

Dosthill Primary School

Newsletter

September 2017



Welcome to the 2017-18 Academic Year

At the beginning of each academic year, it is always a delight to see the children return to school and to welcome new children too. The Reception children have made an excellent start and have already adapted to many of the routines of school life; they are amazingly adaptable and resilient. Nursery home visits have been undertaken in preparation for the children starting next week. New staff who have joined the school are equally settling in well adjusting to life in a large and busy school. Staff worked extremely hard over the summer to prepare classrooms and to ensure all was in place for the children's return; this is greatly appreciated.

Over the summer holiday, Mrs Roadway gave birth to twin boys and Mrs Groves a girl. We wish them well during their maternity leave and look forward to them popping in with their babies at some point in the future. Mrs Groves' office duties on a Thursday and Friday are being carried out by Mrs Byrne whom I am sure many of you will get to know very quickly through communications with the office.

This will be a momentous year for the school with the change to becoming an academy and joining the Fierte Multi-Academy Trust. Preparations are underway and we hope to make the transition at the beginning of January 2018. We will of course keep you up to date on developments and encourage parents not to speculate about any changes that may or may not happen. We promise to keep you informed and do not expect there to be any changes to things such as term dates.

This year, we will continue to strive to inspire all of our learners to go beyond what they consider possible for themselves, to experience and to try new things and to realise all aspects of their immense potential. My theme for this year is 'Dream Big' and I look forward to seeing where the wonderful imaginations, persistence and commitment to doing things right of the children will take us as we venture forward.

Uniform

Children look lovely and smart in their new uniforms on returning to school this week.

We appreciate parents' efforts but please remember to label all items of clothing so as not to lose any!

Uniform

Bottle green sweatshirt or cardigan
White shirt or blouse or polo shirt
Grey trousers or skirt or pinafore
Summer dresses - green/white checked

Black shoes (not trainers)

School ties are also available as a choice (from the school office).

PE Kit

To participate fully and safely, pupils need:

Pumps

Shorts (plain black or green)

T-shirt (plain white)

Trainers for outdoor use

(Kit should not display any logos and be appropriate).

Swimming (Years 4 and 5):

Swimming trunks (plain - no baggy shorts)

Swimsuit

Swimming hat

Points of contact in school

Should you wish to relay information or you have a concern, your first point of contact should always be your child's class teacher or the school office:

Mrs Marriott - bursar@dosthill.staffs.sch.uk or

Mrs Dobson - admin@dosthill.staffs.sch.uk.

Class teachers are happy to receive notes handed directly to them or via your child, alternatively to see parents from 8.40am until the start of registration at 8.50am. I am sure you can appreciate the difficulty of having a constructive meeting when there is a class full of children; please avoid trying to see teachers when the children have entered the classroom for registration. Other than on a Wednesday when we have staff meetings, teachers are also happy to see parents and carers after school unless they happen to have other commitments.

Should the class teacher be unable to resolve a concern, your next point of contact should be the relevant Phase Leader:

Nursery and Reception - Mrs McCabe - mccabe.c23@dosthill.staffs.sch.uk

Years 1 and 2 - Mrs Williams - williams.l20@dosthill.staffs.sch.uk

Years 3 and 4 - Mrs Simpkin - RSimpkin@dosthill.staffs.sch.uk

Years 5 and 6 - Miss Vallely - vallely.b@dosthill.staffs.sch.uk

Concerns or issues relating to Special Educational Needs should be addressed to Mrs Hunter, our Inclusion Leader - KHunter@dosthill.staffs.sch.uk. Miss Lewis has overall responsibility for Mathematics, Behaviour and Safety (including Anti-bullying) - lewis.j14@dosthill.staffs.sch.uk. Mrs Burke has overall responsibility for English and the Curriculum - burke.s4@dosthill.staffs.sch.uk.

Should your concerns remain unresolved or the information you wish to relay is of a more confidential or sensitive nature, please arrange an appointment with either Mrs Keay, Deputy Head - keay.c@dosthill.staffs.sch.uk or Mr Hand, Headteacher - headteacher@dosthill.staffs.sch.uk. Should the issue be urgent and both Mrs Keay and Mr Hand unavailable please contact Mrs Hunter, Mrs Burke or Miss Lewis, our Assistant Headteachers.

Messages can be left at the school office for any member of staff or we are all happy to receive e-mails. We commit to responding to you within twenty-four hours with at least an acknowledgement or to outline how we intend to proceed. However, we believe that face to face contact is the most productive way of responding to any concerns raised and in most cases will want to arrange to meet in person.

Your support in following this sequence of contacts is much appreciated and will ensure that issues are dealt with in a timely and appropriate manner.

Notices

Dogs

Can we remind you that no dogs are permitted anywhere on the school site at any time. Thank you for your co-operation in this regard.

Drinks Bottles

Please can you ensure that pupils have a drinks bottle with them in school at all times.

School Lunch Accounts

Please can all parents be reminded that year pupils from years three and upwards need to pay for school meals, unless entitled to a free school lunch.

Thank you for your co-operation.

Sue Marriott, Bursar

Parking

Please be reminded to take care when parking in the local area and show consideration to local residents in the surrounding neighbourhood. Similarly, please do not endanger children by parking in the driveway.

Cook's Corner

We offer a **breakfast club** from 8:00 to 8:30 every morning; as a guide, £1.00 should be sufficient to cover breakfast and a drink.

Mid morning break:

Children from reception up to year four can purchase the following items (children in Years 5 and 6 have access to our healthy Tuck Shop):

Toast £1.25 per week.

Crumpet £1.50 per week

Jam on toast £1.50 per week

Muffin £1.50 per week

Please make sure money is sent in on a Monday morning, with the envelope clearly marked with your child's name, class and choice please.

The kitchen staff would like to remind parents that all reception, year one and year two pupils are entitled to a **free lunch** every day. We encourage all children to have a school meal and look forward to seeing you all at lunchtime enjoying meals from our menu.

Mrs Seaton and the catering team

New Behaviour Reward Point System

This week, we have implemented a new behaviour reward point system across the school where learners are able to be rewarded with positive points during the school day. Incidents of positive behaviour are recorded onto the system and make up each learner's Reward Points. Children will also be rewarded for completing their home learning and additional learning at home. There is a tariff system so different behaviours lead to a particular number of points being awarded with a maximum number of 5.

These 'Reward Points' can be spent during the school year through children claiming prizes for their good behaviour. Each class will be given a specific date where they are able to go into the 'Prize' shop and spend their points. Your child's points will also contribute to the whole school house system which will be shared regularly with the children in assemblies.

The reward system also records negative points for unacceptable behaviour. Negative points are recorded separately and do not affect the number of reward points that a learner can spend on prizes.

By recording both positive and negative behaviour points we are able to monitor and analyse patterns of behaviour easier, which we can then act upon accordingly. You may recall that this was one of the areas for development from our Ofsted Inspection last year.

Learners are really enthusiastic about the new system and extremely keen to earn positive points. Please ask your child about the positive points they have been awarded.

We are extremely grateful to Mr Byrne, one of our Teaching Assistants who has a talent for computing, for working over the summer break to create our recording system.

The system will inevitably take a little while to become established and may need some tweaks along the way; your understanding and patience during this implementation phase will be greatly appreciated.



Upcoming Events

8th September	Y1 Superhero day
13th September	Y5 Space Centre Visit
26th September	NSPCC Assembly
27th September	Year 6 Gifted and talented workshops
29th September	Staff training day
3rd October	School photographs
4th October	Reception and years one to four Flu vaccinations
5th October	NSPCC Upper KS2 workshops

Term dates

Staff training day:
Friday 29th September

Half term break:
Monday 23rd to Friday 27th October

Term ends:
Wednesday 20th December

Staying in touch

You can find our website at:
www.dosthill.staffs.sch.uk

You can also follow us on Twitter
at:
[Learn@DosthillPS](https://twitter.com/Learn@DosthillPS)

We also have a **free App** that can be found on the App Store or Google Play. Simply search for Dosthill Primary School.

To register for free text and email alerts regarding school closures, please visit
<http://www.staffordshire.gov.uk/CustomerAlerts>

Please register for ParentMail if you have not yet done so in order to receive important communications via e-mail from us.

Telephone:

01827 213845

E-mail:

office@dosthill.staffs.sch.uk
admin@dosthill.staffs.sch.uk
bursar@dosthill.staffs.sch.uk

Headteacher:

Mr T. Hand
headteacher
[@dosthill.staffs.sch.uk](https://twitter.com/dosthill.staffs.sch.uk)

Deputy Head:

Mrs C Keay
deputy@dosthill.staffs.sch.uk

Inclusion Leader:

Mrs K Hunter
KHunter
[@dosthill.staffs.sch.uk](https://twitter.com/dosthill.staffs.sch.uk)