



Dalton St Mary's CE Primary School

Newsletter 1

Autumn term 1

3rd September 2021

How lovely it is to be back at school. The children all arrived with big smiles on their faces and yesterday was so calm in school. Many children had exciting events from summer to share which is lovely. I apologise to our Nursery parents and children regarding the confusion over the start date. This was an oversight with the change of staff into Nursery, please be reassured it is in the diary for next year to make sure the start date is clear to all parents. Nursery children do start a little after the rest of school to allow the Nursery staff to undertake Home Visits (or virtual Home Visits) with the children who are new to Dalton St Mary's. I apologise for any inconvenience or upset this may have caused.

Organisation in school

As I mentioned in an earlier newsletter as restrictions continue to be lifted some people will feel relieved and others may feel anxious. I do still want to make sure we return safely alongside welcoming the suggestion that we no longer have to adhere to strict bubbles and whole classes having to immediately isolate if they are a contact of a positive case. Masks on the playground are no longer required however masks can still be worn through personal choice. I will keep our situation under constant review and I will always keep parents up to date with any changes to our routines and procedures in school.

As our school is a single form entry our children are in distinct 'bubbles' naturally in their classrooms. I have now opened up playtimes to allow children in Reception/Y1/Y2 take their outside break together followed by Y3/4/5/6.

There is a short period of time, at lunchtime, when all the children are playing out together. We are lucky to have an extensive outdoor area and there are different areas for children to play. Opening up this time of day allows siblings to see each other and friends in different year groups to play outdoors for a short time.

Breakfast and After School Club are now being identified as 'bubbles'. This means that children do not have to sit in year groups at tables which makes the beginning and end of the day a little more relaxed. We keep clear registers of attendees at these clubs which supports our 'close contact' tracing. Breakfast Club remains in the hall and After School Club is back in the Nursery building.

Dropping Off

We will continue with our 10-minute morning drop off window; 8.45am to 8.55am. All classroom doors will be open at 8.45 and children in all classes will be able to go straight into school from 8.45am. The doors will be closed at 8.55am; any children arriving at school after 8.55am will need to come to the front door to enter school. We do intend to keep the one-way system that we are all used to as the entrance gate is only very small and we feel it has worked well; entering the playground through the small gate on Coronation Drive and leaving the playground through the silver gate/care park. The change here is that we are not asking parents to 'follow the line' as we were previously. We simply ask that parents are respectful of others and their space; we also ask that parents do not remain on the playground after their children have gone into school; this will support the flow in and out of school. We would also encourage children in Key Stage 2 to come onto the playground independently, this really helps to reduce congestion.

Collection

We will be continuing with the single end of day collection time of 3.15pm. Again, following the one-way system as described above, children will be ready to collect from their classroom door with the exception of Y1 children who will exit through the door next to the Year 1 classroom (onto the main playground). Hopefully Y1 exiting this way will reduce congestion for parents and children exiting school.

We will continue to monitor this system for the first few days/weeks of the new term and will always be looking for ways to continue to ensure our routines and procedures are safe and effective. Thank you for your support with this.

Return to School and Uniform

Thank you for your support to ensure we are upholding our standards of uniform. Please do not be too upset if your child brings home a 'uniform reminder slip'. This will simply be to point out that your child may not have been wearing the correct uniform or may have forgotten something; PE Kit/Swimming Kit. One thing I have noticed is some large earrings and other items of jewellery. If children's ears are pierced, they should **only wear a plain stud** in their ears to school and **should not wear** them on PE swimming days **or** be able to remove them independently.

Thank You

I am always grateful when people think of our school when offering support. I would like to thank Dave Shaw from Kitchen Wizard who has kindly donated the money generated from his 10p bag charge to our school. The money donated has supported us in our recycling campaign and we have been able to purchase new bins for the playground to support recycling. Thank you again Kitchen Wizard and Dave Shaw.

Parent Showbie Codes

Showbie is our online platform and it is important that all parents join the correct classes to ensure good communication between school and home. Please find, below, a list of group codes which you may find useful. New parents will receive a letter with further information regarding Showbie.

Group	Code
DSM Whole School Parent Group	HZ3W5
DSM Family Tech Clinic	J3F7V
Nursery Parent Group	GQ82T
Reception Parent Group	V6AN9
Year 1 Parent Group	T23UW
Year 2 Parent Group	FJKGD
Year 3 Parent Group	U88N7
Year 4 Parent Group	H3NEE
Year 5 Parent Group	C9W59
Year 6 Parent Group	DGAEW

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Kind regards

Mrs L Woodburn

Dates for Diaries

Harvest Festival	Y5 to Lead; Shared Via Showbie	Thursday 7 th October 2021
Parent Appointment Week	Virtual Showbie meeting	Week Beg: 11/10/21
Flu Vaccinations	YR to Y6	Wednesday 20 th October 2021
Finish for Half Term	From School at 3.15pm	Friday 22 nd October 2021
Return to School		Monday 1 st November 2021