



Dear Parents and Carers,

We have had a lovely start to the year and the children have settled in well to their new classes.

It was lovely to see many of you at the coffee mornings. I hope that we have addressed any queries that you raised but please contact the school office if you need anything else clarifying.

You will shortly receive the link to sign up for the parent consultations to discuss how your child/ren are settling in and progressing in their learning. If you are unable to make one of these meetings please let us know and we can arrange a telephone call instead.

## Forest School

This year, as part of our school priorities, we will be investing in our Forest School Area. We aim for all children to gain the benefits of Forest School during their time at Dinnington and have regular access to this outdoor space. There are many benefits to engaging in Forest School – it supports children's understanding of the curriculum particularly for some subjects such as science and art, it develops vocabulary, team building, problem solving ... the list is endless!

If you would like to know more about Forest School please follow this link here...

## What is Forest School ?

Mr Donnelly , Mr Wright, Mrs Brookes and Mrs Tustin will be our fully trained Forest School Leads (training underway!) and the rest of the staff will also receive training.

**This coming Thursday, all the children will enjoy an introductory visit followed by snack and drink provided by school.**

Kind regards,

Mrs Ash (Head Teacher)



## **School Lunches**

Our kitchen team work hard to provide a menu that all the children can enjoy – apologies that the finalised menu is not on the website but it will be sent out next week. We are working with the local authority to provide a healthy menu that we know our children will love. As well as the menu on offer the children also have a daily option to have jacket potato or a sandwich and there is there is a daily salad bar. We also cater for all dietary requirements.

## **St Matthew's Church Dinnington**

During their time at Dinnington the children will all visit St Matthew's Church to experience traditional Christian services. This is part of our Religious Education Curriculum but also forms part of our wider community values. The children will also visit other religious places of worship such as the Newcastle Mosque and Islamic Centre.

Families will also be welcome to attend the services at St Matthew's. Reception and Nursery will attend the Easter Service followed by an Easter Egg Hunt, Key Stage 1 will attend a Harvest Festival Service and Key Stage 2 will take part in a Christmas Carol service.

The Harvest Festival date will be confirmed as soon as possible.

## **Harvest Collection**

This year we are collecting for the Brunswick Food Bank. Donations of tins, dried food and toiletries will be welcomed from next week and delivered on the last day of term.



## **Uniform**

Please remember to label uniform as although we try our best the children are very good at leaving it lying around!

We have the lost property box in reception and there is also lots of previously loved uniform for sale in the small office by the entrance.

## **Goodbye Mrs Davison**

We are very sorry to be saying goodbye to Mrs Davison this half term. We will all miss her energy, positivity, her sunny smile and the wonderful work she does in school but wish her and the family all the best in their new adventures.

## **Parking – Sherraton Park**

We continue to receive complaints from residents that parents/carers are blocking driveways at drop off and pick up times which is causing some distress. We continue to work with the local authority to try and improve parking. If you are able to park a short walk away from school where there are more spaces this would alleviate some of the issue and make things safer for the children walking to school.

## **Year 4 Parents – Applications for Middle School**



It is now time to apply for your child's Middle School place for September 2024.

The closing date for applications is midnight on 31st October 2023. If you submit a late application, you are less likely to get your first choice of school.

Newcastle City Council strongly encourage parents to make your application online.

If, however, you would prefer to make a paper application please pop into the school office for a paper form. The link to make your online application is inside the leaflet.

<https://newcastle.gov.uk/services/schools-learning-and-childcare/apply-school-place/applying-transfer-places#>



## KEEPING CHILDREN SAFE ONLINE



The children have all been learning how to keep themselves safe online – they should be able to tell you if you ask! We repeat this throughout the year and encourage them to talk about why this is important.

The UK Safer Internet Centre also has lots of information for parents to support in keeping your children safe. Follow this link here for more information.

[Parents and Carers - UK Safer Internet Centre](#)

If you would like further support with this please contact school as we are happy to run workshops on this.

## **New Social Media Accounts**



**All of our important messages are sent to you through parentmail. However we do post some of the children's learning on our social media pages.**

Please find us on Twitter @DinningtonFirst

Your child's class also has its own twitter page;

@Dinnington\_Nur (Class 1)

@Dinnington\_Rec (Class 2 & 3)

@Dinnington\_Y1 (Class 4 & 5)

@Dinnington\_Y2 (Class 6 & 7)

@Dinnington\_Y3 (Class 8 & 9)

@Dinnington\_Y4 (Class 10 & 11)



**We also have a private Facebook Page – you will need to complete the admin questions to be allowed to join the group.**

<https://www.facebook.com/pages/Dinnington-first-school/1855950107979418>

## **Private Social Media Accounts**

Each year group has a private messenger or whatsapp group where parents share information and organise social events. School does not take any responsibility for these accounts but if you are new to school or wish to join please speak to another parent/carer who should be able to add you to the group. Please ensure that any social media presence does not bring the school into disrepute and any concerns are brought straight to the attention of the Head Teacher.

