



DANESHOLME INFANT ACADEMY

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The Viking Way

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Principal's Message:

Welcome Back!

It has been a busy start to the new term. We are very pleased to welcome 84 reception children to our Academy (14 children more than we had this time last year!). We have also welcomed new children into both Year 1 and Year 2. We are very proud that we have had an influx of children from outside our area requesting to join our Academy.

All our children have settled well into their new classrooms and have already completed some beautiful work.

The staff and I hope you all have had a lovely summer and we are looking forward to working closely with you and your children this year.



ATTENDANCE

Remember our target for
2019-2020 is 96%!

Our journey to increase our attendance continues this year. Ofsted (July 2019) commented on how hard we are working to improve our attendance but we still need to work even harder to ensure we reach National targets.

Please remember that if your child is off for just 8 days, they are out of school for more days of the year than they are in school.

This is quite a frightening statistic and impacts significantly on your child's progress.

School Matters!



Building Works.

You can see the builders have worked extremely hard over the summer holiday and have already made significant changes to the building. Inside the school, our hall and library walls have been knocked down and already we can see what a lovely new hall and new library area we will have.

The nursery foundations have been dug and over the coming weeks we look forward to seeing the bricklayers put in the new walls. From the playground you can also see that the new Reception class is also well on its way.

Our children have adapted very well to the building works and are not phased by all the changes. To connect the front of the Academy to the back of the Academy, we have an artificial corridor which has been quite exciting for the children to travel down.

The builders are working closely with us to ensure the noise is kept to a minimum during Academy hours.

Beginning of the Day.

Thank you for your support at the beginning of the day as we try to find the best solution to ensure our children arrive safely in their classrooms. This week, as our reception children join us, we will be monitoring closely to ensure the systems we have in place at the moment will work.

The Health and Safety team are visiting early this week to assess the new measures.

Ofsted.

We were pleased to welcome Ofsted into our Academy on July 8th and 9th. We had three inspectors on the 8th and two on the 9th. They were very thorough and recognised the significant improvements we made last year.

I am pleased to announce we are no longer an Academy in Special Measures. This is a massive step in the right direction. Although our Key Stage 1 results were significantly better than the year before, they need another year's continued good results before we can step into the Good category. We have, however, received a Good rating for pupil welfare, behaviour and safeguarding.

As a new Principal to the Academy I want to take this opportunity to thank our young learners, my staff and parents for all the hard work and I know this Academy will go from strength to strength as we continue our journey.

The report is now available to read on the Ofsted website and this week we will put the link on our Academy web site.



The Ofsted inspectors informed us that some parents had written to Ofsted last year to complain that we didn't communicate very well. This has also been put as one of our actions - 'to improve communication with our parents'. After discussing with Ofsted that we sent out a weekly newsletter, termly class newsletters, updated our website regularly, used Twitter regularly and sent out text messages, we concluded that all this communication media was only accessible via technology.

After further discussions, we have decided we are going to print out our newsletter and send it home with our children. However, this is very costly as the price of paper and photocopying increases and school budgets decrease. With this in mind, we will send out a termly newsletter, rather than weekly.

Attached to this newsletter are the key dates for your diary for the next academic year.



Pupil Information

The children in Year 1 and 2 should have brought home important letters about their contact details, medical details, permissions and setting up a password, last week. These letters must be completed and signed by parents and returned to school this week.

Please inform the school office of any changes in details or circumstances throughout the academic year.

Thank you.

