.

TRANSFER

Denby C.E. (VA) First School is in the Shelley pyramid of schools. Most of our children transfer to Scissett Middle School at the end of Year 5 and from there to Shelley College. We have very strong links with other schools in the pyramid and take part in many joint activities, for example Bikeability, the Huddersfield Music Festival and sports events. Year 5 children also visit the middle school and complete 'gap' tasks. All these activities aim to make our relationships stronger and the children's transition smoother.

FRIENDS OF DENBY SCHOOL

Our F.O.D.S. Association is an active support group. All parents are members of this group and can help in a variety of ways. There is a regular termly meeting in school for suggestions of ways parents can help at home. We value the support of this group for both fundraising and educational support.

