

Dogsthorpe Infant School

Whole School Newsletter

10.01.2023

A Message from Mrs Waters

Dear Parents/Carers,

Happy New Year! I hope you have enjoyed a great holiday with family and friends.

The Spring term has got off to a flying start with Year 1 and 2 classes having two creative days of Music, Art and Dance, whilst EYFS have already starting to create their marvellous mixtures and potions! You have now received the year group newsletters which give you an overview of this half-term's topics as well as our 'Word Aware' topic vocabulary and links to websites to support your child's learning. Don't forget to keep an eye on Class Dojos too as we upload learning videos, Powerpoints and resources every week. We also upload letters and 'reminder messages' so it is very important you register and check regularly.

This time last year I set everyone a NEW YEAR CHALLENGE and I am going to set the same one again. Lots of children are not reading regularly at home. We know it can be hard to find the time, but just 5-10 minutes every day could help increase your child's confidence in reading and they will then make great progress. Please can we ask you ALL to find that time as much as you can? Once your child can read confidently, they will be able to access and do so much!

A big THANK YOU to all children, parents and staff for a great start to the Spring term!
Please take care ☺.

Mrs Waters

Forward Planning - Dates for you Diary

Tuesday 10th January - Class Photos. The Tempest photographer will be in school to take a whole class photo. Proofs will be sent out at a later date for parents to order copies.

Wednesday 18th January - Y2 Maths Workshop for parents, 2.30pm - 3.00pm. A separate letter will be sent out shortly.

Spring Term Book Buzz sessions, 8.45am - 9.00am

Monday 23rd January - Year 2

Tuesday 24th January - EYFS

Wednesday 25th January - Year 1

Tuesday 31st January - Online Safety Workshop for Parents, 2.30pm - 3.00pm.

Tuesday 7th & Wednesday 8th February - Parent Consultation Evenings. These will be face-to-face this term so you will also have the opportunity to have a look at your child's work. We will also offer an online appointment if you prefer.

Half-term break - Monday 13th February - Friday 17th February

Phonics Survey

Thank you to the parents who have completed the Phonics survey we sent out before the end of term. The feedback you give us is vital to ensure we are providing you with lots of helpful & useful information, via Class Dojos, to support your child's learning of Phonics and love of reading.

We would appreciate it if you could complete this simple survey, by Monday 16th January, to help us plan for the Spring term.

<https://forms.office.com/e/AnWtEXQnkP>

Foodbank

Dogsthorpe Infants is an agent for foodbank vouchers. If you are currently going through a difficult financial time and need a food parcel please speak to Mrs Waters, Mrs Hibbert or Mrs Gardner. You can be assured that this will be kept confidential. E-Vouchers are now available so can be sent to you electronically. Alternatively you can email Mrs Waters/Mrs Gardner on:

office@dogsthorpeinfants.org.uk or click on the link on our school website

www.dogsthorpeinfants.com

PE

Please ensure you check Parentmail & Class Dojo so you know your child's PE days and send them into school wearing appropriate PE kit. **Earrings and other jewellery should not be worn and should be removed before school.** If you have any questions, please speak to your child's teacher/TA.

Attendance Policy

It is the legal responsibility of **every** parent to make sure their child receives that education either by attendance at a school or by education otherwise than at a school.

Where parents decide to have their child registered at school, they have an **additional legal duty** to ensure their child attends that school regularly. This means their child must attend every day that the school is open, except in a small number of allowable circumstances such as being too ill to attend or being given permission for an absence in advance from the school.

The Isle of Wight Council v Platt case (2017) considered by the Supreme Court makes it clear that regular attendance shall mean in accordance with the school rules. Therefore, any non-attendance which is not in accordance with the school rules will be deemed unauthorised. The school rules are determined by the school and are the days and hours that they are open for pupils to attend. Under this judgment all children registered at a school should attend 100% of the time unless there are exceptional circumstances that prevent this.

For children to gain the greatest benefit from their education it is vital that they attend regularly and your child should be at school, on time, every day on which the school is open.

Regular attendance is essential if children are to make good progress in their learning. It enables them to keep up with the work and also maintain contact with their friends. Poor attendance creates the problem that having missed lessons children find it harder to understand subsequent work. School is an important and essential part of our children's lives if they are to do well and be successful. Establishing good habits for attending school every day and on time now will set our children up well for the future and ensure that they 'Dream, Believe, & Shine'.

Our School Attendance Policy has recently been revised in line with the Local Authority Attendance Policy. It is very important that you find the time to read the attached policy which can also be found on our school website www.dogsthorpeinfants.co.uk and in the foyer near the school office.

Our Attendance Co-ordinator, Mrs Gardner, is happy to discuss any issues or concerns you have surrounding your child's attendance. She can be contacted at the school office.

Leave of Absence

Headteachers must comply with The Education (Pupil Registration) (England) (Amendment) Regulations 2013. There is **no** automatic entitlement in law to time off in school time to go on holiday.

Any leave of absence, which is not illness or GP/Dentist/Hospital appointments, i.e. holiday, visiting family abroad, passport appointments etc must be applied for in advance. Forms are available from the rack in the main foyer. You must supply as much evidence as possible to support your request i.e. travel booking documents. These must be a copy of the original documents showing when the flights/ferry were booked, when you are going and returning - boarding passes will not be accepted. Without these documents the absence will automatically be unauthorised. In deciding about whether to authorise the leave, the Headteacher will consider the circumstances of each application individually taking into account all the evidence submitted in support so it is vital that you produce as much supporting evidence as you can.

*It is important that you understand that we may **only** authorise such absences in **exceptional circumstances**.*

We have a duty of care to know where our children are so please talk to us if you require leave of absence for your child - do not just disappear on us! If you take leave and do not tell us, then we will follow our Safeguarding procedures to establish where you are. This will include a home visit and if this proves unsuccessful we may contact the police for a 'Safe & Well' check.

Any period of leave taken without the agreement of the school and/or different from that agreed by the school will be classed as unauthorised and may attract sanctions such as a Penalty Notice per parent/carer per child of £60.

Medical Appointments

Please inform us if your child has an unavoidable medical appointment during school hours. Where possible, please give at least 24 hrs notice. The office staff will need to see evidence of this appointment such as a letter, appointment card or text message. If you cannot provide evidence, then the absence will not be authorised. Please aim to book medical appointments outside of the school day where possible. Remember, if the appointment is after 9am then your child can always come into school first and then you collect them prior to the appointment.



Quick Glance Guidance on Attendance for Parents/Carers.

Attending school every day and on time is a key factor in your child's progress. Persistent absences and lateness have a detrimental impact on your child's learning and creates a barrier to them becoming the best that they can be.

At Dogsthorpe Infants, we aim to work in partnership with parents/carers to ensure that your child has the very best attendance possible. We expect you to share in this commitment by following these guidelines:

- ❖ Please ring us if your child is going to be absent from school. The answerphone is on overnight; please leave your name, your child's name and class and the reason for absence. It is **YOUR** responsibility to contact us in the case of absence.
- ❖ If your child is just feeling a little 'under the weather' then still bring them in. We find that children often brighten up once they are busy at school; if we feel they are not fit for school we will contact you.
- ❖ All illness over 3 days, should be supported by medical evidence e.g. a doctor's appointment card, sight of any prescribed medication etc. If your child is prescribed antibiotics, they **do not need to be off for the whole course**. Medical advice is that a child can return to school after taking up to 3 days of antibiotics. If you choose to keep your child off for any longer period, then we would need to see proof from the doctors that this absence from school is necessary. Without further evidence the absence may be unauthorised. If your child requires antibiotics 4 times per day, then the school can administer these at lunchtime provided the relevant school paperwork is completed. If required 3 times per day - these doses can be worked around school hours.
- ❖ **Doors open at 8.45am and children must be in on time to start learning promptly at 8.50am.** Learning starts as soon as your child comes in so being late leads to missed learning opportunities. If you are running unavoidably late then ring us so that we know you are on your way.
- ❖ Registers are completed at 9am and will be closed by the class teacher. Your child will receive a late mark ('L') if they are not in by that time. If your child arrives after 9.15am then it will be classed as an 'Unauthorised Absence' ('U'). The code given will show that the child is on site, but arrived after the register had been finalised. This may mean that you could face the possibility of a Penalty Notice if the problem persists. If your child comes into school via the main entrance, after 8.50am, even if it is before the registers have been closed, you will be asked for a reason for being late.
- ❖ **School finishes at 3:15pm** and children do become distressed if they are collected late. We appreciate that unexpected delays can occur, but please do give us a call to let us know you are going to be late. Persistent late collection is closely monitored.
- ❖ Inform us if your child has an unavoidable medical appointment (where possible at least 24 hrs beforehand). We will need to see evidence of this appointment such as a letter or appointment card. If no evidence is provided, then the absence may be unauthorised. Please aim to book medical appointments outside of the school day unless it is an emergency.
- ❖ Talk to us if you require leave of absence for your child. **This will only be authorised in exceptional circumstances; no family holidays will be authorised** and may incur a penalty fine of £60 per parent, per child.
- ❖ If your child's attendance falls below 94% then we will write to advise you of this
- ❖ If your child's attendance falls below 90% then you will be invited to a meeting with the Headteacher and/or Governors. Failure to attend or improve attendance can lead to a penalty notice being issued by the Local Authority.
- ❖ Come and talk to us if you are finding it difficult to get your child to school. If there is a problem, then we need to know about it so we can help.

Establishing good habits for attending school every day and on time now will set our children up well for the future and ensure that they 'Dream, Believe, Shine'.