



# Dunkirk Primary and Nursery School

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18<sup>th</sup> September 2020

Dear parents/carers,



## *Weekly Catch-Up*



We miss you! It's really hard not seeing you all on the playground every day, meeting and chatting together, as our usual Dunkirk school family, so I thought it might be an idea to continue my weekly 'catch-ups' this half term rather than waiting for a half termly newsletter.



- **Great Dunkirk children**
- **Levels of communication**
- **Social distancing improvements**
- **Illness update**

### **Our Great Children**

I just wanted to write and say how brilliant both campuses have truly settled back. Mr Parry, Mrs Beeley and I see the children 'virtually' and on the playgrounds. Their behaviour and learning coming back into school has been amazing. Their teachers are full of praise. They have settled really well, learning about their new environments and routines. From our youngest nursery and new YR children knowing their new environments now and happily playing and learning through to our eldest Y6, who are settled and studying already. What is really important is that they are talking about how they feel and what learning is like for them now at school. We are listening to their feedback all the time.

If your child is experiencing any difficulties at home or school, please contact school to discuss. Whilst we are teachers and teaching assistants and our job is 'learning', we can always 'signpost' to other support and specialists, who have the specific experience to support you at home as a family. Mrs Mitchell, our SEND leader can contact families to discuss this further. It might be just to listen or you may wish to find out more. Again, please just email/call via our admin team.

### **Meet the Teaching Team Online**

I fully understand some families may have anxiety about their child's new class and what it is like. Staff and children have all needed time to settle. As we can't safely have everyone in school for our usual '**Meet the Teaching Team**' events, we are simply going to do these online instead! I will send out a letter with the information but we will hold a zoom meeting, which parents can join to get an online tour of the classroom and ask any questions about routines and curriculum.

Head Teacher: Mrs H Hollis BA (Hons)



## **Levels of Communication**

Class emails are on hold. We aren't ignoring you! We are actually really missing that connection with our families. There is a reason...some schools have transferred to new multi-function online learning platforms to bring together communication with parents and the setting of homework and home learning in the event of a lockdown. We have paused the distribution of our class mails as we are just about to trial one of these learning platforms with two of our older classes. After two weeks we will review the effectiveness and I will be able to update you all, as to the most effective learning/communication system that will suit the needs of our school. In the interim, please email [admin@dunkirk.nottingham.sch.uk](mailto:admin@dunkirk.nottingham.sch.uk) or call 9153273 if you have any urgent queries about your child's learning. We still want to hear from you.

At the moment our experienced teaching team have just been focusing on the children and settling them back into school:

- **Class/bubble/campus connection**
- **Sense of belonging**
- **The environment (playgrounds /toilets/gates included)**
- **Helping the children transition from having their parents/carers with them all the time**
- **Learning behaviours (our PRIDE values)**

I know that you can't come onto the playgrounds at the moment (it's weird and hard for all of us too not to see you all) and so have to ask that parents 'know' that we always have the children's best interests at our school core, we just can't feed back individually to every parent/carer every day, it just isn't feasible at the moment to achieve this via email/phone. Please be reassured that we will call you if it is really important.

Before and after school, staff are getting used to and implementing all the new cleaning and safety routines that have to be undertaken and planning the next day's learning with the team so that we make the learning as responsive and bespoke as possible to each class. Those are our current in-school priorities-health and safety and learning/well-being.

## **Parents Consultations**

I normally send out the dates and arrangements for the autumn term parents consultation evenings at this point. All schools are having to re-think how they will do this. We want parent consultations to still go ahead so you can find out about how your child is progressing and ask questions specifically about your child. Staff will be having a discussion to generate ideas and I will be asking parent governors for their views as to how we hold online consultations. Once this has been agreed, I will send a letter with all the login details and dates.

## **Illness Information**

We have had some families arriving at school after children have been sent home the previous day. I have attached the illness letter that I sent last week about illness at school and a **Covid19 checking chart** to help families understand when it is safe to send their child to school and when not. We have to follow health and safety protocol but we recognise this can conflict with our families having to work and study and taking time off for childcare.

However, the priority has to remain the health and safety of all the children and staff in school and I ask again for the support of all of our school community to achieve this.

***PLEASE READ THE ILLNESS LETTER AGAIN AND PRINT/KEEP A COPY OF THE ILLNESS CHART***

At this moment we need all our families to understand that if your child has any Covid19 symptoms, we have to send them (and siblings) home immediately and ask you to get them tested and isolate. This is the same for all schools across the country.

When we call we will tell you that your child is showing symptoms of Covid 19. We will be specific about what the symptoms are. We will:

-Ask if there are any other Dunkirk children who live in the household and their classes. If yes, we ask that they must also be collected immediately.

And advise you that:

You should attempt to get a test for the child by:

- Going to the testing website at <https://www.gov.uk/get-coronavirus-test>. New tests appear to be released at 8:00am and 5:00pm but keep trying though out the day
- Phoning 119

Your child should complete the set school work. This is found on the school's website ([www.dunkirkprimary.com](http://www.dunkirkprimary.com)) by selecting the 'Isolation/quarantine school work' on the red banner at the top of the page.

If you ring school to query about any illness we will still ask you:

1. Has your child got a temperature (over 37.8degrees)?
2. Has your child got a new continuous cough? NHS website defines this as 'coughing a lot, for more than an hour or 3 or more coughing episodes in 24 hours.'
3. Has your child lost their sense of smell or taste or has it changed? NHS website defines this as 'they cannot smell or taste anything, or things smell or taste different to normal.'

This guidance may change! I will update if it does.

### **Social Distancing**

Many thanks for supporting us as we adjusted the gate organisation. Social distancing at those entry and exit points has improved as a result and families have fed back that it feels much safer.

Have a good weekend.

Kind regards

Heidi Hollis  
Head Teacher

