



DILS News



Dunstable Icknield Lower School Newsletter Issue 39

06th September 2019

WE HAVE JOB VACANCIES AT SCHOOL – CHECK OUR WEBSITE FOR MORE INFORMATION

WELCOME BACK!

It was fabulous to see everyone back in school this week, refreshed and ready to learn at the beginning of a new academic year. The children looked exceptionally smart in their uniforms and have had a busy and productive three days. As we get our new term underway, below are some important reminders for parents, carers and children.

Newsletters and Communications – Every Friday, school publish a weekly newsletter. This is sent to parents and carers electronically and is published on our website under 'News and Events' tab here: <https://www.dunstableicknield.co.uk/page/?title=Newsletters&pid=33>

We also have a school **Twitter** account [@IcknieldL](https://twitter.com/IcknieldL) which you can follow, and an **Arbor App** for your phone – more details on the app can be found below.

Attendance – Research and statistics show that children's rate of progress in their learning and development is directly linked to their attendance. Every child has the right to education and all parents and carers are responsible for ensuring their child attends school on time every day during term time.

School Shoes and Trainers – If you have not yet taught your child to tie and manage their own shoelaces, please provide footwear which has Velcro or buckle fastenings.

School Lunches - Every child in Reception to Year 2 is entitled to a **FREE** school meal every day. Why spend money and time preparing a lunch box when it can all be done for you at school. For children in Year 3 and Year 4, read the section on free school meals below. Parents/carers should inform the school office of any special dietary requirements.

Packed Lunches – Children who have a packed lunch from home, feel very clever when they can manage and open their own lunch items all by themselves. This week many of the children have struggled with packets, wrappers and boxes. Check at home that your child can manage everything you put in their lunchbox independently – it makes them feel so grown up.

Uniform – our uniform list can be found on the website <https://www.dunstableicknield.co.uk/page/?title=The+School+Day+%2D+Lunch+%26amp%3B+Uniform&pid=19>

All items of uniform should be clearly labelled with your child's name and these will find their way back to your child. Lost or unlabelled items can be found in lost property in the school reception office.

PE Days and PE Uniform -

PE days will not change this year, and they are:

RECEPTION – Monday, Tuesday, Wednesday

YEAR 1 – Tuesday, Wednesday

YEAR 2 – Tuesday, Wednesday

YEAR 3 – Monday, Friday

YEAR 4 – Monday, Friday

PE uniform information can be found on our website <https://www.dunstableicknield.co.uk/page/?title=The+School+Day+%2D+Lunch+%26amp%3B+Uniform&pid=19>.

Children from Reception to Year 3 will wear their PE uniform all day on PE days.

Year 4 children are required to bring their PE kit into school on PE days and they will change for the lesson. This helps them to develop their independence and organisational skills.



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Meet the Teacher – Next Thursday 12th September parents and carers will have the opportunity to meet their child's teacher and find a little more about the expectations of their new class. The times for the sessions are:

9.00 - 9.30am - Year 3 and Year 4 session

2.30 - 3.00pm - Reception, Year 1 and Year 2 session

Reception parents – please enter through the reception entrance.

Y1 – Y4 parents – please enter through main entrance of the school.

Educational visits and activities permissions - We have recently sent out a letter requesting permission for all of the next academic terms educational visits and activities. The aim is to reduce time parents spend consenting to activities across the school year, also reducing printing of forms. Information regarding an educational visit or activity will still be sent home before the event, and consent to attend can be declined by contacting the school office. A copy of the letter is attached to this week's newsletter and is also available on our website.

PTA – The Parent Teacher Association is a voluntary group who organise events and fundraisers for school. Money raised helps to pay for additional resources and educational trips for every year group. Every year, the PTA provide enough funds to make bus hire affordable. Without these extra funds, we would not be able to offer educational visits which relied on hiring buses to transport the children. Our PTA is at risk of folding this year as we desperately need more volunteers. If you are passionate about helping your child's school, please come along to our AGM on Wednesday, the 16th October 2019.

NEW HOUSE NAMES AND CLASS NAMES -

At the end of last term, the children decided on new names for our schoolhouses and for their individual classes. The schoolhouses are now called:

Dalai (Dalai Lama)

Hawking (Stephen Hawking)

Einstein (Albert Einstein)

Nightingale (Florence Nightingale)

Our class names are:

EYFS are named after composers -

Nursery - Tchaikovsky (AMN) & Newman (PMN)

Reception – ZIMMER (Mrs Arthur) & LLOYD-WEBBER (Mrs Sinclair who was Miss Kent - **CONGRATULATIONS** to Miss Kent on her marriage in August to Mr Sinclair)

Y1 are named after athletes – BOLT (Mr Williams) & BECKHAM (Mrs Covalea)

Y2 are named after authors – POTTER (Miss Strickler) & ROSEN (Miss Scotchford)

Y3 are named after scientists – ATTENBOROUGH (Mrs Southwood/Mrs Jones) & ANNING (Mrs Roe)

Y4 are named after artists – O'KEEFE (Miss Cowan) & BANKSY (Mr Gallacher)

Qualifying Benefits for Free School Meals, School Uniform and Extra-curricular Activities

Did you know that if you are in receipt of certain benefits then you may be entitled to free school meals for your child, key items of school uniform and have the cost of an extra-curricular activity covered for one term? Free school meals can save a family almost **£500 per year**.

To see if you and your child could benefit from free school meal status read the information found on the Central Beds website at <http://www.centralbedfordshire.gov.uk/benefits/free-school-meals/qualifying-benefits.aspx>

Qualifying benefits to receive free school meals and pupil are:

- Income Support
- Income-based Jobseeker's Allowance

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- Income-related Employment and Support Allowance
- Support under Part IV of the Immigration and Asylum Act 1999
- The Guarantee element of State Pension Credit
- Child Tax Credit (provided you are not also entitled to Working Tax Credit, and your annual gross income does not exceed £16,190 as assessed by Her Majesty's Revenue and Customs)
- Working Tax Credit run-on (paid for 4 weeks after you stop qualifying for Working Tax Credit)
- Universal Credit (during the initial roll-out of this benefit)

The school office will be happy to help with any queries you may have about free school meals entitlement and benefits of this at school.

Y4 September 2019 - In the Autumn term we would like to kick off our Roman topic with a Roman day. This will involve the company History off the Peg coming to visit us for the whole day and teaching us about Roman life on the **19th September**. Please be aware that the children need to come in costume to get into character. Examples of the types of costumes that they could wear can be seen on this website: <https://www.historyoffthepeg.co.uk/>. More details about this experience including the cost for the children to take part in the activities has been sent out to parents.

Our new Arbor App - We are pleased to advise you that we have a new parent portal and app available to all parents with students in our school. The Arbor app can be downloaded through the Google play store/apple store and is completely free. Payments can be made through the Arbor app for meals, trips and clubs. We can also send you push notifications through the app directly to your phone which could make things easier than checking emails. Documents on how to log in/see siblings are on the letters home section of our website.

Arbor App payments update - Over the next 18 months, new requirements for authenticating online payments called Strong Customer Authentication (SCA) are being introduced to improve security, prevent fraud and protect customers. When you make an online payment, SCA requires you to verify that you are who you say you are. In Arbor, this means parents may need to complete an extra step to verify the transaction when making a payment through the Arbor Parent Portal or Arbor App (although some payments under £30 may be exempt).

Extended Day Facilities – after school and breakfast extended day are available from September to children aged 5 years and above. **You will be able to register and pay for these clubs via Arbor app/parent portal ONLY**. Club registration will no longer be available on Schools Cash Office/Tucasi.

Medical Needs – If your child needs medicine stored at school, please come to the school to sign a new indemnity form. Any changes to student medical needs requires parents to complete a medical needs form.

Spelling Shed - The children in school can now use Spelling Shed to support their learning at home. Give it a go! <https://www.spellingshed.com/en-gb/index.html>

Pupil Achievements - Fionn has been busy over the summer holidays, he started his Rookie Lifeguard Qualification and has already achieved his Bronze 1 Award! He also has been learning a new sport – Gaelic Football and has been playing for St Dymnna's GFC Luton GAA. He applied for a 2019 Blue Peter Sports Badge for learning a new sport this summer and was successful. Huge congratulations Fionn on all your sporting efforts!

School Vacancies:

- **Midday Supervisors** – We have opportunities for relief lunchtime work at our school. You will be supervising children in the dining hall and be responsible for ensuring the safety, welfare and good conduct of pupils during the midday break. If you are interested in this position and would like more information, please call the school office on 01582 663709 and ask for Mrs White.

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- **Business Manager** - School are recruiting a business manager to start in the autumn term. Speak to the school office or see our website vacancies page for more information. Applications will close on Tuesday 10 September.

Key Dates for Term 1	
Thurs 12th September	Meet the Teacher: 9.00 - 9.30am - Year 3 and Year 4 session 2.30 - 3.00pm - Reception, Year 1 and Year 2 session
Thurs 19th September	Y4 History off the peg event
Wed 25th September	PTA Annual General Meeting 18:00 - TBC
Tues 15th October	Y2 Victorian Day – more information to follow
Wed 16th & Thurs 17th October	Parents evening: 16 th October from 15:30 – 18:00 17 th October from 16:00 – 20:00
Mon 21st Oct – Mon 28th Oct	Half Term – School closed for children

Letters sent home this week		
Letter Content:	Who sent to:	Date sent:
DILS - PE Clubs	Y1 - Y4	02/09/2019
DILS - Zumba	Y1 - Y4	02/09/2019
DILS - Welcome Back to School	N - Y4	03/09/2019
DILS - Payment and clubs	R - Y4	04/09/2019