



Dalton St Mary's CE Primary School

Autumn Term

Newsletter 8

23rd October 2020

Dear Parents/Carers and Children,

It is hard to believe we have completed the first half term. I was talking to a parent yesterday and it helped me to reflect on how different things feel at the end of this half term compared to those first anxious days when we returned in September. All the routines and procedures, which were necessary for us to return to school, are still in place but they are now embedded and have become part of school life. The morning handwashing routine is now a time to catch up with friends in our bubbles and I often see the children chatting and laughing as they wash their hands. I have become familiar with the different scenarios we are facing around symptoms and testing and I feel our cautious response to these situations has helped our school to be as safe as possible. I thank you as parents for being very open and honest sharing information about family situations in relation to symptoms and testing. I also thank you sincerely for the sensitivity you have all shown when we have shared information regarding any positive cases, I am grateful we can have these open lines of communication as they help to keep our school and wider community safe. If during the half term break you have any concerns relating to Covid-19 test results please email; l.woodburn@dsmprimary.com or office@dsmprimary.com

I hope you have a lovely half term and we will see you back in school on Monday 2nd November 2020 following the same drop off routines which are currently in place.

Learning at Home Pack

Today we have sent home your child's Learning from Home pack. This does not mean we will not be returning after the half term it is simply our school being prepared for any eventuality. There is a full explanation and instructions regarding Home Learning in the pack your child has brought home. The important thing to note is that the pack **does not need to be used** unless your child does not return to school after the half term break because they have to self-isolate. I ask that parents simply put the pack in a safe place and unless school inform you that you should access Home Learning, they do not need to be used. Only if children are isolating and learning at home will there be any learning available on the iPads. The whole pack should be returned to school, including the instructions/letter, when your child returns to school. Hopefully we will not have to use these packs but at least we are ready, thank you for your support with this.

Snacks and Lunchtime Drinks

I would just like to clarify our preference for snacks that children bring into school for morning break. Firstly, children should bring only **one item** for snack to eat at morning break time. It does appear to be becoming rather competitive and some children are bringing three or four items including chocolate and savoury snacks. I would ask for your support to help us in promoting healthy snacks for school.

Wherever possible your child's snack should be a plain piece of fruit or a vegetable in its natural form. Some parents have expressed that their child will not eat fruit or vegetables and they prefer to send in a plain rice cake/plain cereal bar/piece of cheese. This is acceptable as long as it is not chocolate covered, and as natural as possible. Plain fruit or vegetables are always available, free of charge, in school and can be accessed at break time for KS1 during break times.

All children should bring their own water bottle to school each day to make sure they have a drink in school – children do use this drink at lunchtime too. I would encourage children to have plain water in their bottle however, I realise that some children refuse to drink plain water and this drink may be flavoured with a cordial. Fizzy drinks should never be brought into school. Thank you for your support with this.

ParentPay

From 16th November 2020 our school will be using ParentPay for booking Breakfast and After School Club. It will also be used for payments for Breakfast and After School club and any other clubs and trips that require payment. Full details of this change will be sent home after the half term break, I just wanted to give parents notice of our intention to become a cashless school. Parents who already have bookings for Breakfast and After School Clubs up to and after 16th November 2020 should be reassured that school staff will transfer the bookings over to the electronic booking system.

Showbie

A reminder: you should have already joined the Showbie classes and Groups below. Thank you for support with this.

Showbie Groups/Classes (A Class is used for children's learning and a Group is used for communication)	Code
Nursery Group	GQ82T
Reception Group	T23UW
Year 1 Group	FJKGD
Year 2 Group	U88N7
Year 3 Group	H3NEE
Year 4 Group	C9W59
Year 5 Group	DGAEW
Year 6 Group	29RT5
DSM Parent Group	HZ3W5
DSM Family Class	CWHK6

Beginning and End of the School Day

Class	Drop Off Time	Pick Up Time
Nursery	8.50 – 9.00	3.10 – 3.20
Reception	8.50 – 9.00	3.10 – 3.20
Year 1	8.50 – 9.00	3.10 – 3.20
Year 2	8.50 – 9.00	3.10 – 3.20
Year 3	8.50 – 9.00	3.10 – 3.20
Year 4	8.50 – 9.00	3.10 – 3.20
Year 5	8.40 – 8.50	3.00 – 3.10
Year 6	8.40 – 8.50	3.00 – 3.10

As always please adhere to your drop-off collection times to ensure this continues to run smoothly. Also remaining the same; if you have more than one child you are dropping off/collecting please arrive at the time for your oldest child.

Thank you for taking the time to read this Newsletter. Remember I am here if I can help you or your family in any way: **I.woodburn@dsmprimary.com**
Kind regards

Mrs L Woodburn

Dates for Diaries

Event	Date	Arrangements
Half Term	26/10/20 -30/10/20	We finish for Half Term on Friday 23 rd October at the end of the school day and return to school on Monday 2 nd November 2020.
Parent Drop-in Week	Week Beginning - 02/11/2020	This week we would normally invite parents into school between 3.10 – 3.30 to visit classes and share your child’s learning. In the current climate this is not possible. Instead of a visit we are preparing a series of videos which each class will prepare and these will be shared on Showbie – Further information will follow nearer the time.
Parent Evening	06/11/2020	Parents would normally be offered an appointment to discuss the early weeks in your child’s new class. This year we will be sending home a short written report to enable us to share how your child has settled into their new class.
Nasal Flu	03/12/2020	The School Nurses will be in school on this date to administer nasal flu spray to children whose parents have given their permission. Communication will have been sent to parents from the School Nurse Service.
Nativity	08/12/2020 1.30	We will be performing our annual Nativity this year. At this stage we cannot say whether we will be able to have an audience in school but we are prepared for a remote event for this special occasion. Further information will be shared nearer the date.
Nativity	09/12/2020 10.00	Please see above
Finish for Christmas	18/12/2020 1.00	Please note that children will be collected from school at 1.00pm.