



8th April 2022

Dear Parents and Carers,

It is the end of the spring term as we break for Easter holidays and hope that the sunshine today continues to lift everyone's spirits as we head towards summer. I have a few things to share with you for your information.

Uniform

With the welcome of the nicer weather comes the change in uniform policy for the summer term, which permits children to wear smart grey school shorts or blue and white checked summer dresses. Please be reminded that all other elements to the policy remain the same and children should continue to wear smart, black, school shoes and not open toed shoes or trainers. As the weather heats up during next term, please also make sure that your child wears suncream and brings in a sunhat as we have little shade on the playgrounds.

Remember that the PTFA have a stock of pre-loved uniform if you would like to purchase any items and that the Dowson Family Facebook page continues to be a great place to share items too.

Changes to the guidance for schools and Covid 19

As it is widely known, the rules and guidance surrounding Covid 19 changed for the nation on 1st April. It changed for schools also. Although we continue in times with high prevalence of the virus, the government intent with the new guidance is that we live as safely as possible without restrictions and continue to act with common sense and courtesy to others when it comes to reducing the spread of the virus. The new guidance affects the way in which we will deal with pupil attendance regarding Covid 19. Please note the changes below.

The Government has updated the symptoms list for Covid 19 in children to those similar to symptoms of many other illnesses, such as colds and flu:

Symptoms of COVID-19 can include:

- *a high temperature or shivering (chills) – a high temperature means you feel hot to touch on your chest or back (you do not need to measure your temperature)*
- *a new, continuous cough – this means coughing a lot for more than an hour, or 3 or more coughing episodes in 24 hours*
- *a loss or change to your sense of smell or taste*
- *shortness of breath*
- *feeling tired or exhausted*
- *an aching body*
- *a headache*
- *a sore throat*
- *a blocked or runny nose*
- *loss of appetite*
- *diarrhoea*
- *feeling sick or being sick*



The guidance now offers this advice if your child has symptoms:

Your child should try to stay at home and avoid contact with other people if they have symptoms of COVID-19 and they either:

- *have a high temperature*
- *do not feel well enough to go to school, college or childcare, or do their normal activities*

They can go back to school, college or childcare when they feel better or do not have a high temperature.

If your child has mild symptoms such as a runny nose, sore throat or mild cough, and they feel well enough, they can go to school, college or childcare.

Encourage your child to cover their mouth and nose with a tissue when they cough or sneeze, and to wash their hands after using or throwing away tissues.

Most children who are unwell will recover in a few days with rest and plenty of fluids.

Further guidance for adults and children who have symptoms of a respiratory infection, including COVID-19, can be found here: [UKHSA guidance](#).

For school, this means the following:

- ✓ We will continue to inform you, out of courtesy, where there are positive cases of Covid 19 in your child's class in the same way we would do so with other illnesses that are particularly contagious like chicken pox.
- ✓ If your child has a high temperature **and** symptoms of the virus, we will advise them to stay at home until the temperature is gone.
- ✓ Covid-19 related absence will now be recorded in the same way as other illnesses.
- ✓ Where an adult is poorly with the virus, we will still expect children to attend school and can support families to facilitate this where possible and needed.

Parent Survey

Thank you all for such an overwhelming response to the parent survey – we had 240 responses! Your feedback is very much appreciated and always helpful so that we can continually look for ways to improve. After the holidays, I will send an information letter regarding the outcomes of the survey comments and the actions we will take as a result.

If you left your details to be contacted regarding your comments or responses, I will be contacting you soon to discuss. If I do not contact you before the end of the first week back and you wanted to discuss your survey responses, please contact school and I will get back to you. Some people wrote 'yes please' for a call back and did not leave details of who they were. As it is an anonymous survey, I do not know who left those comments to be able to contact you.

Advance notice of exciting events!

I want to give you lots of notice about our upcoming Jubilee week in school, which will be the last week of next half term, commencing 23rd May. We will send more information close to the time but so that you can get your thinking caps on, please note that we are holding a dress through the decades day on Tuesday 24th May, where each year group is given a



decade of the Queen's reign and they can dress in the fashion from those times or as a famous person or character from that time.

The decades assigned are:

Year 6 – the 50's

Year 5 – the 60's

Year 4 – the 70's

Year 3 – the 80's

Year 2 – the 90's

Year 1 – the 2000's

Nursery and Reception – 2010 to the current day

In addition to this, and lots of other exciting activities over the course of the week, the week will culminate in a big 'street party' to celebrate the jubilee. We are asking all children to design and make a hat or crown for the party which can represent anything British, any time or anyone from the Queen's 70 years of being on the throne. It is going to be a great extravaganza for children to remember for many years to come.

Goodbye Mr Walters

Finally, we say farewell and congratulations to Mr Walters today as he retires after 11 years of service at Dowson. The staff and the children alike will miss him greatly; he has worked with pride and dedication to keep school safe and well kept for over a decade and I know you will all join me in saying thank you and to enjoy his retirement days.

As Mr Walters leaves, we welcome Mr Buckley as our new caretaker; he has already been in school and finding his way around and we know already that he will be another great asset to Team Dowson. Please say hello if you see him around and make him feel welcome when we return.

That's it from me, for now.

As always, please do not hesitate to contact school if you have any queries or questions regarding any of the issues in this letter, or anything else.

I wish you all a safe, bright and sunny Easter holiday.

Yours sincerely,

Mrs Kathryn Thornburn
Principal