

Great Dalby Primary School Newsletter



6 September 2017

Dear Parents and carers,

A very warm welcome back to the new school year, especially to our new parents whose children are joining us for the first time. I hope the first few mornings have been pleasant and you have enjoyed sharing the start of your children's school life with us. From our perspective within school, all the new children have settled very well, have made new friends and have got to know the adults around school well too. They have joined us for assemblies and enjoyed two lunchtimes, taking these big events in their tiny strides. It is also lovely to see our existing children returning to school with beaming smiles and a positive attitude, ready to work hard!

The school routines already in place are proving to work well again and the new school year has begun extremely smoothly. We continue to have high aspirations and expectations for all our children and we set high social and academic standards whilst remaining determined to meet the individual needs of every child. As always we aim to build on the children's achievements and progress within the curriculum and assessment expectations. Please continue to be assured that all class teachers will still be striving to enable every child to fulfil his or her potential.

We are incredibly proud of the end of year achievements of all our children, especially those at the end of Foundation Stage, Year 2 and Year 6 where they have national expectations to meet. These figures remain provisional until November 2017.

	% of children achieving the expected level across Reading Writing & Maths
Year 2	75%
Year 6	% of children achieving the expected level across Reading Writing & Maths
	80%
Foundation Stage	% of children achieving the Good Level of Development
	78%

With these results in mind we look forward to the year ahead and meeting the range of challenges within the new year groups.

All teachers have planned interesting, exciting and fun learning opportunities and experiences; details of these can be found on your child's class page on the school website. Homework information and reading diaries, if they haven't already been sent home, will be within the next week. Please direct any queries you may have to your child's class teacher in the first instance and, as ever, your comments, thoughts and views are always appreciated.

Best Wishes

Lucy Anderson

Home to School Agreement



You will find two copies of the 'Home-School Agreement' in your child's book bag this evening for you to read. Please sign and return one copy to school and keep the other copy at home for your reference. Our intention is to clearly set out what we aim to do with your child/ren whilst they are here with us and how you and your child/ren can help create and maintain a successful partnership. We are incredibly proud of the school and the achievements of all our children and we hope these agreements will support its ongoing success.

Parking



As always it is extremely busy at the beginning and end of the day with many cars parked around school. I have received a number of concerns about this and the danger to the children at this time. Please can I politely remind you that it is an offence to park on or opposite the zig-zag lines at the front of school and encourage you to use the parking available in The Royal Oak or if possible, and you live close by, walk to school. I am happy to discuss any suggestions you may have about how to ease congestion at these busy times.

Absence



Whilst I appreciate during term time there are occasionally exceptional circumstances that require the need to request time out of school for your child/ren, may I take this opportunity to remind you how important attendance is. It is recognised that good attendance is above 96% with no unauthorised absences. The pace of the curriculum is such that, at times, even a day can make a difference in a child's understanding of a new concept or idea; a week may mean they miss an entire aspect completely. With this in mind, following Local Authority direction, all absence from school will be unauthorised with the exception of medical appointments and illness. I am happy to discuss exceptional circumstances if these arise. You will be receiving, alongside this newsletter, a copy of our new Attendance Information booklet. This has been written to support our quest for all children to achieve a minimum 96% attendance record across the academic year. This booklet is intended to support you and includes information from the NHS; you will find further information regarding attendance in our updated policy which will be available on the 12th September. **Term dates** are available on the Website or from the school office.

Bucket filling



We are striving to be a 'Bucket Filling' school, a concept introduced to the children last year, and hope to embed it over this academic year. As we are hoping you will continue to support this I thought this an ideal opportunity to remind/mention the basics to you. Each child (and you) have an imaginary bucket. This bucket represents your emotional and mental health. You and others can 'fill' your own and others buckets by saying or doing something kind, helping out, showing respect or even just smiling. You can sadly 'dip' into another's bucket by doing or saying something unkind, being unhelpful or hurting others, by doing this you will be 'dipping' in your own bucket too. People with 'fuller' buckets are happier, more confident and have a more positive outlook. The children have all

agreed again during assembly this week that we should be a bucket filling school and I do hope they talk about this at home with you too.

Wrap Around Care

The 'Metcalf Multisports' breakfast, after school and extended care clubs have started. Mr Hewgill has lots of space in the morning from 7.30am and spaces each evening too. Please speak with him directly or ask Louise in the office for more information. Mr Hewgill also runs a number of after school and lunchtime sports club including football, gymnastics, dodgeball and multisports.

Twitter  If you have Twitter, please follow us @GreatDalby_BEP

FOGD

The school would like to thank the FOGD for all their support last year. The outdoor classroom will be installed any day, we are very excited! They also have many events planned including discos, film nights and Christmas celebrations.

Team Captains

Below are the successful applicants and we wish them luck for the year ahead.

Red Team - Captain: Grace Wade & Vice Captain: Matilda Bland

Yellow Team - Captain: Heidi Wilbourn & Vice Captain: Lucy Smith

Blue Team - Captain: Martha Jones & Vice Captain: Fergus Black

Green Team - Captain: Henry Partridge & Vice Captain: Joshua Carnell

The School Council

We are looking forward to working with our new school councillors. Good luck for the year ahead.

Class 1 - Alistair Woods and Lexi Bendall

Class 2 - Isabelle Corser and Harriet Mattock

Class 3 - Jasmine Ellard and Ben Newbury

Class 4 - Imogen Jones and James Drennan

Class 5 - Mia Dillon and Hannah Richardson

Uniform

It is lovely to see all the children looking so smart on their return to school. Please can I remind you however the importance of labelling ALL items of clothing. We have a large pile of lost property already; some of it looks brand new!

Uniform orders will be placed monthly - please see the order forms for dates.

Please also remember that long hair should be tied back at all times and no nail varnish or make-up should be worn to school. No jewellery should be worn to school with the exception of small stud earrings; these should not be worn on PE and swimming days unless they can be taken out without adult help or sticky tape is provided to cover them.

Homework



Homework will look slightly different this year. Children are expected to read daily and practise their times-tables or number facts - further information will be sent out by class teachers. Children in Foundation Stage will still receive weekly shared learning tasks to complete at home. All other year groups will receive occasional relevant homework to support the teaching and learning taking place in class. This will either be in the form of a consolidation activity or a pre-learning activity.

Times-tables:

This week we have launched Times Table Rockstars for all children in Year 2 and above. Times Table Rockstars is an exciting way for children to practise their times-tables online at home. Each child has been given a username and password to use to access the website. A letter explaining how it works will be sent home when the class teacher has arranged the band schedule for their children. Learning times-tables in this way should be fun and give children plenty of opportunities to improve their knowledge. Rockstars is a part of the weekly homework which your child is expected to complete.



School Nurse

As part of a new initiative called 'Healthy Together', our school nurse will be hosting monthly drop-in sessions where she will be available from 2:30-3:30pm. The dates are as follows: Tuesday 3rd October, Tuesday 7th November, Tuesday 5th December, Tuesday 9th January, Tuesday 6th February, Tuesday 6th March, Tuesday 10th April, Tuesday 1st May, Tuesday 5th June, and Tuesday 3rd July.



Forthcoming diary dates

Thursday 7th September: Year 6 at Roundhill Academy

Wednesday 13th September: Foundation Stage Reading Information Event (9.15am & 6pm)

Wednesday 11th & Thursday 12th October: Parents' Evenings

Thursday 12th October: Harvest Festival (St. Swithuns Church - 2pm)

Friday 13th October: School finishes at 3.15pm for Half Term

Monday 24th October: School re-opens

Wednesday 26th October: School portraits

Friday 3rd November: Flu Vaccinations - all children

Monday 13th November: Class 4 and 5 at a Victorian Workhouse Day

Thursday 16th November: Class 3 at a Victorian Workhouse Day

Tuesday 12th December: Foundation Stage Sing-a-Long 9.30/5.50pm

Wednesday 13th December: KS1 Nativity 9.30/6pm

Wednesday 20th December: Key Stage 2 Carol Service (St. Swithuns Church - 2pm & 6pm)