

Head Teacher Update Half term 3

3rd February 2022

Dear Carer/Parent

As we come towards the end of the first half term of the New Year, please find the latest Head Teacher update below.

1. Covid Update

Our superb community continues to take great responsibility for their own and others' wellbeing in school which is wonderful to see. We still have a significant Covid-19 caseload in the student and staff population and must remain vigilant. During the last two weeks, we have averaged between 12-14% of teachers being absent from school per day, as well as a similar high number of support staff. You may be aware of other schools regionally which have moved to send groups home to study remotely as a result of staff absence with the associated disruption to the continuity of education and family life. Sending one or more groups home to temporarily study remotely is still an option in our contingency planning, although one which is being used as a last resort. However, if we cannot safely and effectively staff the school, it becomes our only real option, particularly taking into account the needs of the pupils and their need for consistent and known specialist staff. None of the staff at school want this, indeed our brilliant teachers and support staff continue to assist with setting work for absent colleagues and covering classes in order to keep the school running.

Please continue to support the school by continuing to use Lateral Flow Tests and if your child has a positive LFT, by booking a PCR test before returning to school. Should you require additional Lateral Flow Tests, please email Debbie Malham at Danesgate Debbie.Malham@Danesgate.yorkschoools.net or contact your child's Key Worker.

2. Parent Review Day – Tuesday 5th April

We have rescheduled our Parent Review Day for **Tuesday 5th April 2022**, to coincide with our Easter Fair. This is an opportunity for you to come to Danesgate for an appointment with your child's teacher, in order to discuss your child's progress, *A reminder that there is no school for pupils on this day.* Key Workers will be in touch with families to arrange appointments nearer the time.

3. INSET Day – Monday 25th April 2022

A reminder that our next INSET Day is **Monday 25th April 2022**, there will be no school for pupils on this day

4. Examinations in Summer 2022

The government intends that examinations will take place nationally in summer 2022. The Examination boards will publish the advance information for GCSE, AS and A levels no later than 7th February 2022 which will detail any adaptations to examinations that are likely to be made taking into account disruption to learning caused by the pandemic. We will write to you again as soon as we have assimilated this information

5. Site Development Summer 2022

Over the coming term there will be more information released regarding our site development in the Summer Term. We will be vacating the Danesgate Main site from 27th June 2022 and moving provisions to other schools and sites across the city. Pupils will understandably need time and information in order to adjust to their temporary provisions, hence we will be giving plenty of notice regarding these moves and liaising with yourselves. More information regarding this will be available by Easter time. We are aiming at minimising disruption across the site, the long term gains for the pupils will be immeasurable.

6. Free School Meals: February Half Term

City of York Council are providing FSM vouchers for those pupils eligible over the February Half Term holiday, these will be emailed or delivered in the usual manner.

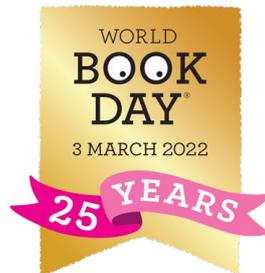
7. Safer Internet Day Tuesday 8th February

Tuesday 8th February is Safer Internet day. There will be a programme of events and learning across the school during the week in order to raise awareness of being safe online. For further information and links to resources for parents and carers to use at home, please see the following link: <https://saferinternet.org.uk/guide-and-resource/parents-and-carers>



8. World Book Day Wednesday 3rd March

Weds 3rd March is World Book Day. There will be a programme of literacy and reading-based events across the school during this week, promoting the joys of reading. The purpose of the event is “Changing lives through a love of books and shared reading”. As part of this day, we would like to encourage pupils and staff to dress up as their favourite character from a book. There will be a competition for designing the door of classrooms in the style of a book, along with storytelling and reading discussions.



As ever, if you have any queries regarding these, or any other issues, please contact your child's key worker or contact us directly at Danesgate.

Sincerely

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read 'Mark Richardson'.

Mark Richardson, Head Teacher

Danesgate Community
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