

Dunmow St Mary's Primary School

High Stile, Great Dunmow, Essex CM6 1EB
 Telephone 01371 872340
 Facsimile 01371 875144
 E-mail admin@dsmprimary.essex.sch.uk



15th September 2017

Dear Parents

Mobile Phones

If you have a child in either year 5 or 6 who walks to school on their own and you wish them to have a mobile phone on them for safety reasons, please fill in a form available on the website at <http://www.dsmprimary.essex.sch.uk/mobile-phone-permission-letter/>. If your child is being collected from school there is no reason for them to bring a phone into school. We would not expect children younger than years 5/6 to be walking to school on their own and they would not therefore require a phone. All phones must be switched off and handed in to the class teacher at the beginning of the day.

Before School

Please support us by making sure that your school age children and their younger siblings are not using the play equipment before (or after) school and that all bikes and scooters are wheeled once you are in the school playgrounds. When the whistle is blown at 8.55am, we expect all children to line up quietly. Please help us to achieve this by leaving the playground promptly at 8.55am when the whistle goes.

International Day

On Friday 21st September, we will be celebrating International Day. Each class will be split so that they have the opportunity to work with different age children. They will then move around the school and experience some of the activities on offer. The teachers and learning support assistants plan activities involving different languages, food from different countries, dances, games etc. and it is a really enjoyable and rich learning experience. Year R will not be moving around the school but their teachers will be talking to them in class about it. Particular thanks go to Mrs Dodd who arranges and co-ordinates the whole day. Please note that the lunch will be as stated on the menu.

Picking up YR children

Please make sure that you are not walking down the school drive when collecting your YR children. We want to make sure that parents and children are safe and not walking through the car park on the drive where cars are not expecting to see pedestrians. The route to these classrooms is round the back of the school past the play equipment.

Parent/Teacher Consultations

In order to give parents and teachers an opportunity to meet early in the school year to discuss how the children have started the year, we shall soon be holding parent consultations. The teachers will be holding ten minute consultations on:

Monday 2nd October between 3.30pm and 6.30pm

Wednesday 4th October between 5.30pm and 8.30pm

Please return the attached form to make an appointment to speak to your child's teacher. Some of the children are taught in groups, either on a daily or weekly basis. Progress in these groups should be discussed with your child's class teacher.

Please return the form by Friday 22nd September

Appointment times will be sent home on Friday 29th September

If we have not heard from you we will allocate you a time so please let us know if you do not wish to attend.

PTA News

The PTA are pleased to invite our new reception parents for a coffee morning on Wednesday 20th September at 9am-10am in the school hall. This is a chance for new parents to socialise and learn a little about the PTA and what they do. Please come along if you have children who have just started in reception. Tea, coffee and plenty of biscuits are provided!

The PTA are also running their extremely popular Bouncy Fun event. This is scheduled for Tuesday 26th September, weather permitting, 3.30pm-5.30pm on the school field. The wristbands for the event will be £6. This is an increase on last year and is due to the provider's increased insurance costs. We all recognise how important it is to be safe and responsible at this event and we hope you understand this too. We can only run the event with the help of our parent volunteers, as well as our PTA members. If you feel you could give up half an hour on the day to supervise a bouncy castle, please contact Sarah McCarthy on 07984 258982 or sarahmccy@hotmail.co.uk. We will also be posting volunteer forms on class noticeboards where possible next week. Please look out for them and get involved. It's such great fun for the kids, but really relies upon plenty of parent supervision and help. Further information to follow.

Speaking to teachers

If you wish to speak to your child's teacher, please come to the school office and sign in. The office staff will then find the relevant person for you. The exception to this is our drop in session after school on a Wednesday when you are welcome to go straight into the classroom to look at work or speak to the teacher.

Class Assemblies

These start again on 27th September. If you would like to come to your child's assembly please come to school at 10.40am or 2.45pm and sign in at the school office. The assembly will last 15 minutes.

Wednesday 27 th September 10.45am	6BH		
Wednesday 4 th October 10.45am	5LO		
Wednesday 11 th October 10.45am	4RB	Thursday 12 th October at 2.55pm	2NT
Wednesday 18 th October 10.45am	3LW	Thursday 19 th October 2.55pm	2BR
<i>Half term</i>			
Wednesday 8 th November at 10.45am	6TH	Thursday 9 th November 2.55pm	1LB
Wednesday 15 th November 10.45am	5NR	Thursday 16 th November 2.55pm	1SH
Wednesday 22 nd November 10.45am	4CJ/AC		
Wednesday 29 th November 10.45am	3SJ		

Please note the slightly altered time of the Y1 and Y2 assemblies. This is so you can take your child home immediately after the assemblies.

Secondary Transfer

As you may be aware, the new secondary school admission round opened on Tuesday 12th September 2017 for parents of current Year 6 children to apply for a secondary school (Year 7) place for September 2018. The statutory national closing date for applications is 31st October 2017.

Applications can be made online via www.essex.gov.uk/admissions - 98% of parents in Essex applied online last year.

The website also has a copy of the Secondary Education in Essex 2018-19 booklet which contains details of all secondary school admission policies. I provide a link to the booklet below.

http://www.essex.gov.uk/Education-Schools/Schools/Admissions/Documents/econdary_Admissions_Booklet.pdf

New Hall have an open morning on Saturday 30 September from 9.00am-12.00pm. Please visit <http://www.newhallschool.co.uk/openmorning> to book your place.

Flu Vaccinations – please see the message below from the NHS

We've received a number of queries from parents regarding the age of children who are eligible for flu vaccine as part of the routine childhood flu programme. **All children in Essex in reception to year 6 are eligible to receive a flu vaccine through the national childhood flu programme** as Essex is a former pilot site. These have been booked for Thursday 19th October.

Choir – Dunmow Carnival

We are really looking forward to the choir singing at the Dunmow Carnival this Saturday. The choir will be performing in the main arena at 3.20pm so please do come along to support them.

Library

Please find attached news from our Library Manager, Suzanne Wood.

Yours sincerely

Clare Griffiths

Parent Consultations – Autumn term 2017

Name of child _____ Class _____

I/We should like to make an appointment to speak to my/our child's teacher on;

Monday 2nd October between 3.30 and 6.30 pm

Early/Late


Wednesday 4th October between 5.30 and 8.30pm

Early/Late

(Please delete where applicable or leave blank if you have no preference)

I/We also have a child/children in _____ class

Signed _____ parent/carer

 _____

Please leave this section blank for school to fill in and return.

Child's name _____

Time of appointment _____

Monday 2nd October
Wednesday 4th October

We look forward to seeing you

Yours sincerely,

Clare Griffiths