



Great Dalby Primary School Newsletter

2nd February 2018

Dear Parents

After what seemed like a long Christmas break the children came back to school ready and raring for the term ahead. The topics designed by the teachers have inspired some fantastic learning opportunities and progress has been evident across every child and in every class. It has been a pleasure to observe lessons and complete learning walks with colleagues over the past week, I can confidently say your children are encountering some superb learning experiences. After a visit to Class One I was astounded by the children's knowledge of Space, particularly the ordering of the planets! Class Two's Castles topic has encouraged superb creative writing which is displayed in the foyer of the KS1 building. Class Three have been learning about the Stone Age and have made a bedrock, complete with a volcano (which erupted this week!). My visits to Class Four have demonstrated some mature and articulate conversations during my visits showing that as our children get older they become good communicators – the opportunity to talk before writing is vital to ensure detailed and technical writing. Class Five have also been producing some superb writing which they have been expertly editing to improve; this shows me they are not only creative young people but also willing to risk take and persevere to improve their work. Thank you to the children and teachers for their hard work already this term.

As we approach February half term, and longer days, I would like to take this opportunity to update you on some school news.

Best Wishes

Mrs Anderson

Maternity Cover

Thank you for your kind words and congratulations since I announced my pregnancy before Christmas. I am now in a position to share the plan for my leave and cover in place. All being well I aim to finish as we break up for the Easter holiday on Friday 23rd March and return to school in the Autumn Term around October half-term. Whilst I am away Mrs Corner will increase her working days and become the Acting Head teacher; Mrs Corner will be in school Tuesday – Friday. Mrs Corner will share the role with Mrs Randell who will work Monday and Tuesday. Mrs Randell is a BEP colleague who currently works across the Trust schools as an advisor; she is also an experienced Deputy Head and teacher. Mrs Bradding will also increase her working days and become the full-time teacher in Class Two; this ensures continuity for the children during this period of time. There will be many opportunities for the children to meet Mrs Randell over the coming weeks and I will arrange a meet and greet session for parents after half term. Please do feel free to catch me on the playground or pop into the office if you have any questions.

The School Office

As I am sure you are aware our administration team has grown and we welcomed Mrs Fox to our team in January. Mrs Allen will work on Mondays, Tuesdays and Thursdays and Mrs Fox will work every Wednesday and Friday; the office will now be open from 8.30-4pm to support Great Dalby children and families.

Character Education

As I mentioned in the Autumn term we are part of a project called Route to Resilience alongside our Trust colleagues. Since Christmas Mrs Corner and I have been delivering sessions to every class called 'How to be Awesome'. These sessions have encouraged the children to think about character and how their own character shapes who we are. We've asked some big questions, we have heard and observed some thought-provoking answers and we have begun to see the children talking our character as part of their learning in the classroom.

Our chosen character words are available on our website along with a fantastic clip on YouTube called the 'Science of Character'.

Questionnaires

Your child has been sent home with a survey for you to complete. I would be grateful if you could return this by Friday 9th February so I can analyse and report back the findings after half term. Many thanks in advance.

Happy Lunchtimes

I am sure many of you have been told about our Happy Lunchtime Day on the 18th January; if not please do look on our website where you find a selection of photographs. The rationale behind this initiative is simply to improve lunchtimes for our children! The children completed a survey and even though our children said they generally enjoyed lunchtimes we can always improve on our practice so we invited Steve Harris from Well-being Education to spend a day with our mid-day supervisors. After half term the agreed changes will be as follows; each day a new activity will be on offer in 'The Zone' to all children, a midday lead reward system for good lunchtime behaviour will be introduced and linked to our team points and a three stage behaviour system will begin for inappropriate lunchtime behaviour – this will include time to reflect and teacher/Head teacher involvement only if required.

I would like to ask for your support to set some of the activities up by asking for voluntary contributions of:

Straws	String
Crayons	Coloured wool
Sellotape	Paper plates
Brown parcel tape	Colouring books

We hope the above makes lunchtimes at Great Dalby even happier!

Thank you to our midday supervisors for their commitment and enthusiasm.

Online Safety and Keeping Children Safe in the Modern World

I have recently attended a number of online safety and safeguarding sessions which has highlighted the importance of our collective responsibility to keep our children safe. Please look out for further details of an event I will be hosting before Easter. Thank you to those parents who attended the NSPCC session, I hope you found this useful.

The Daily Mile

Thank you to all those children who have taken part in the Daily Mile this half-term. The impact has been very positive and we hope to carry this on after the holiday. A huge thanks to Michelle Kent for organising and supporting the children, come rain, snow, wind or shine every morning. We are very grateful for her time and enthusiasm towards encouraging our children to be active each day.