

Dear Parents and Carers

Welcome to the start of the new term 2022-2023. I am delighted that we are now working without the many COVID restrictions that were in place previously and I hope that you will start to see the impact of this on your children and yourselves as we work through the year.

There will be more opportunities for you to come into school to see the pupils' work and get involved through our BOATS (Bring Our Adult To School) Days.

Some activities will still run on-line as parents have shared that they prefer this way, it is more time efficient and allows more people to participate. However, we will review these sessions during the year to make sure we are meeting the needs of everyone in our school community.

We are really keen to work with our volunteers again; you make such a difference in so many ways and we have missed you! If you would like to get involved we will be sending out more information on a letter later in the week.

Our start to the session has been very positive, the majority of our pupils were excited to come back to school, to meet up with friends and have been enthusiastic about the learning in their new year stages. I was really impressed with the behaviour and manners shown – a credit to you all.

The Primary 1 pupils were fantastic as they made their start to their primary years. I want to thank yourselves, our nursery staff and the P1 Team who worked hard to ensure the transition from Nursery to P1 meant the pupils felt confident, were resilient and happy to join our school.

Meet the Teacher

We put in place arrangements last week so that you could meet your class teacher, either via google meet or by phone. It is really important to us that we work in partnership with you, to support your child's learning and well-being and these sessions allow the teachers to gather information from you to assist them as they get to know your son/daughter. If you were not able to meet your child's teacher can I ask that you call the office and we can arrange a phone call next week to suit the teacher and yourselves.

Primary 1 are in the process of sending out information so that they can meet you on-line using Google Meet week beg. 5th September.

Expectations for the Year Ahead

The staff met on the in-service days with me, and we discussed what we wanted for our school this session to move it to 'very good'. As well as the curriculum activities aimed at raising attainment we will be focusing on behaviour, manners and routines this session. We are aware that COVID impacted on our pupils but we know that now is the right time to put in place and achieve the expectations we have for our children in the classroom, in the playground, in the corridors, as they arrive in and leave school, etc.

I have delivered an assembly to P2 & P3 and P4 –P7 sharing these expectations and routines and the reasons behind them. I am sharing this with you so that you are aware of what we are asking. As parents and carers we need you to be supporting these very important messages and encouraging your son/daughter to meet the expectations we are setting.

[Welcome Back Assembly \(edubuzz.org\)](#) J Muir P1- P3 [Welcome Back Assembly \(edubuzz.org\)](#) Lochend P4-P7

We have already started teaching these routines and expectations, we want them become automatic so that the focus is always on the teaching and the learning and not on behaviour. So you are aware we will be contacting you if you child is showing a pattern of being late in the morning or there are behaviours that are impacting on their learning or that of others in their class.

We are working hard so that our school has a reputation for excellent behaviour but we cannot do it on our own so this year I will be asking parents and carers to work with us to reduce disruption and ensure every child gets the opportunity to learn in class and have fun and feel safe in our school.

Dates for Diary

We are delighted to be able to bring back **Grandparents Day** on Thursday 6th October 9.15 – 9.45am for John Muir Campus P1-P3 and Friday 7th October 9.15 – 9.45am for Lochend Campus P4-P7. After each session there will be tea/coffee and biscuits in the dining room. We look forward to seeing some familiar faces and meet some new grandparents/carers too.

Jotter session – prior to on-line Parents Night

I am equally happy to invite parents and carers into school again – this time to look at their youngster's jotters prior to parents nights; but also to give anyone who has never had the chance to see inside our school to come along. Hopefully you will be able to bring your son/daughter and they will give you a tour, but if not then there will be members of the Senior Leadership Team on hand to show you round.

Doors will be open as follows to allow us to ensure pupils leave safely and to get ready for your arrival:

Friday 7th October John Muir Campus P1-P3 12.20 – 1.20pm

Friday 7th October Lochend Campus P4 – P7 12.30 – 1.30pm

School Improvement Plan and Standards & Quality Report

Our plans for this coming session 2022/23 are detailed in our SIP – they include further development of our writing programme, work to support our development as a Nurturing and Inclusive school and training for staff in Coaching; for self-evaluation and support for our pupils.

The S&Q report for session 2021-2022 looks at what we achieved last session and how this feeds into what we will be working on for the coming year.

Both documents are on the school website and can be accessed using these links:

[SIP-PEF-20222023-Final.pdf \(edubuzz.org\)](#)

[Dunbar-Primary-School-SQ-2021-2022.pdf \(edubuzz.org\)](#)

Other information

Please can we ask you to name your child's coat, water bottle and lunch box – it makes it so much easier for us to return these items when they go missing.

We have an Open door policy at Dunbar Primary School; if you have any concerns or questions then we are available to talk to in person. We want to ensure that we deal quickly with anything you are worried about, rather than you leaving it and it perhaps becoming a major problem.

The best time to speak to your child's class teacher is at the end of the day either in person or to call them via the school office. For any of the management team we are available at the start and end of the day either in person or again on the phone.

In the first instance you would normally speak to the class teacher and then the line manager for your child. This year these are as follows:

Cove – Mrs McGregor **Nursery** – Miss De'Ath **P1** – Mrs Hay **P2** – Mrs Black **P3** – Mrs Gillanders

P4 – Mrs Bennett **P5** – Mrs Percy-Davis **P6** – Mrs Kelly **P7** – Mr MacRury

John Muir Campus - 01368 863773

Lochend Campus – 01368 860997

Thank you for your support in making our school a great place to learn and work and we are all looking forward to what we all hope will be a great year at DPS.

Regards

Helen Gillanders

Head Teacher