

## Dane Bank Primary School

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Headteacher: Mrs Alicia Todhunter

Tuesday 15<sup>th</sup> December 2020

Dear Parent/Carer(s),

As we approach the end of the year, we would like to thank you all for the ongoing support, encouragement and generosity you have shown us during these challenging months. I speak on behalf of all the staff in expressing our appreciation. There is no doubt that 2020 has been a difficult year for everyone. Thank you for your patience during this period of uncertainty and the trust you have placed in us to keep your children safe at school. We never take the duty we have lightly and have tried incredibly hard to make things as normal as possible.

### Important information for the remainder of this term:

- You may have seen in the press that schools were given the option to close early for Christmas – however, we **remain open on Friday 18<sup>th</sup> December.**
- School will close at the **normal staggered times on Friday.**
- As part of the Christmas festivities, children may wear non-uniform for the remainder of this week.
- Thank you for the donations towards the cost of the Christmas parties – the children are looking forward to these.
- You will receive a letter from our Executive Principal (Jo Ashcroft) with details of track and trace arrangements throughout the Christmas period. Please familiarise yourself with these arrangements – although hopefully we won't need to use them!
- As we have been unable to hold our usual Christmas events, we have created a Christmas celebration video which we will share by the end of this week on our website – please keep your eyes peeled! We hope you enjoy it!

School will reopen on Monday 4<sup>th</sup> January 2021. The staggered drop off and collection times will continue:

START TIME	END TIME	YEAR GROUP
8.40	2.55	Year 3, Year 6, Year 1
8.50	3.05	Reception, Year 4, Year 2
9.00	3.15	Nursery, Year 5

At home time, the **gates will not be opened until 2.50pm** to allow for maximum learning time. Please try to arrive as close to your given times as possible to avoid unnecessary congestion at the gates or on the playground.

At the end of this week, we wish a fond farewell to our school caretaker 'Nino' who has been a great member of our team – we will be sorry to see him go. I'm sure you will join us in wishing him well for the future. Our new caretaker, Ed Kelly, has now joined us and we hope he will be very happy at Dane Bank. Please say hello to him when you see him in the new year.

Mrs Clarke's second baby is due very soon and she will be starting her maternity leave from January. We wish her and her family all the best as they welcome their new arrival.

A huge thank you to our amazing staff team who have worked tirelessly during difficult times – their efforts and dedication continue to be greatly appreciated.

All that is left to do is to wish you all a very merry Christmas and a happy and healthy New Year. We hope you enjoy your time with your loved ones and look forward to seeing you in 2021.

Kindest regards,

Alicia Todhunter (Headteacher)

