



## Dalton St Mary's CE Primary School

Spring Term

# Newsletter 16

11<sup>th</sup> January 2021

Dear Parents/Carers and Children,

Thank you for your patience last week as we got up and running with our remote learning. Thank you to you all for the support you are giving to your children at home, we absolutely recognise this is not easy and we are here to support in any way we can.

### Remote Learning

In response to the feedback to the online questionnaire (which was sent by text message on Friday) and our Friday Staff Review of the Week, we recognise that there are a great number of things going well and there are areas of concern for parents and staff. We appreciate those who gave feedback as this helps us to plan going forward and allows us to address any concerns.

**Parents working from home;** We acknowledge that it can be stressful working from home and manage remote learning. We feel the introduction of the 'Live Sessions' has added to this stress. Parents who find the timings of these sessions difficult should not worry about this as they are not critical to Home Learning. All the learning your child needs for the day will be in their folder on Showbie – this is the most important thing. Children in Year 3 to Year 6 should be able to access the Live Sessions independently which may help parents. The key message here is that you should make it work for you and your family. If you are not able to do Home Learning until later in the day this is fine, although you need to be aware that there is not an expectation that learning submitted after 3.00pm will be marked. Keep in touch with your child's class teacher in the Parent Group, they would be happy to arrange a telephone call where needed, and with Mrs Croskery in the DSM Family Tech Clinic (JRHH5)

**Staff Working from home;** The vast majority of our staff who are working from home, and many of those coming into school, also have Home Learning to complete with their children. Other staff have different responsibilities with elderly parents or vulnerable family members. I have to ensure, as head teacher, that I am balancing staff's home responsibilities alongside providing a high quality remote learning experience for our DSM family. To support this we have an expectation that work submitted before 3.00pm should be marked.

### Live Learning Vs Flexible Learning

Responses to the questionnaire were inconclusive in this area. The response to the Live Sessions was overwhelmingly positive. However, this can only be maintained by scheduling the learning across the day. Some families expressed they would prefer **all** learning to be online at 9.00am, we recognise this may help you plan your day however it would be at the expense of the Live Sessions. All learning is on Showbie by 1.00pm so it may be your preferred option to wait until 1.00pm for your child(ren) to do their learning. You can absolutely choose to organise your day in the best way that works for you and your family commitments. All we ask is that you understand work submitted after 3.00pm may not be marked. Teachers and support staff do not finish at 3.00pm. They have to mark the 60+ pieces of Maths and English from the morning sessions and also check and respond to the afternoon's learning. They then need to plan and prepare for the next day's learning. Please do not think we are complaining we just want to acknowledge the difficulties of parents and teachers whilst Home Learning.

### Things to Celebrate

- DSM staff are skilled in technology to support Remote Learning
- Each child at DSM from Reception to Year 6 has their school iPad at home
- Children at DSM are digitally literate and knowledgeable about Showbie/Google
- Showbie (our online platform) allows us to set learning, children to submit learning, and teachers to give feedback on learning
- The vast majority of children at DSM have accessed online learning this week
- DSM children are able to stay connected to their friends and to school

## Critical Keyworker Childcare

I have been working hard to ensure the provision we have in school is as safe as possible for the children who have to access Critical Keyworker Childcare and also for the staff who are in school leading and managing the Critical Keyworker Childcare Bubbles. The Government do offer guidance around access to places in school however, this is guidance and not statutory. Schools use the Government Guidance to begin planning the best way forward for their school and we are also advised by the Local Authority. This guidance and advice then needs to be considered along with availability of staffing and prioritising Critical Keyworkers. I am trying my best to be fair to those requesting places, giving priority to those on the frontline in health, whilst keeping everyone in school safe.

## School Contact Updates

It is very important that we have up to date emergency contact details for all children in school. To support this we will be putting this reminder on the Newsletter at the beginning of each new term.

**Have you changed address?**

**Have you changed your telephone number?**

**Have any of your other emergency contacts changed their address or phone number?**

Please let the office know of any changes and we will update our system. Thank you.

A reminder also, especially as children move into new classes, teachers may ask anyone they do not recognise collecting your child who they are. This is part of our safeguarding procedures in school and is never meant to cause offence to anyone.

## ParentPay

It is very important that all parents register with ParentPay as all future school events will be booked and paid for using this system.

### Lunches and ParentPay

**From January our school lunches will be ordered and paid for using ParentPay. Further information is available on the DSM Parent Showbie Group (the code for this group is HZ3W5) and the Newsletter section of our school website. Please do not order any lunches on the Dolce SchoolGrid for January 2021.**

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](mailto:I.woodburn@dsmprimary.com)**

Kind regards

*Mrs L Woodburn*

## Dates for Diaries

Event	Date	Arrangements

## Beginning and End of the School Day from January 2021

<b>Class</b>	<b>Drop Off Time</b>	<b>Pick Up Time</b>
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