

● ● ● One done, 5 to go!

Well everyone, I honestly can't believe we have come to the end of our first half term. It is incredible to think that 8 weeks have passed and I just wanted to say how proud I have been to have school fully open again and the absolute joy and pleasure we get each and every day when your children come bursting through the door. It is the most exciting thing to look forward to every day and the best tonic in the world! I have a few messages for you all before we break up for half term.

Parents Evening ● ● ●

Thank you so much to all the parents and carers who have participated in parents evening with our teaching staff. I know how proud you are of the children and equally how proud the teachers are to discuss them all with you. Hopefully our next one will be a face to face meeting in the Spring Term, only time will tell! We will let you know when these are happening later in the year but for now thank you so much for your commitment to these. Please feel free to contact classteachers at any point if you need to discuss anything specific about your child.



PARENT-TEACHER
MEETING

● ● ● PE Kit Survey

Thank you all so much to all the parents and carers who have completed and returned the PE kit survey. Your opinions really matter to us and I am hoping in the coming weeks to have some samples of PE kit that we can share with you and start to put together some plans. This is what the overall feedback showed us from the questionnaire we emailed to you. It was a brilliant response and I hope we can find something that works for everyone. No decisions have been made yet and I thank and appreciate you all for your comments too. All of these will be taken into consideration.

1. Would you be willing to pay for a school PE kit in the same way you pay for a school uniform?

Yes 188

No 38

2. How much would you be willing to pay for a Dee Point jacket / hoodie, t-shirt & tracksuit bottoms
Between £25-£30: **130**; Between £30-£35: **55**; Between £35-£40: **14**; Between £40-£45: **4**;

3. Would you be happy to let your child wear them for other activities, i.e. school trips, residential, other events?

Yes 204

No 10

Inset Day and Next Half Term ● ● ●

Just a reminder that we have a training day on Monday 2nd November. The children will return to school on Tuesday 3rd November at the normal time. This half term has been extremely busy as we have been assessing the children and identifying the gaps in their learning since lockdown in March. Mrs Gill and myself will be piecing together our key priorities in school and writing our school development plan in the coming weeks. The teaching staff have all had to set targets for this next year and how we are going to teach the children to narrow some of those gaps that would naturally happen from having so much time away from school. On the Inset Day on the first Monday back we will be looking at reading training which is something I have mentioned further on in this newsletter.



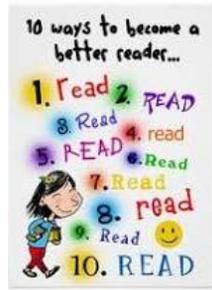
INSET DAY

● ● ● Poppy Appeal – Tuesday 3rd November

This year we will still be holding the annual poppy appeal where children can donate money for a poppy or poppy related merchandise. This year due to the current restrictions we will be selling poppies in the children's classrooms. Children can bring money in from Tuesday 3rd November and all of that week. There will be a range of things they can buy but please can we ask for a minimum donation of 50p. We have limited supplies this year but hopefully we can support such a worthy cause.

Reading, Reading, Reading!!!!

Next half term you will be getting a lot of information regarding Reading. This is because we have identified that this is one of the key areas that we must focus on as a whole school to improve in the coming year. With this we will also need your support too. After half term we will be re-introducing reading books going home with some strict quarantine rules in place. We desperately need your support when reading to your child as well as us giving children more opportunities in school and in class to read as much as possible. Miss Fellows and Mr Martin lead reading in the school so please look out for more information from them after half term but it is a key area for us all to focus on!



Christmas at Dee Point

A Covid Christmas is going to look very different this year to any other year sadly and I wanted to give you a little bit of a heads up as to what to expect this year. Christmas is definitely the busiest time of the year at Dee Point with several performances in school, our choir touring the local area and a host of activities for children and families. This year there will be no performances sadly, or choir tours but we plan to have some Christmas celebrations in the final week of the school term so the children can experience this magical time of year. We will let you know what our final plans are later in the term but we definitely hope to do something memorable for the children.



Staying Safe Over Half Term

This weekend we see the clocks go back and what that means is the arrival of darker evenings. This is always a worry and a time where we want the children to be safe. In school we want the older children who leave closer to 4pm and often on their own, to be heading straight home to their families. We have had one or two incidents recently where older children have gone elsewhere without informing their parents and carers. Please help us by talking to your children about where they are going after school. Also it is this time of the year that Trick or Treat can be quite a stressful time in the local neighbourhood. Under Covid restrictions it is even more important that children are not knocking on the doors of people in the local community. Below are just a few ideas that families could do that are safer and fun to do together.

- Organise a Halloween treasure hunt within your own household
- Host a virtual party with themed games and music
- Watch a scary movie with the family, age appropriate of course!
- Decorate your own house and organise a spooky trail, avoiding face-to-face contact
- Try reverse trick or treating by dropping off pre-packed sweets on neighbours' doorsteps



And Finally...

Today has been wonderful in terms of seeing the children have so much fun; they've deserved it having shown such brilliant commitment and dedication this half term. We are all aware that the current Covid-19 picture isn't positive and tricky times are ahead but what is truly wonderful is that our children continue to come to school and function in a positive way, day after day and for that we're so grateful and proud of them.

If you have any concerns or any Covid related symptoms or test results that we need to be aware of then please email me at this address: head@deepointprimary.cheshire.sch.uk; or call the school 01244 372631 and leave a voicemail. I will be in school regularly next week and will monitor phone calls and messages.

Keep smiling everyone; stay positive, stay safe and remember how amazing our school community is!
Happy half term!

Kind regards

Dave Williams (Headteacher)

