



## Duke of Bedford Primary School

Wisbech Road, Thorney,  
Peterborough

PE6 OST

Telephone: 01733 270243



Thursday 7<sup>th</sup> September 2023

Dear Parents/Carers,

Welcome back to the start of an exciting Autumn Term, I hope that you had an enjoyable Summer break. It has been an absolute delight to welcome all of the children into school. It is once again filled with the vibrant sounds of learning. There is a real air of calm, happiness and enjoyment as you walk around school which is so lovely to see.



### School Uniform

**Please ensure that all school uniform is named.** We do get quite a lot of lost property which we sort through on a regular basis. If items are named we will return them to the appropriate child/class but it is often difficult to identify the rightful owner if they are not named.

### A Warm Welcome

It has been a delight to welcome our new children to the Reception class along with their new teacher Miss Jibb. The children have been attending part time so far but will stay for the full day from 18<sup>th</sup> September.

Year Group PE Days

#### Swimming is in addition to these sessions

Reception – Monday

Year 1 Tuesday and Friday

Year 2 Monday

Year 3 Tuesday

Year 4 Wednesday

Year 5 Monday and Thursday

Year 6 Monday and Friday

Please send your child's PE kit into school to leave on their peg all week. All jewellery must be removed for PE lessons and long hair tied up.

### Notices

#### Dates for your diary:

Mon 18<sup>th</sup> Sep Reception children start full time

#### Open classroom (parents' welcome):

Monday 18<sup>th</sup> September  
2.45pm Year 1

Tuesday 19<sup>th</sup> September  
2.45pm Year 2 & Year 5

Wednesday 20<sup>th</sup> September  
2.45pm Year 3 & 4

Thursday 21<sup>st</sup> September  
2.45pm Year 6

Tuesday 17<sup>th</sup> October and  
Thursday 19<sup>th</sup> October  
Parents' Evening

Break Up Friday 20<sup>th</sup> Oct



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## Parent Questionnaire

Many thanks to those of you who responded to our parent/carer questionnaire last term, I really appreciate your feedback. I'd like to share some of the main headlines:

- ♥ Everyone who completed the survey felt that their child feels happy and safe at our school.
- ♥ Over 90% of parents felt that as a school we let you know what your child will learn during the year.
- ♥ The majority of parents felt their children do well at our school and that they were informed on how their children are doing.

Alongside such positive responses, we are always keen to improve and develop and our main areas to focus on following this survey are:

- Ensuring parents of SEND pupils know how to help their children to make progress, how their children are working towards their personal targets and that this is communicated regularly.
- That we share more information with home about how we support the wider personal development of our children.
- Developing alternative ways to communicate with parents so that engagement in learning is even stronger.

## Seesaw

In response to the parent survey, this year we are introducing a new online platform called 'Seesaw' which will be taking the place of Google Classroom moving forwards. This week your child will come home with a QR code on a piece of paper. Please follow the instructions on the sheet to connect with your child's Seesaw Journal. This is in effect a digital exercise book and sharing platform where staff and the children themselves can share photographs and videos of the learning that they are completing in the classroom. It will also be used by class teachers to share weekly curriculum updates, spellings and any other notices and reminders. Attached to this letter is a 'Seesaw Parent's Charter' which outlines in more detail how Seesaw will be used in school and what to expect. Please ensure you read this information. We will be posting on our class journals as soon as we can, so log in and watch this space!

## Attendance

A few reminders at the start of the year about the importance of good school attendance and the procedures that we will follow as a school.

Good attendance links directly to children's learning and progress. It is clear to see that, when children have time off school, that their attainment and progress is often negatively affected. Teachers start morning work, phonics and reading with children as soon as they enter the classroom – so please also ensure that your child attends school on time.

Working with you to ensure positive school attendance is key. We will inform you at various points throughout the year about your child's attendance, this will be done at parents' evenings in October

Email: [enquiries@dukeofbedford.net](mailto:enquiries@dukeofbedford.net)

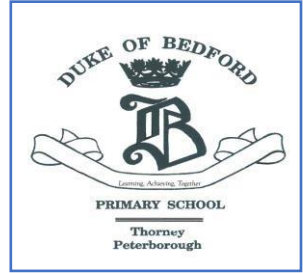


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and February as well as in the written report at the end of the academic year. Please book holidays outside of term time to maximise your child's potential by ensuring that they attend school every day (these can only be authorised in exceptional circumstances).

We will follow our school policy on school attendance and will inform you if your child's attendance drops below 96% even if you have informed us about why this has occurred. Home visits will also be carried out if we are unable to make contact and are concerned for your welfare, so please do call and let us know if your child is absent.

We appreciate that there may be times when children are unwell and cannot attend school. Additionally, there may be exceptional circumstances which prevent children from attending. However, whenever children are not at school, they miss out on important learning opportunities and this can be detrimental to their progress and development.

Many thanks for your continued support, we look forward to seeing you at the Open Classroom events if you are able to join us.

Kind regards,

Mrs Pinguenet

Headteacher