

Dane Bank Primary School

Thornley Lane South, Reddish,

Stockport, SK5 6QG

Telephone: 0161 336 5896

Email: admin@danebank.tameside.sch.uk

Web: <http://www.danebank.tameside.sch.uk/>



Headteacher: Mrs Alicia Todhunter

Wednesday 17th June 2020

Dear Parent/Carer(s),

We hope that you are all keeping safe and well. Please see below important information, including a change to term dates.

As you are aware, school has been open throughout the pandemic and based on guidance from the Department for Education (DfE) we have offered provision for key worker children during this period. From the 1st June, this was extended to include Year 1 pupils. You will recall from our previous communication that any further opening was postponed due to advice from Public Health England and Tameside Local Authority. Following regular reviews of our risk assessments, we feel assured that the systems we have in place are robust and are working well to keep children and staff as safe as possible.

The Government recently announced that their earlier ambition for all pupils to return to school before the summer was no longer realistic. In our previous letter (dated 27th May) we informed you that further opening of school would depend on a number of factors, for example – having the necessary level of staff available to operate reduced class sizes / ‘bubbles’. As it stands, we are not in a position to offer places to children in any other year groups. However, we do have a small number of places available for key worker children. Should you need any of these places, and fall in to the key worker categories as outlined by the Government, please contact me as soon as possible by email (a.c.d.todhunter@danebank.tameside.sch.uk) to request this. The places will be given on a first come, first served basis and we may require evidence from your employer to confirm your key worker status. Please note, we are restricted to the number of children we can accommodate due to maintaining social distancing measures in each ‘bubble’ group. Any children allocated a place will be required to attend every day.

Home Learning

We hope you have been finding the Home Learning resources helpful and children are enjoying their learning. We have recently reviewed and developed our Home Learning Projects and have added more English and Maths content each week in response to feedback from some parents. If you have not accessed the materials yet, they can be found on the school website via the Home Learning tab. Should you have any questions regarding the Home Learning Projects, please contact school.

Free School Meals

School provides lunchtime grab bags for any children not in school who are eligible for Free School Meals. If you need a lunch providing, please contact the school office before 10.30am to place your order and these will be ready for collection from 12 noon. Yesterday the Government announced their intention to extend their Free School Meals voucher scheme over the summer holidays. We are awaiting further information about this and will update you as soon as possible.

Reports

The teachers are currently working hard to prepare children’s end of year reports. This year the reports will take a slightly different format and will only cover the period up to 20th March when school closed to most pupils. These reports will be delivered by post and there will be opportunity for you to arrange a telephone consultation with your child’s class teacher should you wish to discuss them.

Year 6 Transition

Sadly, it has not been possible to provide our usual opportunities for Year 6 children to attend their new schools. Nevertheless, we have been working in partnership with local high schools and have been providing them with necessary information to ensure a smooth transition. The end of the Year 6 children’s time at Dane Bank is not what any of us would have anticipated or



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wished for. We would like to present the children with a small keepsake to mark their time with us. We will contact our Year 6 parents as soon as possible with arrangements for this.

Change to term dates

The majority of local schools closed for half term, however, as we had received requests from parents for key worker places, we took the decision to remain open. This means that school has been consistently open since 24th February including throughout what would have been the Easter and Whit holidays. Throughout these unprecedented times, we have never ceased to be amazed by the dedication and commitment of the staff – who have willingly done whatever has been asked of them as part of our school's contribution towards the pandemic. Having consulted with the Board of Directors, we have taken the decision to bring our end of term date forward by a week so that **school closes on Thursday 16th July**. We are sorry for any inconvenience this causes. Kid's Club will be open from Monday 20th July for the whole summer. If you require a place, please contact them on 07525171945 or email them at danebankkidsclub@yahoo.com. The Government are currently looking at provision for children over the summer. For further information please see www.gov.uk.

September 2020

We are looking forward to welcoming the children back to school as soon as possible however, we are still unclear about arrangements for September and are currently planning for a variety of eventualities. We are expecting **pupils to return to school on Thursday 3rd September** and we will notify you as soon as possible of our plans, but again, we are awaiting further guidance from the Government.

If you have any questions or concerns, please contact us. Once again, thank you for your ongoing support and kind words. Your encouragement has kept us going through a very difficult time.

Kindest regards,

Alicia Todhunter
Headteacher

