

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



5th February

Dear Parents

As we reach the end of another week, I have many different messages and information to share with you. I have been speaking with many of you both virtually and on the telephone and it has been really productive to listen to your feedback and to discuss this with the team here.

Our Community

Our aim here at Dunsford is to always work to maintain the amazing sense of community which runs through the school, parent body and the children's relationships and we will continue to endeavour to promote this in all that we do.

We want to ensure that those children and families who are currently engaged in remote learning feel just as valued as those families still attending school. In order to support this, we currently have the following things in place:

- Weekly class newsletters,
- Our up-coming half termly newsletter,
- Weekly parent Care and Share sessions,
- Virtual class times with the class teacher,
- Virtual assembly and story times with myself.

However, having listened to feedback from members of our parent body, we would like to take this even further. It is so important to us that every single child and parent (irrespective of attending the school site currently or not) feel equally as valued and this is fundamental.



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TOGETHER WE EMPOWER EXCELLENCE



From next week, we will be implementing the following extra measures:

- We will be holding a weekly 'Ask an adult a question' and also a 'Challenge an adult' sessions. We would like the children to send in to school a question or a challenge on a Monday (please can these be emailed into the office). An adult will be identified each week and they will then answer the questions and complete a challenge. These will be recorded and placed onto our social media pages for the children to see with you. Next week I will be answering the questions on Monday and Miss Dann will be completing a challenge on Wednesday. The questions and challenges sent in will be placed in a pot and then selected at random. I hope this will give you and the children something to look forward to!
- We will be sending out weekly 'prizes' for our Home Hero Star of the Week. All of our children at home are heroes and they have shown a great resilience so far with remote learning. We absolutely recognise this and we want to continue to develop ways to support motivation and perseverance. Teachers will be working to ensure that, once the awards have been given, that these prizes are sent out to you.
- Teachers are going to be uploading some videos throughout the week recognising children's efforts and their work. This will provide a lovely opportunity for some whole class feedback while also recognising the efforts of individual children. These will be placed on the class stream so do look out for these.
- We would really like to share the brilliant work that the children are doing at home. Please, if you have any photographs of what the children have completed, send them into the office and we will share them on our social media pages with the community!

As well as recognising the efforts of our children, we also continue to recognise and appreciate the pressures that the ongoing lockdown poses for you as parents. I would like to thank you for supporting the school and keeping children at home where it is safe to do so. I understand that this is not possible for some families and, as I have explained previously, every family will find themselves in a position that is unique to them and their own parameters that they need to work within. As a school, it is important to us that we continue to work to also support you as parents through this difficult time. With this in mind, Mrs Sinton has been working hard to develop a parent section on the website which will be dedicated to providing you with information relating to wellbeing, services that you can access, where to seek support etc. We will let you know when it is finished.



There are also some very useful links to information, blogs and activities to support you here:

Free E-book, "Everybody Worries" by Jon Burgerman

<https://home.oxfordowl.co.uk/bookshop/jon-burgerman-everybody-worries-free-ebook/?region=uk>

Blog - 5 Top tips for parents, "Mindfulness and Wellbeing

<https://educationblog.oup.com/international/mindfulness-tips-for-parents?region=uk>

Blog - What to do if you're worried about your child's Mental Health

<https://home.oxfordowl.co.uk/blog/what-to-do-if-youre-worried-about-your-childs-mental-health/?region=uk>

Video - Building your child's resilience and confidence

<https://www.youtube.com/c/OxfordOwlHome/search?query=jean+gross®ion=uk>

Resources - Using music for social and emotional development

<https://home.oxfordowl.co.uk/blog/using-music-for-social-and-emotional-development-family-activities-amani-project/?region=uk>

Ideas - Discovery walks and outdoor learning

<https://home.oxfordowl.co.uk/blog/discovery-walks-fun-outdoor-learning-ideas/?region=uk>

Please, if you have any further suggestions and/or ideas as to how we can work to support both you and the children at home then please do not hesitate to contact me.

PTFA

A huge thank you to our wonderful PTFA who met this week to discuss how we can continue to raise funds to support the children and provision here at Dunsford. Both myself and Miss Dann were very privileged to be at this meeting and it was wonderful to listen to all of the potential plans and ideas which were shared. I will be in touch after half term (when we potentially have a clearer idea of what next term's restrictions may look like) to inform you of any upcoming PTFA events that we may be able to hold in school. There were lots of brilliant ideas and hopefully lots that we can look forward to. Thank you again to all members of our PTFA for your support. If you would like to know more about the work of the PTFA then please do email the office and we can pass on any expressions of interest to Mr Corbett, PTFA Chair.

Live Sessions

This week's live sessions are as follows:

	Session 1	Session 2	Session 3
Willow	Monday Catch up / story time 2.30pm-2.45pm (15mins)	Story with Mrs Guntrip Tuesday at 2pm	Friday Celebration time 2.30pm-2.45pm (15 Mins)
Cedar	Monday Check in with a story 1:10pm-1:25pm	Assembly with Mrs Guntrip Wednesday 9:30am	Friday Celebration time 9:30am-9:45am
Oak	Tuesday Check in and catch up 11:00am - 11:20am	Thursday Assembly with Mrs Guntrip 1:15pm	Friday Celebration time 10:00am - 10:20am
Mrs Guntrip	Care and Share session: Thursday 12pm		

I have really enjoyed the live sessions with the children, as I know the teachers have also. It is definitely a highlight of the week! As always, if you would like to attend the parent Care and Share session, please email Mrs Sinton in the office and she will send you a link.

Thank you all for your continued support, understanding and kind wishes. I hope that you have a wonderful weekend (despite the weather) and that you enjoy time doing something that you enjoy.

Best wishes,

Mrs Guntrip

Mrs. Guntrip

Head of Academy