



# Dunkirk Primary School

## Newsletter

[www.dunkirkprimary.com](http://www.dunkirkprimary.com)

Issue 2

NOVEMBER 2017

As we move into the colder weather and the build up to Christmas, I wanted to update you on our plans for the rest of this half term.

**Uniform** - Please make sure your child is in school uniform, especially a red jumper or cardigan or fleece. We go outside in all weathers so that the children can learn and play in fresh air. Therefore, please make sure your child brings a warm winter coat to school every day. Any hats, gloves and scarves should all have your child's name in. We only keep lost property for half a term and then it is re-cycled.

**Governor Update** - Many thanks to Miss Yvonne Williams and Mrs Julie Clay, who have been staff governors for many years but are now stepping down from that role. Two new staff governors will be appointed and I will let you know after the voting process. We also welcome 3 new parent governors; Ms Tendai Dube, Mr Antonino La Rocca, and Ms Tahmina Noor, alongside our other most recent governor appointments, Mr Diyaal Rachdan and Mr Arslam Arshad.

**School Budget Cuts** - Due to the reductions in school budgets, we now have to plan educational trips very carefully. We have always tried to make sure that we access local free trips and opportunities and will continue to do this. We also try and walk as much as possible to keep costs lower. There are some educational visits that we do have to pay entry and transport for. School has limited funds to support these now and so we have to ask for voluntary parental contributions to help. If we do not receive enough contributions then we may have to cancel trips, which would be such a shame. Please support us as much as possible. For residential visits, we try and give as much time as possible (and set up payment plans) to spread the costs.

**Attendance** -The Educational Welfare Service and Local Authority have been working with us to ensure our attendance figures meet national expectations. We need your help to be able to do this. Some children are arriving late, this impacts on our overall attendance as lateness drops the percentage and it also puts the late child at an immediate learning disadvantage (we start morning maths and English work as soon as we are in class). Classes are also working hard to earn 'Attendance Ted' and it seems such a shame to miss out because of late arrivals.

We are very sorry but we no longer authorise holidays in term time or visa applications, as these were also negatively affecting our attendance figures.

Congratulations to Jumana Bayati (Oak Class) and Hamza Baki (Ash Class), they are in 2016/17 attendance bike winners (thank you to Aquinas for the donation of the two bikes!).

**Jewellery Safety** - We have reviewed our jewellery policy. Recently, there have been several items of lovely jewellery that have been lost or broken and this has upset the children involved. Therefore, we are asking that all jewellery, apart from small safety hoop earrings and specific jewellery worn as part of a religious observance are kept at home. If your child forgets and comes to school with other jewellery, we will just keep it safe and return it at the end of the school day. No earrings can be worn during PE, as we now follow safety in sport guidelines. Any new piercings must be covered by tape by the child themselves. Sorry but staff are not allowed to administer tape or take out earrings.

**Parent Consultations** - Thank you to all the parents/carers who attended our two night parent consultation sessions. If you have not yet seen your child's class teacher, please contact the office. Teachers really want to share the hard work and progress of all the children at Dunkirk.

**International Linking** - Mrs Beeley, Mrs Powell and Mrs Qureshi have just returned from teaching at the Lahore Lyceum, our link school in Pakistan. This was to link together work from Dunkirk and Pakistan about our 'Acts of Kindness' project. Mr Brooks and Miss Butler travel to Finland soon to further develop the 'Acts of Kindness' work at the Rastaala school outside of Helsinki. Three teachers from Finland also came to Dunkirk last month to teach in Year 2. The international element to our curriculum is an integral aspect of learning at Dunkirk and developing a global awareness. Please look on the website [smallactionbigchange.co.uk](http://smallactionbigchange.co.uk) for further images of our overseas curriculum learning, including the kindness boomerang film clips from all three schools.

**Site safety** - Thank you to all the parent/carers who help us ensure start and end of day site safety. If your child is in Nursery through to Y4, please collect them from outside their classroom. A few children are dropped off outside the school gates or collected further away from school. There have been some very near miss accidents with cars parked or travelling just outside the school gates and unattended children have been running across the road. We all want our children to be able to enter and exit school safely.

Many children bring a bike or scooter. They are great at parking and using the school storage racks. We have had some children not wearing a helmet and with the roads so busy around Dunkirk, we ask that all children wear a safety helmet when travelling to school.

### **Dunkirk PRIDE**

Congratulations to Miss Holly, who had a baby boy, whilst Miss Taylor and Mrs Jurkiw have both been into school with their new babies to show their class. They have talked with children about the responsibility of caring for a baby.

Congratulations to Mrs Bannister, who was recently awarded a Bachelor of Science degree, with a specialism in special needs. As a working parent, Mrs Bannister showed PRIDE 'determination' to complete her studies.

Well done everyone for raising £262 for Children in Need!

Well done to Mr Brown and Mrs Wise who raised over £1000 for Framework by standing with fundraising buckets as people left an event at Rock City.

Donero in Y6 Banyan made staff very proud recently. A child had lost their parent after school, and Donero looked after the child and helped them locate the parent. He showed PRIDE 'problem solving' and 'empathy'.

Claire in Y4 Madrono class has shown PRIDE by working 'independently' outside of school to further her studies and she was recently given a 'Young Black Achievers' award.

I was very proud of all the children during our 'Remembrance' assemblies recently. They asked valuable questions about remembrance, poppies and charity. They showed a level of maturity and respect that reflected their genuine PRIDE 'empathy' for others.

Well done to the children who won the governors 'Refugee Week Writing Competition': Laiba and Daniella in Cedar, Tiba in Redwood and Shifa in Redwood. A special mention also went to Palm class for their book on the Dalai Lama. Prizes will be awarded at the next Dunkirk PRIDE awards assembly.

If your child has done something either in or out of school, please let us know so they can be included in the next PRIDE section of our newsletters.

### **DATES FOR YOUR DIARY**

DATE	EVENT/ACTIVITY
6/12/17 3.30pm – 5pm	Christmas Fair Abbey Campus
12/12/17 10.00am	Y1-6 Abbey Campus Christmas Production (to be held at NUAST)*
13/12/17	Highfields Christmas lunch and jumper day*
13/12/17 9.15am	Apple (Reception) Christmas Production at Abbey Campus*
13/12/17 10.30am	Fig (Nursery) and Willow (Reception) Christmas Production at Highfields Hall*
13/12/17	Y3/Y4/Y5 (Abbey) to see Black Beauty, Lakeside*
14/12/17 9.30am	Y1-6 Highfields Campus Christmas Production (to be held at NUAST)*
15/12/17	Abbey Christmas lunch and jumper day*
15/12/17	Y3/4/5/6 (Highfields) and Y6 (Abbey) to see Black Beauty, Lakeside*

\*Further details to follow

Heidi Hollis