

Dear Parent/Carer,

As we approach the new academic year, we are looking forward to welcoming our pupils back to school on **Wednesday 4th September 2024** and hope that you have had an enjoyable and safe summer holiday.

I would also like to take this opportunity to welcome our new nursery pupils and their families into our school community. You will have been given an individual start date for your child in the letter that was sent out to you before the summer holidays.

I am looking forward to working with you all in the coming year and beyond. Again, this year we have lots of fun and exciting developments to share and enjoy with you and will be updating you with more information on these throughout the year.

As a community school, the involvement of our families is very important to us and we are proud of the relationships that we have with our parents and carers. Your support is invaluable to us and look forward to working with all of our families again this year.

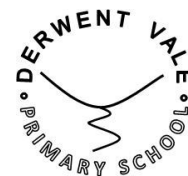
Hopefully the information on the following pages will answer any queries you have about returning to school. If however, you do have any questions, please email admin@derwentvale.cumbria.sch.uk.

Many thanks,

Mr D Lucey

Headteacher

Information for Parents – September 2024



<p>Classes</p>	<p>This year's classes are:</p> <table border="1" data-bbox="316 293 1214 837"> <thead> <tr> <th>Year Group</th> <th>Class Teacher</th> <th>Support Staff</th> </tr> </thead> <tbody> <tr> <td>Nursery/Reception</td> <td>Mrs N Steel</td> <td>Miss White Miss Southward</td> </tr> <tr> <td>Year 1/2</td> <td>Miss J Johnstone</td> <td>Mrs L Fletcher Miss Cowan</td> </tr> <tr> <td>Year 3/4</td> <td>Mrs Heron</td> <td>Miss Sophie</td> </tr> <tr> <td>Year 5/6</td> <td>Mr O'Townson</td> <td>Miss Varty Miss Irving</td> </tr> <tr> <td colspan="2">PPA cover</td> <td>Mrs Simpson</td> </tr> <tr> <td colspan="2">Headteacher/SENDCo</td> <td>Mr Lucey</td> </tr> </tbody> </table>			Year Group	Class Teacher	Support Staff	Nursery/Reception	Mrs N Steel	Miss White Miss Southward	Year 1/2	Miss J Johnstone	Mrs L Fletcher Miss Cowan	Year 3/4	Mrs Heron	Miss Sophie	Year 5/6	Mr O'Townson	Miss Varty Miss Irving	PPA cover		Mrs Simpson	Headteacher/SENDCo		Mr Lucey
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<p>Attendance</p>	<p>Regular school attendance is of the highest importance. There is a clear and proven link between persistent absence and pupil attainment. Attendance and punctuality matter.</p> <p>As a school we are responsible for recording pupils school attendance in our school registers. The school registers are legal documents and its data is forwarded regularly to the Department for Education and the Local Authority.</p> <p>As a school we want all our pupils to attend regularly and support parents to meet their legal duty to ensure regular school attendance. A parent failing to do this risks legal action being taken against them by the Local Authority under Section 444(1) or (1a) as appropriate, of the 1996 Education Act. The maximum penalty for this offence is a fine of £2,500, three months imprisonment or both. We do not want any of our parents to be in a situation where they have to appear in court, so it is very important that we work together. Pupils whose attendance falls below 90% need to have an action plan written between pupil, parent and school. A national framework for attendance has been introduced and more information on this can be found here:</p> <p>https://educationhub.blog.gov.uk/2024/08/19/fines-for-parents-for-taking-children-out-of-school-what-you-need-to-know/</p> <p>Please avoid booking term-time holidays. Requests need to be made to the headteacher in writing, clearly outlining any special circumstances for the holiday. Please email the request to: admin@derwentvale.cumbria.sch.uk</p> <p>Medical appointments including dental appointments need to be made outside of the school day. When this is unavoidable written proof of appointments should be provided to the school. If your child</p>																							

	<p>is unwell and you take them to a same-day medical consultation please provide evidence of attendance. The local authority suggest a photograph of the doctor's computer screen with the date clearly displayed.</p> <p>Working in partnership, I hope you will support our efforts to raise attendance and attainment in school.</p>
Uniform	<p>Our school has a uniform policy because smart standards of uniform have been proven to promote good behaviour and high standards of achievement. It prepares pupils for their transition to secondary school and the world of work whilst also taking the pressure away from families to buy the latest fashionable items.</p> <p>The school's uniform policy is that children should wear a navy sweatshirt, a sky blue or navy blue polo shirt (or gingham dress), dark trousers/leggings (plain with no lettering) or skirt. Children should ideally wear black school shoes/boots or plain black trainers. Branded sportswear, including football kits are not appropriate.</p> <p>Pupils who <u>persistently</u> do not follow the uniform policy may be asked to change into uniform provided by school</p> <p>If you are unable to provide your child with the correct uniform for any reason please speak to a member of the school staff and we will do everything we can to help.</p> <p>Special events, where children may not need to wear uniform and non-uniform days, will be communicated clearly in advance by school.</p> <p>Jewellery must not be worn and this includes earrings. If ears have been newly pierced, earrings can be worn but must be covered before coming to school.</p>
P.E	<p>On P.E days, children should come to school in their P.E kit plus school sweatshirt/cardigan.</p> <p>Our P.E kit is:</p> <p><u>Plain black</u> shorts or <u>plain black</u> leggings (no branded sportswear or leggings with lettering).</p> <p>Plain coloured t-shirt of the child's sports day team i.e. red if your child is in the red team. Nursery pupils and new starters will be provided with this information when they start school.</p> <p>P.E days are as follows:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● Nursery - Monday ● Reception – Monday ● Year 1/2 – Tuesday ● Year 3/4 – Thursday until October half term – Wednesday after October half term ● Year 5/6 – Wednesday until October half term – Thursday after October half term
Bags	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● Children can bring a bag to school if they would like to. This should contain their reading book and reading journal (and their packed lunch if they have one). There is no need to bring any other items to school. ● Children are encouraged to bring a water bottle with them. This should contain water <u>only</u>.
Lunch	<p>Your child may qualify for Free School Meals if you are in receipt of one of the following:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● Income Support ● Income-based Jobseeker's Allowance ● Income-related Employment and Support Allowance ● Support under Part VI of the Immigration and Asylum Act 1999 ● The guaranteed element of Pension Credit

- Child Tax Credit (provided you're not also entitled to Working Tax Credit and have an annual gross income of no more than £16,190)
- Working Tax Credit run-on - paid for 4 weeks after you stop qualifying for Working Tax Credit
- Universal Credit - if your household income is less than £7,400 a year (after tax and not including any benefits you get)

You can apply here: https://emsonline.cumbria.gov.uk/CitizenPortal_LIVE/en

- All year groups will eat their lunch in the school hall.
- For those children who are not entitled to benefits-related Free School Meals or Universal Infant Free School Meals (Reception, Year 1/2), lunches cost £2.25 per day for nursery children and £3.45 per day for Years 3 – 6. This should be paid in advance on School Hub.
- If your child would like to bring a packed lunch, please follow the guidance below:

Packed lunches should include:

- Meat, fish or non-dairy source of protein
- Red meat should be provided twice a week in primary schools
- Fish should be provided at least once a week in primary schools
- Of that fish, oily fish should be provided at least once every three weeks.
- Lunches for primary children can include dairy sources of protein as an alternative to meat
- A starchy food
- At least one portion of fruit. Fruit based deserts should be provided at least twice a week for pupils in primary school.
- At least one portion of a vegetable or salad
- A milk or dairy food
- All pupils should have easy access to free, fresh drinking water
- Savoury crackers or bread sticks served with fruit, vegetables or dairy products.

Packed lunches must **NOT** include:

- Confectionery
- Snacks with added salt, sugar or fat
- Deep fried products more than twice a week
- Meat products except as described below
- Drinks other than described below

A meat product from each of the 4 groups below may be provided no more than once per fortnight if they are high in meat content.

Group 1

Burgers, hamburgers, chopped meat, corned beef

Group 2

Sausage, sausage meat, link, chipolata, luncheon meat

Group 3

Individual meat pie, meat pudding, Melton Mowbray pie, game pie, Scotch pie, pasty, sausage roll

Group 4

Any other shaped or coated meat product

Drinks

The only drinks which can be provided:

Plain or combinations of these drinks:

Plain water (still or carbonated, unsweetened, unflavoured)

	<p>Skimmed or semi skimmed milk</p> <p>Pure fruit juice (unsweetened, not fortified) or vegetable juice</p> <p>Plain soya, rice or oat drinks enriched with calcium</p> <p>Plain yoghurt drinks</p>
Breakfast and After School Club	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● Breakfast club is available daily from 7.45am at a cost of £4.00 per session. ● After School Club is available on Monday to Thursday from 3.15 – 5.00pm at a cost of £6.50 per session. There is no after school club provision on Fridays. ● Sessions should be booked as far in advance as possible via School Hub. ● The deadline for booking sessions is 4pm on the previous day.
Reading	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● Children will be bringing a reading book home. Please listen to your child read for at least 20 minutes every day and write in their reading journals on a daily basis. ● Once they have finished reading their book, it can be returned to school.
Spellings	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● Children in Years 1 – 6 will bring home spellings which should be practised at home.
Communication	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● School will communicate general messages with parents/carers by text message/Scholarpack app in the first instance or by phone for individual issues. Please ensure the school has your current up to date contact details. ● The weekly school newsletter will be sent out via email and be available on the school website/Facebook page and will include key dates and information. ● Class teachers will also be sending out a letter informing parents/carers of class routines and expectations. ● If you need to discuss anything with a member of staff please contact the school office to make an appointment. Please do not contact staff directly via personal numbers or on social media.
Medication	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● Asthma inhalers should be clearly named, brought into school on the first day and will remain in school. ● If there is anything that you need to let us know in terms of medication updates for your child, please contact the school office or send a message via the Scholarpack app.
Cars	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● When dropping off and collecting children, we would really appreciate it if you would refrain from driving down to school. Your support with not parking on the double yellow lines on the top road near school or in the staff car park is also appreciated in order to keep our school community safe.