



DUNNINGTON C.E. PRIMARY

**Pear Tree Lane
Dunnington
York YO19 5QG
Tel 01904 552910**



Headteacher: Caroline Hancy



Friday 11th September 2015

Dear Parents/Carers,

Firstly, I would like to begin by offering a very warm welcome to you all following a *very long* summer break!!

I'm sure I was not alone in being ready to get back into the school routine. It has been great to see everyone again and we have certainly enjoyed a very positive start to the new term. Our new arrivals in reception and across the school have taken things in their stride and, I hope, are beginning to feel comfortable in their new surroundings.

Secondly, 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.

Staffing Update

For those of you who are new to the school, we are very pleased to welcome three additional members of staff onto our teaching team. Miss Katie Sheard has joined us from The Greetland Academy in Halifax as our Lower Key Stage Two Phase Leader and Y3/4 teacher, Miss Jessica Dunn has also joined our Y3/4 teaching team, having successfully completed her training at Manchester Metropolitan University, and Mrs Sarah Herbert has also joined our team of teaching assistants, supporting children throughout the school.

Mrs Kate McGowan, who did a great job for us in Y3/4 last term, will also remain with us for this academic year covering teachers' planning and preparation time, leadership release time and some aspects of staff professional development.

All have spent time in school planning and getting to know the routines and I know they are very much looking forward to the term ahead.

Also, having successfully completed my Local Leader in Education accreditation last year, I have been asked to undertake some school to school support work within the City of York. Collaborative work of this nature is hugely beneficial to our school as well as, hopefully, for the school in receipt of additional leadership support. It enables me to gather a wealth of new ideas and to reflect and refine our own practice as a result. This work will require me to be out of school for up to one day a week for this academic year. In order to ensure continuity, Mrs Bertoletti will take on additional leadership responsibilities and will, therefore, be out of class every Thursday. Mrs Bertoletti's class will be taught by Mrs McGowan on Thursdays.

Parent Welcome Meetings

Our parent welcome meetings are now well underway with four due to take place next week. 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.**

My direct email and phase leader emails can be found below:-

Headteacher		
Caroline Hancy		head.dunningtonprimary@york.gov.uk
Phase Leader	Responsible for pupils in years:	Contact details
Early Years Mrs Gilderdale	Reception	caroline.gilderdale@dunningtonprimary.co.uk
Key Stage 1 Mrs Bertolletti	Years 1 and 2	joanna.berolletti@dunningtonprimary.co.uk
Lower Key Stage 2 Miss Sheard	Years 3 and 4	katie.sheard@dunningtonprimary.co.uk
Upper Key Stage 2 Mr Martinez	Years 5 and 6	philip.martinez@dunningtonprimary.co.uk

Spanish Celebration Day

Many of you know that Spanish is now the language that we teach throughout Key Stage 2. Children in Key stage 1 also have occasional Spanish sessions, learning numbers, greetings, days of the week etc. On Friday 25th September, we will be having a Spanish celebration day in school. We ask that all children, including key stage 1, dress in Spanish costume or the colours of the Spanish flag (red and yellow). Teachers throughout the school will plan Spanish activities for their class to mark this occasion.

Premises Development

Over the summer holidays, our school kitchen underwent modernisation and refitting. It now feels much more spacious and better equipped to cope with the large increase in school meals take-up. A number of external areas have been also painted during the summer break. Unfortunately the planned repairs to the roof were not able to take place but this work remains a priority for the Local Authority and will hopefully go ahead this academic year.

I would like to thank our cleaning and facilities management teams for their hard work over the school closure period. They have worked tirelessly to ensure our school was clean and ready for the start of term.

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!

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!! The lost property box is located outside the staffroom. We periodically check this and return named articles but please do pop in and have a look if you know you are missing something.

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.

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 95 pence or supplied from home. **We do not provide cups by the water machines as this is not very hygienic.** However, if a child has forgotten their bottle, they can borrow a cup from the staffroom. Whilst we do try to keep water bottles clean in school, please also encourage your child to bring them home each weekend for a good wash!

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 cooperation on this matter.

Sweets in School

Occasionally children have brought treats and sweets in from holidays and birthdays to share with their friends. Whilst I appreciate this is a really kind gesture, some parents would rather their children didn't eat sweets. It can also be quite time-consuming and difficult for teaching staff to determine which sweets children can have when they have food intolerances/allergies. We therefore request that children don't bring treats into school to share.

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.

Bringing Cycles and Scooters to School

Many children bring their cycles and scooters to school. Whilst we encourage this as a healthy form of transport, we do want our children to be safe.

We ask that children dismount their cycles and scooters before they enter the school gates and walk them to the scooter parks and cycle sheds sensibly. Please do not allow your child to scooter or cycle in the playgrounds before or after school.

Only yesterday, I received a message from a local resident who was concerned about older children travelling far too quickly on their scooters down Church Lane and being unable to stop at the bottom. We do provide pedestrian training in lower key stage two and cycling proficiency sessions in upper key stage two. I will also look to source some sessions on 'Safe Scootering' and, in particular, etiquette when using scooters on the footpaths. However, in the meantime, please talk to your child about these matters at home.

Parking around School

Parking near schools is a city-wide problem. Despite numerous pleas in school newsletters, we still have an issue with cars dropping off and parking on the double yellow lines, zig zags and neighbouring driveways making it difficult for children to see and dangerous to cross near our school. We have had a number of 'near misses' and complaints from neighbours who are unable to access their properties, which is concerning. Your help and consideration would be very much appreciated.

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