

No 1 Multi Academy Trust for disadvantaged pupils' outcomes

DfE PERFORMANCE TABLES 2019 AND No 3 IN 2018

Top 10 National Pupil Progress

DfE PERFORMANCE TABLES 2018 AND 2019



Friday, 6th November 2020

Dear Parents

I am writing to you this week at the end of our first week back after half term to inform you of some key dates and information that will be important for you to know in the coming weeks. Since I wrote to you earlier in the week the government has updated the guidance for schools and, as promised, I want to let you know what is happening. As you are aware, the country is currently in a national lockdown situation and schools have been provided with further guidance (5th November 2020) which we are now working with alongside existing government guidance for schools.

It has been a time of change for all schools and I wanted to take the time, once again, to thank you for all of the support that you have given to the school and the staff as we navigate these challenging times together. You have been very understanding of the restrictions that we have implemented as a school and this is very much appreciated.

Reassuringly, the measures that were implemented in September remain the same. In primary schools the government has stated that: **More evidence has emerged that shows there is a very low risk of children becoming very unwell from coronavirus (COVID-19), even for children with existing health conditions.**

Our current measures such as bubbles, social distancing of staff and parents, good hygiene and ventilation remain. Your child will not experience any changes in this respect.

However, there are some further changes that we will, as a school, be implementing over the next four weeks. Although some of the changes that we implement are not always easy to understand and can often cause a sense of frustration, please rest assured that all decisions made take into account the government guidance that is provided for schools. In addition to this, we always put the health and safety of our children, families and staff at the heart of everything that we do as it is important that we are doing everything that we can as a school to keep every member of our school community safe and well.



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TOGETHER WE EMPOWER EXCELLENCE



Extra-Curricular Clubs:

From Monday 9th November we will be cancelling extra-curricular clubs. This will be for the period of four weeks in line with the national lockdown restrictions and updated guidance for schools. This will apply to Rugby, Archery, Find Your Wild and Multi-skills. I appreciate the joy that the children gain from these clubs and we will be looking to resume this provision from 3rd December as government guidance allows us. If your child already has a place that you have booked in one of these sessions, this place will be held for your child. I do fully appreciate the disappointment that this will potentially cause and I would like to assure you that, once restrictions allow, we will be resuming these sessions. Please note that **Breakfast Club will continue to run** and you will need to book your sessions as normal.

Face Coverings

Thank you all for supporting the school community in wearing masks when you drop to and collect from school. This added safety measure continues to ensure that we are prioritising the health and safety of everyone.

In secondary schools staff have been advised to wear masks when they are outside of their bubbles and moving around schools. Whilst we have robust social distancing measures in place for adults, we have taken the decision to also apply this in school. Your child's teacher will not be wearing a face covering when teaching your child but children will see adults wearing face coverings when it is necessary for them to move through a corridor or use the staff room. **Children are not required to wear face covering at this time.** I know that, by now, children have been seeing staff with their masks on at the gate and also at the beginning and the end of the day. However, it would be useful if you were able to have a conversation with your child to explain that this will be happening from Monday and give them the chance to ask any questions they may have and to seek reassurance.

Children in Need and Harvest Mufti-day

It is important that, during these times, we still ensure that we seek opportunities for the children to engage in activities that bring a light-hearted element to the day. With this in mind, we will be holding two mufti days in the coming weeks. The first one will be a day to support Children in Need which will be held on Friday 13th November 2020. We would like to invite the children to wear something spotty or pyjamas on this day. Please consider that the children will need to wear something warm as we continue to ventilate the classrooms during these times. We would like the children, if they are able to, to make a small donation to this brilliant cause.

In addition to this, we would like to invite the children to dress up as a vegetable on Monday 16th November 2020 to support our parents who are completing the sponsored cycle for the Love the One charity. I know that lots of you have been collecting sponsorship and raising money and this



can also be brought into school on this day. The parents who are completing the cycle have assured me that they are working towards being able to do this in a way that is in line with government restrictions during this time. If you would like to send in a donation for dressing up on this day also, I know that this would be greatly appreciated.

Careers Event

Next term, we will be hosting a careers event for the Year 5/6 children. This event is to encourage them to begin to think about career opportunities and paths that they may wish to follow in their futures and what they aspire to be. We are extremely lucky at Dunsford that, within our community, we have many parents who have a number of different careers. We would like to ask if any of you would be willing to either come into school (if restrictions allow) or to do a virtual session to talk about your career and what it is like within your role. It is so important that the children have the opportunity to have their eyes opened to all of the possibilities within the world of employment and that they have their eyes opened to a world of possibilities! If you feel that you would like to help with this in any way, or you could recommend someone who may be able to support, then please do let me know.

School Council

You will remember that I wrote to you last half term to explain that we would be electing new school council members this half term. For the initial part of this process, I would like to invite those children who are interested in taking on this role to write a letter as an expression of interest! In this letter the children should outline why they would like to take on this role, what they feel they could bring to the role and why they should be chosen. The closing date for these letters is Monday 16th November 2020. Letters should be addressed to Mrs. Guntrip and may be presented in any way that the children choose to. I would like to open this up to Year 1 - 6 as it is important that we have all voices of all ages represented.

Support

We recognise how difficult this time during lockdown and ongoing restrictions can be for families. We are facing a situation different to any we have faced in recent years and one which is ever changing. With this in mind, I would like to take this opportunity to encourage any of our families who may be in need of support to reach out to us here at school. We have been in touch with local charities and we have a number of avenues which we can use as a source of support. If you feel that you are in need of any help as we navigate these uncertain times, please either speak to me, your child's class teacher or send an email into the school office. Any conversations will be held in the strictest of confidence. It is important that you know that the school is here as a source of



support and that we will continue to support and help all of our families and children in any way that we can.

I would like to finish by wishing you all a wonderful weekend. Stay safe and we look forward to seeing you on Monday.

Best wishes,

Mrs. Guntrip

Mrs. Guntrip

Head of Academy