



# DESFORD COMMUNITY PRIMARY SCHOOL

## NEWSLETTER

6th September 2024



### BACK TO SCHOOL



New playground equipment, chickens and eggs, allotment vegetables, EYFS Teddy Bears Picnic, parent meetings and lots of fun learning! It has been quite the first 9 days back at school. It is always lovely to have everyone back for the new school year. Everyone has returned to school brilliantly and our new cohort of EYFS children have all started full time now.

#### In this newsletter:

- Teddy Bear Picnic
- Developing out site
- Healthy snacks and drinks
- Parent meetings
- Uniform, mobile phones and communication

Thanks to everyone for making these first couple of weeks back at school so successful for your children.

Mr C Wilson

## HEALTHY SNACKS AND DRINKS



All children have regular access to their water bottled throughout the school day. Staying hydrated is really important so staff also encourage drinking at regular intervals. So that your children are ready and focussed on their learning, please send them in with a bottle full of water and a healthy snack. Please do not send children with drinks such as 'Prime' or other similar energy drinks.

## PARENT MEETINGS

There was a brilliant turn out for the parent meetings over the first few days of the term. It was great for the staff to be able to share information about the school, updates to the curriculum and answer questions. Thank you so much for taking the time to attend. We found it very help as well.

The slides from the meetings as well as all of the curriculum and homework information can be found under the 'Learning' heading on our school website. This is where to go to find out what your child may be learning at different times of the year.



# TEDDY BEAR PICNIC



Our new EYFS children had a Teddy Bear Picnic this week. The rotten weather didn't stop us all coming together for this and the hall was full to the brim with parents and children, perfect for making new connections for the first year of school. Thank you to everyone for attending and making it a great start to the new school year.

## DEVELOPING OUR SITE

A refurbished pirate ship, eco recycled plastic train, an outdoor classroom and our new chicken friends have all been added to the outdoor areas. There will be new basketball hoops to come soon as well. All of this has only been possible due to funds raised from FODCPS events. Thank you.





# UNIFORM, MOBILES & COMMUNICATION

## WHY HAVE WE CONSULTED PARENTS & CARERS?

We want to involve parents and carers in aspects of the school where their opinion may influence what we do. School uniform, the use of mobile phones, and how the school communicates, can all have a significant impact on families so we want these policies to meet all of our needs. There was a total of 25 responders on the survey.



## SCHOOL UNIFORM?

In the summer term last year, we analysed school uniform being worn in school and our own uniform policy and we found that:

- dark blue polo shirts were the least worn colour of the three
- light blue & white polo shirts were the most readily available in the shops.
- non-compliance was most common in years 5 and 6
- footwear and fleeces/jumpers/cardigans were the items most likely items to not be meeting the uniform expectations.

## WHAT DID YOU SAY?

- Some would like to keep the dark blue polo shirts because they maintain their colour better.
- Some would like clarity on whether trainers are permitted as part of the uniform.
- Two asked whether blue chequered skirts and shorts are allowed as well as the dress.
- Some would like smart appearance to include no make up and no unnatural hair colours.
- Some would like clarity on the colour of cardigans (e.g. is navy blue acceptable).
- Most would like the uniform expectations to be enforced more stringently.

## WHAT HAVE WE DONE?

We have updated the uniform summary ([click here](#)) and the uniform policy ([click here](#)) on the school website to reflect the changes and clarity that have been made and added. In summary:

- Royal/Cobalt blue, light blue and white polo shirts will all continue to be part of the uniform.
- Trainers are permitted if they are smart and plain black with no white or coloured soles.
- Variations of the blue chequered dress are permitted (e.g. skirts/shorts in the same pattern).
- Children may be asked to remove make up, especially where it is excessive.
- Hair should not contain any unnatural colours.
- Cardigans, fleeces and jumpers must be royal/cobalt blue, never navy blue or grey.

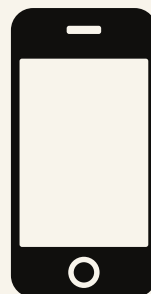
## WHAT HAPPENS NEXT?

The Uniform policy will be enforced more stringently. The school have purchased spare uniform and footwear so that children wearing items such as grey cardigans and trainers (that are not plain black) can be supported to fit in by providing them with spare items for the day and speaking with parents to see if they also need support in providing the correct uniform.

## COMMUNICATION

7 of the 25 responses to the survey commented on communication. Responses were positive and really appreciated the content of communication and the one page summary of key dates. Two responders asked for content to be in the email rather than as an attachment. Two suggested condensing multiple emails into a single weekly email. Three preferred multiple messages so that they only received information that was relevant to their child.

We will explore ways reducing multiple messages where possible so as to avoid unnecessary information being received.



## MOBILE PHONE POLICY

None of the 25 responses to the survey suggested any changes to this policy so this will go to the governing body for approval as seen,