



# Autumn Term 1 Newsletter

## Welcome Back Everyone

It was lovely to see so many of you on the playgrounds before and after school. It is always a good chance to chat together.

As I put in my welcome back text message, the children have started the new school year looking very smart in their red school uniforms. Thank you because it helps the children to feel connected to school again. Please make sure your child has their names in ALL their school wear. We have had super behaviour at the start of the school year and as always, the children have been welcoming to our new reception children and to the 20+ students who are also joining our Dunkirk family in KS1 and 2.

I do want to remind all our children that they need to wear smart and sensible black/brown shoes/trainers to school and not brightly coloured sandals/shoes or trainers. They need sturdy footwear to enjoy their playtimes.

## Come and Meet Staff

A reminder from last terms newsletter that we have

### **'Meet the Teaching Team' Introduction Meeting**

on **Tuesday 10<sup>th</sup> September**

This is a great opportunity to meet your child's teacher/teaching assistant(s), visit the classroom and learn more about the curriculum and organisation for your child's class. The start times will be:

- Abbey campus 3:20-3:40pm in classrooms
- Highfields campus: 3:35-3:55pm in classrooms

The meetings will be followed by a **lovely family food sharing** in the campus halls. I will send a letter with more details but please bring 'finger food' only that can be held in a napkin. We love to see all the tasty international food that our wonderful families make and bring in and it is such a great way to start the year and meet other Dunkirk families. We look forward to seeing you.

Reading books and diaries will start to go out during next week. Class and curriculum letters will go out on the 16<sup>th</sup> September.

We welcome our new staff Mr Hall, Mr Cook, Mrs Hufton and Mr Lees into Key stage two and we welcome back Mrs Curtis from maternity leave. Mrs Taylor and Ms Latham are still on maternity leave but they have been popping in to see staff and children, which is lovely.

## *School Vision*

For all our new families, I wanted to make sure everyone knew how we want our school to work, feel and understand why we teach the way we do.

### **Mission Statement**

Diversity Pride Success

### **We Value:**

Problem Solving  
Responsibility  
Independence  
Determination  
Empathy

### **Our Vision**

That everyone:

- is inspired to learn as part of a research and discussion based learning community
- has the drive to improve their skills and qualities by critically reflecting on their current performance and taking ownership of their improvement
- finds collaborative learning enriching and challenging
- is willing to take calculated risks and innovate

This underpins our learning, behaviour and relationships with each other on a daily basis.

## *Improving School 2019-2020*

We will be working hard this year to improve how effectively each campus works and how children's learning can be accelerated.

Priority 1 **Raise attainment in maths** across school with a new 'Power Maths' maths scheme and further developing a mastery maths approach across school to enable all children to improve reasoning and calculation skills .

Priority 2 Develop children as **writers in Early Years and KS1** with implementation of 'Talk for Writing' to develop oral storytelling skills but also create more opportunities for children to apply their writing skills and understanding.

Priority 2. Implement a **new behaviour logging system** across both campuses

Priority 3. Build in **curriculum coverage/opportunities that enable children to apply their reading skills**. Update the website to share the full range of exciting curriculum activities children experience at Dunkirk.

Priority 4. Develop **bespoke campus identity and development**.

## Start of Day

It is vital that your child is at school at the start of the day. They know what they will be learning and to see their friends (before school starts). It is sad and unfair when a child has to run in late and is unsettled before they even start their learning. Please leave enough time for your school journey. The gates are open at 8:45am so come early and make sure your child has a positive start to school each day. It REALLY makes a DIFFERENCE to their learning behaviours!

## Road Safety

School Zig Zag Parking - A vital aspect of encouraging children to walk to school is their safety. An important part of this is to keep the school yellow 'Zigzags' clear from all vehicles during restricted hours. The hours of restriction across Nottingham City Schools are 8:30 - 9:30am and 2:30 - 4:00pm. Between the restricted hours of 8:30 - 9:30am and 2:30 - 4:00pm. No vehicles are permitted to load/ unload or park on the zigzags.

Anti-Idling Legislation - To help protect you and your child's health Nottingham City Council will be enforcing 'anti-idling' legislation and issuing fixed penalty notices to drivers that idle their vehicles' engine whilst parked/waiting at the kerbside anywhere in the City. Please park considerately and remember to switch off your engine.

## PE Kits

I will be doing a check on Monday to see that all children (Y1-6) have their PE kits in a bag in their cloakrooms. It is very important that your child keep their **PE kit in school ALL half term**. Please make sure your child has their kits in school so the class can earn EXTRA PRIDE tokens!

## Mobile Phones

Only Year 5 and 6 children can walk home alone. They must bring a signed permission slips into school. Any Year 5 and 6 mobile phones brought into school must be stored in the school office every day and collected at the end of the day.

It has been a very positive start to the new school year and we look forward to a happy and successful 2019-20, working alongside you to ensure all Dunkirk children have a great school year.

*See you on the playground*

Heidi Hollis

Head Teacher

