



16th September 2022

Dear Parents and Carers,

Welcome back to the new school year! I hope you have all managed to spend some quality time with your children during the summer break and have a rest of some kind too! A special and very warm welcome to our new children and families who join Team Dowson this year. We hope you will be very happy here and look forward to working with you from the very start of your child's journey through the crucial Primary School years with us.

As always, the children have got off to a flying start enjoying some lessons which serve as a taste of the year to come as well as a reminder of the school expectations. They will have revisited our PACT values, behaviour systems and all about what it takes to be an effective and successful learner. Our whole school theme this year is 'This is Me!' where we will celebrate ourselves and what makes us unique in many different ways. We will take a look at our families and heritage, faiths and communities; we will think about our personalities, our strengths and weaknesses, ways to be happy with who we are and work on our aspirations and goals. We hope that it will be an enjoyable focus which gives children confidence and self-worth, develops further respect for others and differences and encourages a healthy mind. We will be sure to share lots of these things with you along the way.

I'd like to take this new school year letter as an opportunity to draw a few things to your attention and remind you of others so that we can continue to work together in the best interests of your children.

Bank Holiday – Monday 19th September

As we have already communicated, we will be closed on Monday for the Bank Holiday for The Queen's Funeral. We hope that you are able to share the importance of this historic event with your children in a way you see fit. I was very impressed with the maturity and respect with which all of our children listened to our assembly on Monday, paying thanks for her service and duty to our country. You may have also seen the pictures on our social media of the wreath that some of our Year 6 pupils laid at the Town Hall this week on behalf of all of you – our Dowson Family.

Jeans for Genes day – Friday 23rd September

Next Friday is our annual 'Jeans for Genes' dress down day when children can wear their jeans – or denim or other own clothes – to raise money which goes towards supporting children with genetic disorders. For this, you can make a donation of your choice on your MCAS app under 'products'. This year, we will split the money raised between The Jeans for Genes charity and The Wiedemann-Steiner Syndrome (WSS) Foundation. This is so that a charity which supports one of our pupils also benefits from your generosity. Children do not have to wear the top half of their uniform with their jeans on this day – it is a full dress down day.

Please remember donations for our charity days are optional but we continue to hold charity days in school to provide our children with an understanding of charity and generosity and the causes they serve. All children can join in with the day, regardless of whether you have donated; we don't want to add to anyone's financial pressures in the current climate. Thank you in advance of anything you can offer by way of donation.

Bags and Belongings

As always, children only need their coat and a bag for their reading book and P.E. kit as well as their lunchbox if they are not on school dinners. You will be informed in advance of any additional equipment or clothing that your child will need should any occasion require it. P.E. kit can be sent and left in a named draw string bag and the school book bag that all children are issued





with is suffice for their reading book and homework book. No other belongings should be in school and large cumbersome bags and rucksacks are difficult to store in our cloakrooms in children's lockers. ensure your children only bring what is necessary to school.

No nuts please!

Please remember that we have a strict 'no nuts' policy, due to children in school with allergies that could have life-threatening consequences. It is vital that snacks and lunches sent into school are not products that contain nuts. We are duty bound to remove any products containing nuts from children if they bring these as a snack or as part of a packed lunch. Thank you for your understanding.

Safeguarding:

May I remind you that dogs are not permitted on school premises at any time, even when they are picked up and carried. Some children find this very stressful even though you may know your dog to be harmless. Dogs must not be tied to school railings on the public paths either. This is still distressing for some children and any increases in your dog's anxiety poses a risk to our children.

Mobile phones should not come in to school for any children unless they are upper school children that walk all the way home themselves, or, there is a specific reason that you have communicated to the class teacher before sending this in, such as going to a different parent's house that evening. Any child bringing a mobile phone in to Upper School should sign this into the office at the beginning of the school day and collect at the end. Children should not have their phones switched on once they are on school premises and we ask that they do not use them once out of school to film or photograph themselves in uniform or with school signs or images in the background. Please talk to your child about this rule – we will be talking about this in class. We will speak to parents about mobile phones that continue to come into school or be used outside of these boundaries.

With any of the above matters, all staff in school have a duty to safeguard our children and therefore are expected to, and will challenge anyone not adhering to these requests. Please be respectful and polite in your response to any challenge; it is in the best interests of your and everyone else's children that we do so. Thank you.

Toast, Milk and Snacks.

Currently milk is provided by the government for all Foundation Stage children until they turn 5; Dowson continue to pay for milk for these children in Reception for the rest of that year unless you tell us you do not wish your child to have milk. For all other children, may we remind you that you can pay for your child to receive milk daily through the Cool Milk system. If you would like to do so, please go to the website www.coolmilk.com .

Fruit is provided as a daily snack for children up to the end of year 2 through a Government scheme. In Years 3 – 6 toast for a breaktime snack is available to order and purchase through the My Chid at School app or children may bring in a healthy snack from our approved list which consists of any fruit or vegetables, cheese with or without plain crackers, breadsticks or rice cakes.

Curriculum Letters and Achievement Reporting

In your recent survey feedback, you wanted more feedback on how well your children are doing and what they are learning. In light of this, you will now receive a termly curriculum newsletter which documents the learning that you should expect from your child over the course of the term in different subject areas. These will come at the beginning of each term – the first of which will come today via Class Dojo.





Trips and Visits

Also in response to your feedback, and in attempt to support our families in alleviating financial pressures at this time, we committed to giving you more time to pay for your children's trips and visits in school. Therefore, we have planned the year's trips in advance and are currently booking these and uploading them to MCAS in order that you can begin to pay in smaller amounts over a longer period of time if this is something that will help. You will be alerted to the trips being there as and when they appear – you may have already seen some! Remember these are the trips for the year so, note the dates they need to be paid by but begin paying off whenever you like in whatever sized chunks you can manage. I hope this helps.

We will once again take years 1-6 to the Pantomime at Stockport Plaza in December. This trip is already available on MCAS and is always an enjoyable experience for the pupils.

Save the Dates

As we have many exciting events coming up this term and across the year that are already planned into the calendar, we want to give you as much notice as possible for these. In a busy school, these occasionally have to change but we will always let you know of any changes as soon as they happen. Please see the 'Dates for the Diary' document accompanying this letter for these. There may also be dates yet to be added and again we will issue these as soon as they are set. Information and more details for some events will be sent nearer to the times. We will reissue this document each term for the most up to date information to be included. For our term dates, please see the tab on our school website. Provisional dates for the academic year 2023-24 will be released soon.

Thank you for taking the time to read such a lot of information! If you have any queries about any of the information in the letter, please do not hesitate to contact school.

Kind regards,

Mrs K. Thornburn
Principal

