



DEARHAM PRIMARY SCHOOL NEWSLETTER 17th FEBRUARY 2023

Mr MacCreedy



It has been a very odd week at Dearham this week and today has been a mixture of laughter and of course tears. Today is the day we have to say goodbye to Mr MacCreedy as he moves on to his new post as Deputy Head at Paddle School.

I asked him about one of things he remembered most about here and he said his first ever encounter at the school involved meeting Mrs

Hitchen and Mrs Ivison in the middle of making Halloween costumes! Still, he stayed for his placement and applied for a job here. Safe to say he has slotted right in!



The Year 5 children recorded video messages for Mr Mac which summed up how we were all feeling. We wish him all the best from everyone here, he will be sadly missed by us all. Good luck with every adventure the future holds Mr MacCreedy.

Mr MacCreedy is replaced by Mr Morgan in Year 5.



Reception reading stars

I was delighted to hand certificates out this week to some Reception Superstars. We handed out certificates to those children who had read at least twice a week at home every week this half term. We also recognised and gave certificates to those children who had learned and knew all their tricky words every week this half term. Well done. You are awesome!

Vision and values

I have been looking at the vision and values for Dearham and how they reflect the school and its ethos. Attached to the newsletter is what I think but I'd like to know what you think too. Have a look and please feel free to email me your thoughts and opinions.

Questionnaires – You said/ we did

Also attached to this newsletter is our response to the parental questionnaire. Again I'd like to thank those of you who took the time to respond. All your comments are taken on board and responded to to make the school better every day

Visitors

You may or may not be aware that two of the schools in our Trust have been inspected this week. Ofsted were in Flimby on Tuesday and at Arlecdon today. We are expecting inspection at any time now and are busy fine tuning for it. The pressure of inspection is immense but, with the fabulous team here and the support of yourselves and the trust we will get through.

Time keeping

Just a little reminder that children should be ready at school to start their day at 08:50. We have a number of late arrivals every day. Please could you make sure your children are at the classroom doors ready to be in and start at 08:50 please.

Strike Day

Just to confirm school is open as normal on the NEU strike day on 28th February.

PJ day

Thank you so much for your donations today which raised a wonderful £196.90 for playtime equipment.

Attendance

Attendance figures for this half term are:

Nursery	94.94%
Reception	96.37%
Year 1	96.02%
Year 2	93.97%
Year 3	93.69%
Year 4	96.24%
Year 5	97.27%
Year 6 Mrs Smith	98.01%
Year 6 Mrs Ivison	96.92%

Whole school attendance this half term is 95.85%.

Well done everyone.

Headteacher Awards for this week

<p>Nursery</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none">✓ Millie-Joe Lancaster✓ Harlan Walker <p>Reception</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none">✓ Lyra Simpson✓ Oakley Robertson✓ Veronica Peat <p>Year One</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none">✓ Polly Weir✓ Piper Rumney <p>Year Two</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none">✓ Sophia McKenzie✓ Marlo Henderson✓ Owen Wilkinson✓ Patrick Rigby	<p>Year Three</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none">✓ Emily Oultram✓ Hollie Hodgson✓ Scarlett Chilton✓ Mitchell Nicol✓ Soffia Carter <p>Year Four</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none">✓ Eli Douglas✓ Fahren Adams✓ Lola Woolley✓ Alfie Anderson <p>Year Five</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none">✓ Whole class from Mr MacCreedy✓ Amelia-Grace Robertson✓ Luke Ferguson✓ Molly Gorley✓ Mr MacCreedy <p>Year Six</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none">✓ Ellie Cunningham✓ Maria Wilson✓ Blake Cartner✓ Billy Bethwaite✓ Molly Wilkinson✓ Finlay Hall
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Courtesy Cups

This week courtesy cups went to:

Hunter Campbell

Alice Adams

Fahren Adams

Isaac Jackson

Dates for your diary

Dates for this term so far. New dates highlighted

- Monday 27th February – Y6 dental checks
- Tuesday 28th February – Greg from Team Evie is coming to talk about our Reading Challenge
- Thursday 2nd March – World Book Day
- Thursday 23rd March – Commando Joe day.

Parents evenings will take place this half term. Dates to be confirmed.

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

Recommended

Here's my recommendations for this week:

The Lion Inside

Inside the Villains

Beetle Boy

Reads

Rachel Bright

Clotilde Perrin

MG Leonard





Vision and Values



Vision:

- To be an outstanding school at the heart of the community where we educate all children to the highest levels of academic achievement, to enable them to reach and expand their potential, and to prepare them to become productive, responsible, ethical, creative and compassionate members of society. Our children are empowered to embrace learning and build their emotional, social and physical well-being

Values:

- **Culture** - where everyone is welcome, cared for and valued for who they are
- **Curriculum** - first class and designed to prepare our children for the next stage in their education and the world beyond
- **Character** – where respect, kindness, compassion and empathy are modelled every day to allow our children to become the best possible version of themselves.
- **Aspiration and perseverance**– aim for and expect excellence and have a determination to succeed.

Ethos

Be kind, be happy, be awesome, be the best of you.

YOU SAID, SO WE WILL....

We had 85 responses to our parent questionnaire which equates to 35.42% of the school population

YOU SAID	WE WILL / DO
8.2% of you felt that your child was not happy at school	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Liaise more with parents to identify these children and how we can support them. • Continue to use our ELSAs to provide extra listening support and strategies to help children who are unhappy or unsettled. • Continue our open door policy so parents are able to come and discuss concerns and issues with us.
8.2% either disagreed or did not know that we make sure the children are well behaved.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • We expect the highest standards of work and behaviour from all our children. • Classroom rules and school rules are shared with all children and serious incidents put in the behaviour book. • Serious behaviour incidents are reported to the Head and parents informed. • Share our behaviour expectations with parents at the beginning of the academic year and on the website so they can be referred to if required.
6.1% of you felt that your child had been bullied and that it had not been dealt with quickly or effectively	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Take any form of bullying very seriously. • Deal with any bullying quickly, listening to the 'victim' and the 'bully' and deciding on the most suitable way to deal with the situation. • Contact the parents of those involved. • The Rainbow Room is available for children who need support with this issue.

<p>7% of you disagreed or did not know if the school dealt properly with concerns raised</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Deal promptly with all concerns brought to us by parents. • Respond to parents as soon as a concern is raised. • Organise face to face meetings where possible. • Confirm that the concern has been dealt with.
<p>9.6% disagreed and 19% said they didn't know if the school has high expectations for their child</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Teachers set demanding lessons and have exceptionally high expectations for the children. • We will review the nature of our challenges and intensify where necessary. • We will share expectations at the beginning of the year and at regular intervals via the newsletter and website. • We challenge learning and drive ambition in teaching through collaboration with our peer primaries.
<p>11.7% disagreed or did not know if their child did well at school</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • We have parents evening twice a year. • Annual reports are produced at the end of the year. • We celebrate success in our HT assemblies and share this on the newsletter. • We contact parents to discuss any concerns we may have.
<p>12.9% disagreed or did not know if the school let you know how your child is doing</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • We have parents evening twice a year. • Annual reports are produced at the end of the year. • We celebrate success in our HT assemblies and share this on the newsletter. • We contact parents to discuss any concerns we may have.
<p>8.2% of the responses say they did not know if the school offered a good range of subjects to the children</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • We offer the full compliment of national curriculum subjects. • Teachers send out termly plans with subject coverage on. • The website has all subjects for each year. • This term an overview has been sent out from Ms Wilson that identified all areas covered this term. This will continue moving forward.

<p>16.5% disagreed their child could take part in clubs and activities.</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • We have trips and residential booked for this academic year and for the future. • After school clubs run but not every night and due to limited capacity numbers are restricted. • We will continue to develop the number of clubs throughout the academic year...
<p>7.1% disagreed and 17.6% said they didn't know if the school supports children's wider personal development</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Our PSE/RHE curriculum covers all areas of personal development. • All children are involved in Kidsafe lessons about keeping themselves safe and healthy. • We participate in activities such as Young Voices and Carnegie performances to allow children to experience wider opportunities and encourage their personal development. • We work cross class and cross key stage to encourage responsibility and friendship especially for the older children. • We have a pupil parliament which gives all children a voice in how the school moves forward.

Of the 85 responses we received, 9.4% of you would not recommend Dearham to another parent which is a concern for me.

We received a number of comments with the questionnaires, many of which were very positive and for which we are incredibly grateful.

The following are comments from the optional box and my response.

- *No notification to one parent if they are separated for parents evening etc* - We have our text and email service set up so all parents who are separated should now receive all information to ensure nothing is missed and all parents have equal access to parents evenings, performances etc.
- *The school doesn't have the same family feel* – I am saddened by this because we very much want that feeling of warmth and welcoming in school. Staff support children and each other and the children are very good supports for their peers. I am aware of the numerous and significant changes over the past three years with the school, but I am keen to maintain the open feeling and continue to build community links

- *Work is boring when a teaching assistant is covering* – In some classes Senior teaching assistants and HLTAs cover a class teacher's planning preparation and assessment time. This is the time given to them to be away from the class to do all of the work listed in that heading. We would love to have a teacher cover PPA in all classes but this just is not financially viable. All the work taught by the SLSA or HLTA is either planned by the teacher or planned by the other staff and checked by the teacher. It could be the child finds the subject rather than the teaching boring?
- *Children who are not as academic are not given the opportunity to thrive. School never does anything fun* - when we have our celebration assemblies children are chosen for any reason and not always academic. We also celebrate achievements of children outside school. When plays etc. are cast the children are all invited to volunteer and audition for the performances. We will continue to endeavour to celebrate every child's success. We have sporting events throughout the year where children get the opportunity to shine, such as the Village Run, cross country competitions and weekly training, football tournaments against other school (last year we entered one at Carlisle United) and cricket competitions among any others. We attend Young Voices at Manchester Arena every year, and take part in other performing opportunities, such as singing in the local church carol concert. We have a variety of residential on offer from Y4 onwards, where the children experience outdoor and adventurous activities and city life. Our older children are given responsibilities around school, including pairing up with younger children, which gives them the opportunity to shine. We have competitions involving art throughout the year, such as the Mayor's Christmas card competition and our Easter Art competitions.
- *Children from anywhere can attend this school* – It really is not case of 'let's get those places filled from anywhere'. We have an admissions process we have to go through and we have certain classes which are already full. However we also need to try and maintain numbers as falling role means falling budget which has all kinds of staffing and resource implications