

Happy New Year / Happy Spring Time!!

Hi everyone, a happy new year, welcome to the Spring Term and what an incredible first couple of weeks back we have had. Apologies for the delay with my first newsletter of the new term but it's been such a busy start, full of the usual energy and excitement of a normal Dee Point term but wonderful to be back and to see everyone so eager to get going. I've seen most parents and carers since we returned and I hope that you are all well and looking forward to what we have to offer this term. I have a few messages for you all this week.

Forestry Commission Working in School

A number of you will already know that the brilliant Mrs Tyson, who supports a range of children across the school as well as running the exciting eco-club, has been very busy trying to improve the grounds at school and I'm delighted to let you all know that the Forestry Commission have agreed to plant some additional trees and copse area in the school. So we will be having some mature trees planted on the field by the picnic benches and Year 1 & 2 classrooms. Some additional trees in the little woodland area we are creating in the corner of the field and then a wild copse area behind the 2 bike shelters and wooden trim trail. As well as this they are offering us a 12 week forest skills training programme for some of the children. More details will follow but a huge thank you to Mrs Tyson who has worked tirelessly to organise this and another way to make our outdoor environment even better. See the plan that has been sent alongside this newsletter.



After School Clubs

Thank you all for your patience when dealing with the after school clubs this last week. It always takes a little bit of time for things to settle and for all the children to sign up to the right club, remember where to collect from etc. This will settle down this week and hopefully your children will all be able to access at least one free after school club. As always if you have any problems with these just come and speak to me and I will do what I can to support you in finding the right club for your child. Just a reminder that pick up for clubs at school is 4.15pm.



Parents Evening – A Date for your Dairy

I just wanted to make sure everyone had the parents evening dates as early as possible for the Spring Term. For the majority of classes these are the dates and times for parents evening:

Monday 10th & Wednesday 12th February 3.30 – 6.30pm

Important
DATE!

A couple of classes will change one of the evenings to a Tuesday but they will confirm this with you asap. Please try to commit to these evenings especially the Spring Term one as we will be discussing progress and our expectations for the end of the academic year.

Pupil Premium Letter

Mrs Gill wrote a letter last week to all parents and carers explaining how the school is given additional funding to support children in receipt of pupil premium. Thank you to all of those parents and carers who have already done this, can I urge everyone to read the letter and check the eligibility criteria. I spoke with one parent on Friday who completed the online application but it said they weren't eligible so they called the number and they were able to complete it successfully over the phone. The number is: **0300 1238123**. **Make sure you have your National Insurance number to hand as you will need this to apply.**



If you have any questions, please feel free to contact Mrs Gill or myself and we can support you.

Welcome back Miss Harris & Miss Mac

It's always lovely to welcome back familiar faces back to school and the first week back was no exception when we welcomed Miss Harris back to school and to her role of teaching PE and Swimming across the school. We'd certainly missed her love and enthusiasm for sport and the children have been delighted to see her back...staff too!! Also we are delighted to welcome Miss Mac who is back early from her maternity leave and has slotted in perfectly into Moon class in Year 1. She's made such a positive impact already and the children are delighted to be working with her.



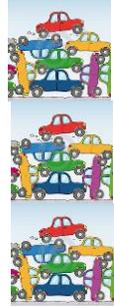
New year starts with a victory!!!

We've struggled with the school football team to complete some of our fixtures before Christmas but in the coming weeks we have at least one a week. Last week we won our 2nd round cup match with a 7-2 victory against Guilden Sutton. Tomorrow we have our second league game against Mickle Trafford. On Friday this week our girls team, who were narrowly beaten on penalties in the final of the Chester Schools tournament, will play in a Cheshire finals tournament in Crewe. We're really excited and can't wait to represent Chester schools.



But it's not only football we're playing, because tonight we have children representing the school in the BEV Indoor Athletics competition being held at Blacon High School. It promises to be a brilliant event with some amazing children taking part. Well done everyone for representing the school so superbly. We're always really proud of you for that!!

Parking in School Car Park



A new year has arrived but sadly the same old issues regarding the school car park. Please, please can I remind parents and carers to park respectfully in the car park. I feel a little frustrated that we are having to deal with issues in the car park at the top of the school. We've had cars hit, people blocked in and general chaos in there. If this continues I will be closing the car park to parents and carers and using it for what it was originally built for which was staff cars. Just a reminder that I paid over £40,000 to provide that car park for you although I am under no obligation to provide you with parking I made the decision to do that. I would appreciate if people could be more respectful of it or I will simply close it. I'm trying to help make life easier for all.

Blacon Community Store @ Western Avenue

Last week I met with Jamie Ducker who is the practice manager at Western Avenue Medical Centre. He shared with myself and the other Blacon Headteachers the launch of the Blacon Community Store that is situated on the medical centre site. It is an incredible project run solely by volunteers but helps provide food for families from as little as £3 a week. Although it is £3 a week you actually receive up to approximately £15 worth of food, which is amazing especially for a large family. I was really impressed by the store, the ethos behind it and how it operates. Simply call into the medical centre and become a member. All you need is a Blacon postcode to register. For more information either pop into the medical centre or look on facebook via Blacon Local Chat, News and Information.



Term Dates 2020-2021



I have provisionally planned next year's term dates as I know a number of people have been asking. I am just waiting for approval from our governing body which will take place next week then these will be available online and from the school office.

And Finally...

There we go everyone, that's all for this week as we settle nicely into the Spring Term. Please keep in touch with me if you have any issues or concerns. Hopefully last Friday you all received this term's class newsletters so you are aware of the exciting themes the children are studying for the Spring Term and a few classes have the excitement of their residential coming up too.

For me this term, it is trying to plan and ensure our budget for the following year is positive and allows us to do all the things we want to with the children...fingers crossed for that!!

Have a fantastic week everyone.

Kind regards

Dave Williams (Headteacher)

