

A Message from Mrs Waters

It doesn't seem that long ago that I was writing to you to wish you a 'happy new year' and now we have reached the half-term holiday! Spring 1 has been a challenging one for us as a school. You may have noticed that we have had high staff absence and, at times, it has been incredibly difficult to organise cover. However, despite these challenges, we are proud that we have remained open to all children and have maintained our usual high standard of learning and teaching. We appreciate that staff changes can impact on children and we have done everything we can to ensure there has always been at least one familiar adult in each class. I would like say a big THANK YOU to the DIS staff for working so brilliantly as a team and pulling together in these difficult times.

As we move into the second half of the Spring term, we know restrictions are likely to be lifted and we can hopefully begin to plan some of the events we have been missing during the pandemic. We will continue to follow LA and Trust guidance. Please ensure you read the letter from Dr Price which was sent out yesterday.

One of our big focus areas after half-term will be LATENESS. Lots of children are arriving after 8:45 and missing valuable learning time. Arriving just before the bell rings at 8:55 means your child has missed the introduction to their first lesson. We know unexpected things happen which can cause lateness, but if your child is persistently late, we will be contacting you to discuss this matter further.

As always, thank you for your continued support
Wishing you all an enjoyable half-term holiday

Mrs Waters

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.

School Lunch Menu

With effect from Monday 21st February our school lunch menu will change. The new menu is attached and will also appear on the website over the holidays.

Reminder that ALL Dogsthorpe Infant School children are entitled to a FREE school lunch every day.

School Support

The school is happy to support with the completion of forms or letters for families i.e. passport applications, on roll confirmations, benefit applications etc, however we do need you to give us **at least a week's notice please.**

Water Bottles

Please ensure your child brings a NAMED water bottle to school every day. This will ensure your child can have access to a drink more readily throughout the day. Please do not fill bottles with juice or fizzy drinks.

Foodbank Donations

As you may be aware we have a foodbank in the Methodist Church next to the school which is well used by the families of the Dogsthorpe Community. We have always held an annual collection for the Foodbank but as they need supplies the whole year round we have decided to have a permanent Foodbank drop-off point in school. If you would like to donate any items, at any time, please bring to the school office.

The Foodbank always needs the following items:

Tins of: meat, vegetables, fruit, rice pudding, soup, beans

Pasta & pasta sauces, noodles, instant mash

Biscuits/cake

Tea/coffee/sugar

Longlife milk or cartons of juice

Squash/pop

Cereals

Crisps/sweets

Toiletries

Toilet Roll

They are currently in desperate need of:

Tins of meat - things like stewed steak, corned beef, hotdogs etc

Cartons of juice

Jars of Pasta sauce

Many thanks for your continued support of this vital community resource.

Staffing update

Sadly we are saying goodbye to Mrs Holden, TA in Donaldson Class today. We send her our best wishes as she progresses her career at another local school.

HEALTH AND SAFETY REMINDERS

Please ensure you observe the following Health and Safety rules:

- Vehicles - All exit and entry routes must be kept clear at all times.
- **Parents must not use the school car park for dropping off/collecting their child (unless you hold a blue badge).** The Methodist Church committee have kindly agreed that we can use their carpark at the beginning and end of the school day. However, they ask all car owners to be respectful and not to park on the grass.
- If you park on one of the roads close to school, please ensure you are respectful to our neighbours. You should not park across driveways or block people in.
- Bicycles and scooters must not be ridden by either adults or children within the school premises. The bicycle storage shelter is provided for Infant children's bikes/scooters ONLY. The bike racks at the front of the school are for parent and visitors' bicycles.
- The school site is, **by Law**, non-smoking. Please extinguish cigarettes before coming onto the school grounds.
- Dogs are not allowed on the school grounds (Eddie has special permission from the Governors).
- It is the responsibility of parents/carers to supervise all of their children before and after school.

USE OF SOCIAL MEDIA.

As part of our commitment to the safeguarding and welfare of all our children, we remind you of the following:

- If you use social media sites we ask that you show the school and our staff courtesy and respect. Staff members should not be named in any comments which are in the public domain. If we are informed that this has happened, then a meeting will be called to discuss the issue.
- We remind you that children under the age of 13 should not be accessing Facebook. If we are informed that one of our children has an account, we will advise the site and request for the account to be deleted. The age limit is there to protect your child.

Term Dates

School Closes	3.15pm Friday 11 th February
Half Term	14 th - 18 th February 2022
School Opens	8.45am Monday 21 st February
School Closes	3.15pm Friday 1 st April 2022

Summer Term 2022

School Opens	Wednesday 20 th April 2022
May Day	Monday 2 nd May 2022
Half Term	30 th May - 3 rd June 2022
School Closes	Thursday 21 st July (amended 10/09/21) *

**This change takes account of the extra bank holiday in 2022 for the Queen's Platinum Jubilee and the subsequent one-off change to the number of required school contact days.*

Parents Evenings Reminder - 1st and 2nd March 2022

This is an important opportunity for you to have a discussion about your child's learning and progress with their teacher.

Please visit <https://dogsthorpeinfant.schoolcloud.co.uk> to book your appointments.

Login with the following information:

Your child's first name
Your child's surname
Your child's date of birth

You can also watch this video: <https://support.parentseveningsystem.co.uk/article/801-video-parents-how-to-attend-appointments-over-video-call>

If you have any difficulties with the booking process, please contact the school office.