



Dovedale Primary School

'Imagine, Believe, Achieve'

Diary Dates— Below are some key dates:

November

Thursday 1st—

Parents' evening from 3.30pm

Friday 2nd—

Own clothes day whole school for donations of toiletries

Tuesday 6th—Parents' evening from 5pm

Friday 9th—

Own clothes day whole school for donations of bric-a-brac, games and toys from JUNIORS

Friday 16th—

Own clothes day and crazy hair for CHILDREN IN NEED—£1 donation

Friday 23rd—

Own clothes day whole school for donations of bottles

Thursday 29th -

Reception Stay and Play 9-10am

Friday 30th—

Own clothes day whole school for donations of biscuits and sweets from INFANTS

Friday 30th—

Christmas Fayre from 3.30pm

Model School Status

Welcome back to another term at Dovedale; I hope that you had a good break.

Before we broke up we were told the wonderful news that we have been awarded '**Model School**' status by Oxford University Press and Ruth Miskin Training. We are the first school in Liverpool to achieve this status.

As you know we teach our phonics through the Read, Write Inc scheme which we have been teaching for the last 3 years. Over that time as a school we have achieved excellent results in the phonic screening test which happens in Year 1. Our results have improved year on year. In 2018 our results were **95%** compared to the national average of 82% and Liverpool average of 78%.

This is due to the outstanding teaching by all our staff and this award is a testament to their commitment to ensuring every child in our school is a great reader.

We will be again holding another DfE phonics roadshow in our school where colleagues from other schools and local authorities can come and observe our teaching of phonics.



WOW and safe and courteous parking

Thank you to all parents and carers for embracing our WOW scheme. Children record how they get to school everyday and if they walk, scoot, bike, park and stride or hop off a bus once a week and do this for 4 weeks they will be rewarded with that month's badge. We have seen a noticeable reduction in cars around the school at the beginning of the day which is making the environment safer and healthier for everyone.

Please help us to keep our children safe, and to maintain our good relationships with our neighbours by parking legally and courteously around the school.

Parents'/Carers' Parents Evening

I hope that you have managed to book a parents' evening appointment via Parentmail. These meetings are **10 minutes** and I have asked staff to be strict in keeping to this. If you require more than the allocated time please make another appointment to see your child's teacher. Thank you.

Busy School Office

We often get positive feedback about how welcoming and helpful our office staff are. However, if you've ever had cause to visit the office, you will know how extremely busy it is.

The office staff are working ever-longer hours to keep on top of everything, so we are all trying hard to keep disturbances to a minimum and would ask that parents and carers support us in this too.

On one day before the half term the office staff were asked to make 20 phone calls home for forgotten items, 15 lunchboxes to be delivered to class, 10 snacks and water bottles to deliver and 8 forgotten P.E kits!

Therefore, if your child leaves something at home and you bring it in for them, please note the staff can only take it to them at break or lunchtime (this reduces interruptions to learning time). If your child tells a teacher they have forgotten PE kit, lunch, instruments, etc, we will **NOT** be making phone calls home. We want to encourage children to be better organised and prepared for their day. Forgotten kit or instrument means a missed lesson; for forgotten lunches we will provide a school lunch and bill you accordingly.

Thanks in anticipation of your support.

Attendance and Punctuality

Attendance and punctuality are essential for children to make progress. As a school we encourage children to be in school as much as possible and to be punctual. The school doors open at 8.45am each morning in both the infant and junior department and will close at 9am. If your child is late you need to report to the main reception with your child. Children arriving after the register has closed, 9.10am will have the late recorded as an unauthorised absence. This means that if your child starts to have a pattern of 'unauthorised' absences due to lateness they will be referred to the Education Welfare Officer which could result in a fixed penalty notice.

If your child is just a bit under the weather please send them into school—we will always contact you if they need to come home. If your child has vomited or has diarrhoea we need to ask you to keep them off school for a full 48 hours after the symptoms have ceased so that the bug is not passed on.

Term dates for 2019-2020 are on the next page.

Please note that we **do not authorise any** holidays in term time.

Teachers will be sharing your child's attendance certificate with you at the upcoming parents' evenings.

Keeping Healthy

Please encourage your child to bring in their named water bottle each day. EYFS and KS1 children get a piece of fruit under the government scheme but junior children do not. Junior children can bring in a healthy snack—fruit, dried fruit, vegetables or a cereal bar are acceptable, but **NO** sweets, crisps or chocolate; this need to be placed in the class snack box not in packed lunch boxes.

Other reminders

Please can you ensure that children have their hair tied up if it is longer than shoulder length.

Gold or silver studs are the only earrings which can be worn.

Please remove any nail varnish from children ready for the school week.

Boots are not part of the school uniform. If you would like your child to walk to and from school in boots please send in their school shoes to be worn during the day.

Head Lice

As in all schools head lice are a continuing issue. I have had several parents who are becoming increasingly frustrated with the number of times their children are getting head lice after many weeks of treating and clearing their children's hair. As a parent of 3 children myself I feel their frustration as head lice take a huge amount of time and effort to clear.

As a school if we see head lice in your child's hair we will tell you and expect that they are treated. Once made aware of headlice in a particular class or year group we will always send out a parentmail informing everyone.

However, it is very difficult for us as a school to do much more, we need your support as parents. Please can we ask that you check your child's hair on a regular basis and clear any headlice or eggs you find. Treatment is time consuming and after a child has been treated by a solution from the chemist their hair still needs combing each night as solutions from the chemist generally only kill live lice and not the eggs. Eggs hatch after 3 days so even after treatment your child could still have headlice if the eggs are not cleared.

Thank you for your support.

Lost Property

We have so much lost property that we are getting to the point when we are going to have to re-cycle it. Please write or label all your child's clothing so if it does go missing it can be easily given back to them. Lost property can be found in the plastic shed opposite the school office.

Term Dates 2019-2020

Autumn Term 2019

Term – Tuesday 3rd September – Friday 20th December

Half Term - Monday 28th October – Friday 1st November

INSET days (school closed) – Monday 2nd September

Spring Term 2020

Term – Tuesday 7th January – Friday 3rd April

Half Term – Monday 17th February – Friday 21st February

INSET days (school closed) – Monday 6th January

Summer Term 2020

Term - Monday 20th April – Friday 17th July

School Closed

Monday 4th May – Bank Holiday

Half Term – Monday 25th May – Tuesday 2nd June

INSET Days (school closed) - Monday 1st June, Tuesday 2nd June and Monday 20th July

Follow us on Twitter @dovedaleprimary. Each year has a Twitter @DovedaleY and add the number e.g. 2

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