



Dunkirk Primary School

www.dunkirkprimary.com

Newsletter

Issue 1

SEPTEMBER 2017

Welcome back to a new school year. I hope you all had a lovely holiday.

Meet The Teaching Team

Our after school session to meet your child's new teacher is on Tuesday 12th September. You can find out about PE times, curriculum and learning and ask any questions.

Abbey campus starts at 3.20pm

Highfields campus starts at 3.30pm

We welcome new staff as part of the last phase of our school expansion programme. Nicky Turner joins us as Early Years Leader and YR teacher. Sarah Stray will be teaching Year 6, Lorraine Ellis in Year 4 and Katie Perkins in Year 3. I am delighted that Layla Radi (Year 3) and Maggie Jones (Year 4) will be staying at Dunkirk this year.

We will be teaching English and maths every morning in Key Stage Two. Children in Year 3 to 6 will now be part of smaller targeted groups for English so that we can really focus on accelerating reading and writing progress. We welcome Rebecca Littlejones and Katie Lodge as our two new English target teachers. In maths we will be using a new programme called White Rose that encourages children to explore and problem solve.

School Leadership

We welcome our two Deputy Head Teachers Mrs Beeley and Mr Parry to their permanent posts. Mrs Beeley will be responsible for all the day-to-day running of Abbey campus and Mr Parry all the day-to-day running of Highfields Campus. If you have any queries about your child at school please see the Deputy Heads or Mr Brooks Assistant Head. If for any reason they are not able to address your query then an appointment will be made to see me (as I am back and forth between the two campuses each day).

Uniform

It is so lovely to see all the children in their new school uniforms and we are very proud to wear our Dunkirk red colour. Please make sure your child wears their school uniform every school day. We do PE twice a week but also on additional opportunities. For this reason, we ask that PE kits are kept in a named bag on your child's peg all half term and are only taken home to wash in the holidays. We will follow up, work with parents to ensure ALL children are in Dunkirk school uniform, and bring their PE kits.

Jewellery Policy Update

We have had several pieces of lovely jewellery lost or damaged and children very upset. Therefore, we have changed our jewellery policy. We will only allow analogue watches to support telling the time (worn on a wrist) or jewellery for recognised faith reasons. Please support this change for health and safety reasons.

Nursery

We have a few places left in our Fig nursery (Highfields Campus) this year. We are able to admit children after their third birthday. If you would like your child to attend Fig nursery please see the office. We are also operating our waiting list for next year. We are also encouraging our Fig parents to make sure they have logged into the government portal to find out if they qualify for the free 30hours in nursery.

<https://childcare-support.tax.service.gov.uk>

Electronic Payments/Communication

All our communication is electronic so please make sure you have signed up to the schoolgateway to pay for dinners, trips and receive all our electronic communications. A paper copy of letters will be kept in the office if you have any connectivity issues. We are very sorry but we are no longer able to do individual email account communication.

Playtime Snacks and Packed lunches

We are proud to be a healthy school. At play time children are allowed to bring fruit or buy fruit for 20p. We do not allow crisps, sweets, biscuits or chocolate bars.

If your child brings a packed lunch, please remember it needs to be a healthy choice.

- Yoghurts / fromage-frais / fresh and dried fruit are great pudding choices
- No fizzy drinks-just water or a pure fruit juice carton
- Sorry no chocolate bars e.g. Mars/Twix
- One packet of crisps only

If your child brings an unhealthy choice to school at playtime or lunchtime, we will contact you just to check you are aware. We will send your child home with the item and ask that a healthier choice be provided for the next day. We thank you for your continued support to ensure all our children have healthy lunchtimes. Our school dinners are lovely and nutritionally balanced. They cost £2.05 a day and you can select which days and which meals for your child to enjoy.

Improving Learning

Our School Improvement Plan for 2017-18 will be focusing on:

1. Children evaluating and marking their own learning progress
2. Developing maths skills through 'White Rose' maths problem solving
3. Improving children's reading fluency to extend their understanding
4. Ensuring our community understand what bullying is and why people bully

We also have our new curriculum theme 'CHANGE' and the children are currently generating ideas and planning their curriculum with staff through 'Big Questions'. If you have any ideas for a 'CHANGE' Big Question, please use the post boxes in each main entrance to share your ideas with us. We love to hear your ideas!

Homework Policy

Following feedback from children and families, we are changing our homework policy. We will send Maths and English basic skills eg timetables and spellings home on a regular basis. We are also introducing a new and exciting termly 'Family Fun Challenges' linked to our theme of 'CHANGE'. More details to follow.

DATES FOR YOUR DIARY

DATE	EVENT/ACTIVITY
12/09/17	'Meet the Teacher' evening 3.20 Abbey Campus 3.30 Highfields Campus
19/09/17	Y3 swimming starts! Every Tuesday afternoon for the Autumn term*
20 and 22/09/17	Y5/6 theatre visit to see 'Jumping On My Shadow' at the Lakeside theatre
27/09/17	International Evening*
4-6/10/17	Visit from Finnish Link School
11/10/17	Flu vaccinations RN – Y4. Please ensure you return your consent form if you wish your child to have the vaccination.
23/10/17-3/11/17	Half term
31/10/17	Deadline for Y6 parents to apply for secondary school
7/11/17	Individual school photos
22/12/17	Last day of Autumn term

*Further details to follow

Heidi Hollis, Headteacher