



19th April 2021

Dear Parents and Carers,

Welcome back to the summer term, one in which I really hope our children can settle fully back into school life, never having to face the prospect of long periods of remote learning again.

As I am sure you can appreciate, our teachers are working tirelessly to ensure there are as few adverse effects of the lockdowns to our pupils' learning and progress as possible and spending every moment of each day catching up with elements of the curriculum that were not possible to deliver remotely. They will also spend further time this term checking that children know, understand and remember everything that is the most important to enable successful transition into their next stage of education. With this in mind, I would like them to be in class for the optimum amount of time ensuring secure learning, so will not be holding a formal parent consultation where we expect to hold a meeting with all parents.

This does not mean that you will not be able to find out how well your child is doing and speak to their teacher if you would like to do so. Instead, we want to capitalise on how well you have done with your children during the periods of lockdown and acknowledge that you probably know them as a learner quite well by now! We also want you to know that we still value you as their first educator and that you can absolutely make a significant difference to their achievements by working with them on specific aspects of their learning and development that they might need support with in order to be ready to progress.

Therefore, the system of reporting to you this time will be with the following principles:

- ✓ You will receive specific areas of learning that we would like you to help your child with; these will be something that is easy to manage such as spelling, handwriting, times tables, number bonds etc.
- ✓ We will also re-issue the life skills overview for your child's phase (and the one before) so that you can refer to these and work on those that you know your child still needs to be able to do e.g. tie their shoe laces.
- ✓ Your child's teacher will contact you if they do need to have a meeting with you in more detail. Please take up this offer if you receive it, as it is likely you can make a significant impact on the things we wish to discuss, thus ensuring your child can overcome barriers to their learning and begin to thrive.
- ✓ If you would like a meeting because you have concerns and wish to discuss them with us, then please do request this with the teacher. We understand that for the children in the Early Years (Nursery and Reception) these meetings give you an insight into how well your child has started their journey in school life and you may still wish to have a meeting, even where there are no concerns. This is fine too!





DOWSON PRIMARY ACADEMY

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Principal : Kathryn Thornburn (BSc Hons, NPQH)
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It is worth noting that you will still get the full written report of your child's achievements at the end of the academic year as usual and that we are always available to keep a two-way conversation going with regards to all aspects of their school life, we never need to wait for a 'formal' meeting.

If your child is on the Special Educational Needs register then you will also receive their updated pupil passport, which you should read and confirm you are happy with it or would like to discuss further / make changes. You will also be offered a meeting as part of the code of practice we must follow.

And remember: the single, most important thing you can do with your child to impact on their learning is READ! Hear them read to you and you read to them – every day. Research shows that children who are classed as 'engaged readers' who read for pleasure are more likely to succeed as adults, it is THAT important!

Thank you as always for your continued support.

Yours sincerely,

Mrs Kathryn Thornburn

Principal

