

**DEARHAM PRIMARY SCHOOL NEWSLETTER 9th SEPT 2022**

Times of change

**I don’t think this is the way any of us expected to start the first newsletter of the new term. I am sure like my family and I; you watched the news yesterday in disbelief. It seemed the Queen was a constant in our society and someone I foolishly believed would just go on. My thoughts are with her family who lost their father/grandfather just last year. The loss of a parent, any parent, leaves a void that you feel at any age. Whilst we, as her people, mourn the loss of our Queen, there is a family mourning the loss of a mother, a grandmother and more. The condolences of the staff and children of Dearham School go out the family of Queen Elizabeth II.**

**We will be working with the children over the period of mourning remembering the reign of the Queen and the succession to the throne of King Charles III. I am currently trying to source ribbons to attach to the school gates and fence as an act of remembrance and would be delighted to see ribbons around the village. We will also be looking at other ways to mark this momentous occasion and I welcome thoughts or suggestions from you.**

**With all this in mind we are waiting for further advice and information from the DfE regarding requirements for the day of the funeral which may be a public holiday. We will of course inform you of any changes to the school day as we know them.**

Attendance

You may be aware that there is a big push on improving school attendance nationally. The DfE are collecting daily attendance information from schools to help with this. Covid and the after effects had a drastic effect on attendance with illness and then holidays being taken that had been postponed. There was a sense of leniency following such frightening times.

However, the expectation now is things are more back to normal. I can only authorise holidays in exceptional circumstances. Sadly catching up on missed holidays due to covid is not considered exceptional. Any holidays during term time will be unauthorised unless truly exceptional circumstances. The local authority monitor attendance and have the right to fine parents for taking their children out on holiday in term time.

To keep attendance improving we will be sending weekly texts for attendance below 90% but also 98% and above. Termly letters will also be sent out celebrating or monitoring attendance. Together I know we can keep attendance on track.

Summer Showcase

Just a little reminder our summer showcase is taking place at the Carnegie in Workington on Thursday 7th July.

If you have a child in KS2 and have not got your tickets yet then please get in touch with your child’s class teacher.

It’s promising to be a great event.

Open door

As always, my door is open to you if you need me. If you have a worry, a concern or even a compliment please come and see me. I may bore you senseless with pictures of my new granddaughter, but I will listen.

I understand you will sometimes have issues with us and we want to deal with them so please call in or even email. Social media isn’t the place to raise concerns about school.

Information

Class teachers will be sending out a class newsletter, if not already done, detailing all the bits and pieces for their class.

With that in mind I’d like to take the opportunity to welcome Miss Grima, Mrs Williams and Miss Fidler to the team here at Dearham. It’s a pleasure to be working with you ladies!

Newsletters

I will be sending out a weekly newsletter on a Friday and have been in contact with the Parish Council about adding a section now and again. If there is anything you think would be useful added to the newsletter, or you have something you would like to let our school community know about, then drop me an email and I’ll add it.

I’ll also be asking staff and children to add bits and pieces so it’s not just me waffling on.

After school club

We have had one or two enquiries about after school. There will be sports clubs as usual and details of these will be issued next week. We will also sending an interest gathering letter for after school club next week. If we can get at least 15 children signed up we will be able to offer after school club. Any numbers less than that and it is not viable.

Watch out for the letter next week.

**Courtesy Cup**

Courtesy cups and Headteacher’s will be awarded next week.

**Dates for your diary**

Dates for this term so far which you may want to put in your diary.

* Monday 12th Sept – Yoga for reception and year 1 starts
* Monday 19th Sept – possible school closure for the Queen’s funeral (this is just a possible date)
* Wednesday 21st Sept – Ms Wilson out of school for three days
* Wednesday 28th Sept – FODS AGM 7pm in school
* Thursday 20th Oct – Halloween disco – details to follow
* Friday 21st Oct – Half term
* Monday 31st Oct – Back to school
* Wednesday 9th Nov – Parents meetings
* Thursday 1st Dec – Nasal flu vaccines
* Thursday 15th Dec – KS2 Christmas performance at the Carnegie
* Tuesday 20th Dec – end of term

I will add to this list as dates come into the diary so you can free up your calendars where possible.