



# DUNNINGTON C.E. PRIMARY SCHOOL

Pear Tree Lane  
Dunnington  
York YO19 5QG  
Tel 01904 552910



Headteacher: *Caroline Hancy*



6<sup>th</sup> September 2013

Dear Parents/Carers,

I would like to begin by offering a very warm welcome to you all following the summer break. The holidays do seem to fly by, and we have certainly enjoyed some fantastic weather this year, but it is always good to get back into the school routine and to see everyone again.

On behalf of all who work at the school, I would like to pass on a very big thank you to children and parents for all the kind cards, letters and gifts received at the end of last term. They were very much appreciated.

As always during the summer holidays, there have been a number of developments in school which I would like to share with you.

### Congratulations to Mr and Mrs Waites!



On Saturday 24<sup>th</sup> August 2013 we celebrated the wedding of Miss Lydia Atkinson (Year 5 teacher) to Mr Simon Waites. It was a beautiful occasion and it will be no surprise to hear that the bride (and groom) looked absolutely stunning! Mr and Mrs Waites have asked me to pass on their gratitude for the cards and gifts received for their wedding day. I am sure you will join me in wishing them every happiness for their future together.

### Staffing Update

Many of you will know that Mrs Brandon (School Administrator) underwent surgery at the end of the last academic year. Whilst she is back in school at the moment, it will, unfortunately, be necessary for her to have further surgery in the near future. We will endeavour to make arrangements to cover her absence as efficiently as possible.

Mrs Jones (Year 3 teacher) is now recovering from surgery at home and we wish her all the very best in the coming weeks. Mrs Todd has kindly amended her working hours so that she will teach every morning and Monday afternoons in year 3 and Mrs Jane Dicken will be teaching Tuesday to Friday afternoons.

#### Parent Welcome Meetings

You should have received a letter and subsequent reminder regarding our September Parent Welcome Meetings.

Please don't worry if you are unable to attend, information will also be sent out in a class newsletter and published on the school VLE.

Teaching staff will also be providing you with their school email address should you need to contact them directly. **Please be aware that staff will endeavour to check emails each day but this cannot be guaranteed, so for urgent matters, please leave a message with the school office.**

#### Plan of the School

Teachers often move classrooms to accommodate their new intake. I have attached a plan of the school so that you can see where your child's new class is situated. I hope it makes sense!

#### Celebrating in Style!

Following their most successful season ever, winning the York Champions League and being crowned North Yorkshire Champions, the school football team will be celebrating the start of the new season in a brand new kit thanks to the generous sponsorship of a local firm, Parkinson's. Our thanks go to Mr Jackson for arranging this for us.

Mr Martinez

#### Sainsbury's School Games and School Sport

We look forward to another year of great sporting achievements in 2013/14. Our teams had a range of fantastic successes with the Y5/6 football team representing the North of England, the Y3/4 Tri Golf team reaching the finals of the North Yorkshire competition and the Y5/6 cricket team finishing 3<sup>rd</sup> in the North Yorkshire finals. The Y3/4 tennis team also enjoyed taking part in a mini tennis tournament at Wigginton tennis club and the school benefitted from two class sets of tennis balls as a result of all their hard work.

In the Drax Cup, held at Dunnington Sports Club, our Y3/4 cricket team also made the finals. A day of superb skill was on display and great fun was had by all!

We have many talented youngsters in this school who excel in many areas of sport. Please make sure you send your child in with certificates, medals, trophies or photos of their out-of-school sporting achievements to add to our Wonder Wall!

Mrs Rowntree

## Music Tuition

As part of our commitment to the Arts, we have been introducing the children to a range of musical instruments over the past few weeks in assembly. There are now a number of opportunities for children to begin to learn to play a musical instrument in school.

Currently, through York Music Service, we are able to offer the following tuition:-

- Clarinet
- Flute
- Saxophone
- Trumpet
- Cornet
- Flugal Horn
- Guitar

We also hope to be able to offer tuition for violin and keyboard in the near future.

If your child is in Y3 to Y6 they are eligible for instrumental tuition. If you wish to find out about costs and register your child for lessons, please visit the website at:-

[www.yorkmusicservice.co.uk](http://www.yorkmusicservice.co.uk)

Please contact me if you have any questions regarding instrumental tuition.

Mr Clayton

## Our Global Partnership

We are looking forward to a visit from two teachers from India, Ms Sarita Choudhary and Ms Pallavi Malhan. These teachers are from the Global Indian International School in Jodhpur and have been working closely with Dunnington staff to develop an international partnership over the past two years. They will be in school during the week of 30<sup>th</sup> September and all children will be involved in activities and opportunities to learn more about India.

Mrs Richardson Byrne

## School Uniform

The children have arrived back looking very smart in their school uniforms. Please could you ensure that all articles, including PE kit and shoes, are named. We really would like to reduce the amount of lost property in school!! There are a number of articles outside my office left over from last term. Please do pop and have a look if you know you are missing something.

### Water Bottles

The children are encouraged to drink plenty of water throughout the school day so please ensure they have a named water bottle in school. These can be purchased at the school office for 96 pence or supplied from home. Whilst we do try to keep them clean in school, please also encourage your child to bring them home each weekend for a good wash!

### Jewellery

For safety's sake the wearing of jewellery, with the exception of watches, is discouraged.

We are unable to accept responsibility for the care of jewellery or for the damage caused by the wearing of earrings. If your child has pierced ears, please ensure that small studs are worn.

All jewellery, including studs, must be removed for P.E. and should not be taped up. It should be kept in a named container. We cannot be held responsible for lost items of jewellery. Unfortunately members of staff are unable to help children to remove jewellery.

If your child is unable to remove their own jewellery, please ensure items are removed at home on the relevant days otherwise they will not be able to take part in the PE session.

If your child is planning on having their ears pierced, the best time is early in the summer holidays to allow time for the ears to heal.

### Reminder regarding Attendance and Punctuality

As ever we are striving to maintain our high levels of attendance at Dunnington with a record 85% of children achieving certificates for attendance of 95% or over in 2012/13. This equated to nine or less days of absence across the whole school year.

Our certificates are currently based on a cumulative attendance, therefore only children who have achieved 100% for all three terms will receive a 100% certificate in the Summer term. We hope to gather the views of pupils and parents on this system over the course of this term.

Whilst attendance at school is very important and our attendance certificates are very popular with pupils, it has been brought to my attention that they may deter some children from staying at home when perhaps they are not really well enough to come to school.

You know your child the best. Please do not send them to school if you feel they will struggle to cope with the routines of the day and **always** ensure that they have been symptom free for 48 hours following diarrhoea or vomiting. This is especially pertinent at the moment as we have a pupil in school who is particularly susceptible to infection.

It is therefore important that we really emphasise and encourage a hygienic culture of thorough hand washing and use of tissues with all children in school and keep children at home if they are at risk of spreading infection.

Also, just to remind you all that new regulations issued by the Department for Education regarding requests for holidays during term time are now in force. Therefore, I will no longer be able to grant authorised leave of absence for holidays unless there are exceptional circumstances. Guidance from the local authority suggests exceptional circumstances such as:

- Service personnel who are prevented from taking holidays outside term time if the holiday will have the minimal disruption to the pupil's education or
- When a family needs to spend time together to support each other during or after a crisis.

**Please could you also ensure that children, particularly the upper key stage two who tend to make their own way to school, arrive between 8:45 and 8:55am, no earlier as staff cannot be available for supervision.**

Registration takes place between 8:55 and 9:05am. If children arrive during registration but before 9:15am, they are marked as late. The registers close at 9:15am, therefore if a child arrives after this time, they will be recorded as 'late after the register has closed' which shows as an absence in the overall attendance figures.

Persistent lateness causes problems for the child, the class and the teacher. Parents should therefore try to ensure that their child arrives in time for the start of school.

The School Attendance and Punctuality Policy is currently under review to reflect the new legislation. Once it has been approved by governors, I will send a copy to all parents and publish it on the school website.

### School Meals

Please could I remind you that the price of a school meal is £2.25. The cost of school meals for the whole of this half term is £85.50 if you prefer to pay in advance. Cheques should currently be made payable to City of York Council. After the October half term, due to changes in accounting processes by the local authority, cheques for school meals will need to be made payable to Dunnington CE Primary School.

It is helpful to the office staff if you can book and pay for your meals for the week, every Monday. Please remember to inform the office if your child would like the vegetarian choice as all meals are cooked to order.

As ever, if you would like to come and join your child for lunch to sample the school menu, you would be most welcome. Please contact the school office to arrange. A copy of the menu has been sent home and can also be viewed on the VLE.

### Book and PE Bags

If you have recently purchased a school book bag or PE bag, you may have been overcharged. Please call into the school office and we will refund the overpayment. Please accept our apologies for the inconvenience.

### Nut Free Zone

For the benefit of parents new to the school, you may have read in our prospectus that our school is a 'nut-free zone'. This is because we have a number of children in school who have a severe nut allergy. We therefore ask that all parents avoid putting nuts or any product that contains whole nuts into packed lunches. Thank you for your co-operation on this matter.

### Bug-Busting Week

Thank you for your extremely supportive response to our bug busting weeks over the last year.

As is tradition at Dunnington CE School, the first week of every half term is 'bug busting week'.

This approach to the problem has been very effective in working towards the elimination of head lice from our school. We would therefore like to ask for your co-operation in continuing with this regular event. We do occasionally have one or two reports of head lice in school, so it is important to be vigilant.

Please remember that we need every family to participate in order for our efforts to be effective. Please proceed as follows:-

Starting from today, please check for head lice and eggs and wet-comb the hair of every member of your family at least once every three days for at least one full week.

Experts are divided as to whether wet-combing or chemical treatment is best but unless you find lice or eggs, it is better not to treat heads with chemical preparations.

If you are unfamiliar with head lice and would like more information or support about detection and treatment, please see Mrs Hancy or Mrs Brandon.

Thank you again for your co-operation.

### Important Dates for the Term

Please find attached a list of important dates for the term.

As always, if you have any concerns about anything mentioned in this letter or your child over the course of the year, please get in touch.

With very best wishes,



Caroline Hancy