



DENHAM VILLAGE SCHOOL
Cheapside Lane, Denham Village, Buckinghamshire. UB9 5AE
Headteacher: Miss A Nawaz

Friday 7th February 2020

Dear Parents,

It has been another busy yet productive week here at DVS. On Wednesday we met with other local schools who form part of our Liaison Group to moderate teacher assessments in Maths. We found our judgements to be accurate and robust. As part of the meeting we also shared our maths teaching practices with each other and will be trying out new ideas in the classroom. We are looking forward to sharing more practice over the course of the academic year.

Lockdown Arrangements

As you are well aware, we take our responsibility of safeguarding your children incredibly seriously. As such, we are constantly reviewing our policies and procedures to ensure that we are offering the safest environment for our pupils and we have recently reviewed our plan for "lockdowns". Lockdown procedures are important and would be used in response to an internal or external incident which could be a threat to the safety of staff and children in the school. This is a procedure schools may be advised to activate in the event of an imminent risk to the safety of children and staff on site. Such triggers might include a reported disturbance or incident in the local community, an intruder on site, a major fire in the vicinity of the school or the close proximity of a dangerous dog.

The decision to "lockdown" the school, is always made in discussion with the emergency services. During a Lockdown Procedure, doors are secured and the children remain inside the school building (along the main corridor) until instructed by the teacher to resume their activities. All exterior doors are locked and no one is permitted to enter or leave the building. Children are kept inside the school and classrooms when circumstances make it safer to stay in the classroom rather than evacuate. Just as we prepare our children to properly respond to a fire drill, they also need to be aware of the proper response during a lockdown drill. These drills should be treated with the same level of importance as fire drills. Please be assured that staff at our school will spend time discussing the importance of this procedure with the children prior to running a drill. We will also take time after the drill to remind them that it was only a practice and there was no danger. We will be having a practice lockdown on Tuesday 25th February so this procedure can be practiced without any distress or anxiety to members of the school community.

Successful Local Authority Visit

I am very pleased to share the outcomes of a very successful Local Authority visit to our Reception class earlier this week. The moderator was very impressed with the early years provision in school and acknowledged that Mrs Chekhar and the reception team have a detailed knowledge of the children in Reception which they shared anecdotally, providing examples from children's achievements in everyday activities in a range of contexts.

A range of appropriate evidence was shared at the visit taken predominantly from child initiated activities / children's independent learning.

The school has a holistic approach to assessment in the EYFS through the focused child observation and assessment cycles that actively promote the involvement of the parents and the children themselves. This approach strongly reflects the principle of responsible pedagogy.

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I am sure you will join me in congratulating the Reception team. We are incredibly lucky at Denham Village School to have such committed members of staff.

Hungry Little Minds Campaign

This may be of interest to any Reception parents or those with younger siblings. Hungry Little Minds is the Department for Education's exciting campaign to boost children's early language and literacy development.

The three-year campaign aims to help parents maximise the massive impact they have on their child's learning. Children soak up every little bit of stimulation you can give them. And it's all the little things that make a big difference. Reading, playing and chatting with them are simple things that really do help with the development of their speech and understanding of words.

Head to www.hungrylittleminds.campaign.gov.uk for fun, everyday activities to help you set your children up nicely for school.

New Club After Half Term

We will be offering Dance Club to all year groups on Tuesday's after half term. Information was circulated by email earlier this week and flyers will be in book bags later today. Dance club will start on Tuesday 25th February, please email Lettisha on the contact details provided to book your child's space.

Thank you for your cooperation.

Afsheen Nawaz
Headteacher

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Key Dates

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| February | <p>13th – Reception stay & play for parents 9am 13th – PTA Valentines Disco 4pm 17th – 21st – Half Term 24th – Return to School 25th – Lockdown Drill 25th – Times Tables Meeting for Y3/4 parents at 2.30pm</p> |
| March | <p>2nd March – St David’s Day, children to dress in yellow theme 5th – World Book Day 6th – Science Day 11th – Parents Evening 3pm to 6pm 17th – St Patrick’s Day, children to dress in green theme 17th – Hatching Eggs (baby chicks in school)</p> |
| April | <p>1st – Easter concert at St Mary’s Church, 2pm parents invited 2nd – Parents Book Look Session 2.40pm 2nd – PTA Easter Egg Hunt 3rd – End of Term – Children finish at 1.30pm 6th – 17th Easter Holidays 20th - INSET 21st – Return to School 23rd – St George’s Day, children to dress in red theme</p> |
| May | <p>1st - Reception stay & play for parents 9am 8th – Bank Holiday 25th – 29th – Half Term</p> |
| June | <p>1st – INSET Phonics Screening for Y1 and Multiplication Assessments Y4 take place</p> |
| July | <p>7th – Transition Day 8th - Sports Day & School Reports 11th – PTA Summer Fayre 15th – Reserve Sports Day 21st – End of Term – Children finish at 1.30pm</p> |

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