



## DELVES LANE PRIMARY SCHOOL

Delves Lane, Consett, Co Durham, DH8 7ES

Head Teacher: Mrs R A Woods

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### READY RESPECTFUL SAFE

Dear Parents and Carers,

We can't believe that we have finished our first half term this year. I know that the children (and staff) are ready for a rest! We hope all our families have a lovely half term holiday!

## School Holidays

Please see the link to School Holiday dates for this academic year:

[DLPS School Holidays 2023 to 2024](#)

**School will close to pupils today and we will open again on Monday 6<sup>th</sup> November. Have a lovely half-term holiday.**

## Halloween Disco

We have been really impressed with all the fantastic Halloween Costumes we have seen today! The discos have been a huge success! Thank you to our families for your support and donations to school fund for this event, we have raised an amazing **£268.00**.

## School Fund Donations

**We would like to say a big thank you for your school fund and charitable contributions below:**

Jeans for Genes - **£115.00**

School Fund for this half term - **£35.00**

These contributions help school to provide some wonderful experiences for our children, including visits into school from DJ Glen, to Mr Windbags, Pantomime, etc. This will also help to purchase outdoor resources for OPAL and Early Years as well as providing children with enrichment activities throughout the school year. **Please help us to raise more funds via our Arbor Parent Portal under school shop.**

## Christmas Designs

To help us raise essential funds for our school our children have been drawing some lovely Christmas designs which can be printed onto Christmas cards, mugs, coasters and other products making lovely Christmas gifts for Family and Friends.

By Thursday 26<sup>th</sup> October, your child will bring home their own Christmas design, along with an order form, and a product leaflet allowing you to order your child's art work on Christmas cards, mugs, coasters and other products.

Please complete, sign and return the order form and pay for any items you wish to order on your Arbor Parent Portal under School Shop. It is essential that these are returned AND paid for no later than Tuesday 7<sup>th</sup> November. Any forms returned, or payments made, after this date cannot be accepted.

Your ordered products will then be delivered to school in early December, in time for Christmas. We hope you love your child's design and will place an order for Christmas.

Thank you as always for your continued support.



## Year 5 Tag Rugby Competition

Due to the recent poor weather, the Year 5 (Pine Class) Tag Rugby trip which was due to take place at Consett Rugby Club last Tuesday will now take place on TUESDAY 7th NOVEMBER instead. All other arrangements for this event remain unchanged.

### PE Kits

It has been fantastic to see all of our pupils proudly wearing their new PE uniform for their PE lessons this half term! Don't forget, pupils are now expected to wear:

- A plain white t-shirt.
- Plain navy blue or black shorts, leggings or tracksuit bottoms.
- Appropriate sports footwear.
- A plain navy-blue school jumper/ cardigan (for colder weather).

If you wish to buy additional PE uniform, it can be bought from many everyday high street retailers or alternatively, it can be purchased from our current school uniform provider embroidered with the school logo from

<https://www.sportswear.com>

### OPAL News



OPAL PLEA – If you have any bread crates, milk crates, plastic pipes, old suitcases, cable drums and old road signs for our OPAL provision, we would appreciate any donations. Thank you 😊



### Online Safety

This week the National Online Safety guide focuses on Snapchat. It highlights a number of risks such as sexting, visible location and contact from strangers.

#### What is Snapchat?

- Snapchat is an app for sending photos and videos (known as 'Snaps'), and text messages. The 'Stories' feature lets users share photos or videos with all their contacts at once.
- Snaps disappear after being opened, usually within seconds. Stories disappear after 24 hours. Images and messages aren't automatically saved on phones.
- The minimum age to use Snapchat is 13, but it's easy to sign up if you're younger.

#### What's the problem?

- There's a 'high' risk of seeing sexual content, and of bullying.
- Your child's location could be shared automatically with their contacts, which could put them in danger if they have strangers as 'friends' on the app.
- There's a risk of children being 'groomed' by strangers into sharing pictures and information about themselves. Gangs also use apps to groom and recruit children.

#### Four steps to help your child use Snapchat safely

- Tell your child to only use it with real friends
- Anyone could pretend to be a child or teenager online, so encourage your child not to talk to people they don't know in real life.

- Use privacy settings
- By default, only 'friends' your child has added on Snapchat can contact them directly and see their story or location, so encourage your child to keep those default settings.

#### To check and change the settings:

- Tap the person icon in the top-left of Snapchat, then the cog in the top-right. Scroll down to 'Additional Services' and tap the relevant options ('Contact Me' and 'View My Story')
- Under 'See My Location', choose 'Ghost Mode' to turn location sharing off
- Under 'See Me in Quick Add' you can stop your child's profile from being suggested to strangers as a potential 'friend'

#### Talk to your child about 'sexting' and being careful about what they share

- Even though images disappear in Snapchat, they can be screenshotted and then shared – outside of the original sender's control.
- So, remind your child to think carefully about the images they share, and with who. Before they share anything, tell them to ask: "would I be happy for other people to see this?"

Please see more information here <https://shorturl.at/cmGLQ>

## Halloween Safety

Halloween can be an exciting time of year for children, dressing up and going out after dark. But, whilst Halloween is supposed to be spooky there are some dangers that families will want to avoid.

Please see these top tips for a safe Halloween that you can remember for all the right reasons.

<https://capt.org.uk/halloween/>

We hope you have a safe and spooktacular Halloween!

## Bonfire Safety

The 5 November is Bonfire Night, which is filled with lots of fabulous fireworks, snazzy sparklers and big bonfires.

Bonfire Night can be brilliant fun, but it's really important to keep safe too.

It's also a good idea to look out for pets and wildlife during the celebrations to make sure they're properly protected. Please see some important advice here: <https://www.rospa.com/home-safety/advice/fireworks-safety>

## Calendar of Events – Important dates coming up!

Please click on the link here to find out what events are happening this year <https://t.ly/Rm0Na>

Some important dates coming up very soon:

- Thursday 26<sup>th</sup> October – School closes today for Autumn Half Term Holiday.
- After School Activity Clubs begin again on Monday 6<sup>th</sup> November (activity clubs can be booked via our Arbor Parent Portal)
- Remembrance Assembly – Friday 10<sup>th</sup> November. (In school event)
- Anti-Bullying Day – Friday 17<sup>th</sup> November
- Children-in-Need – **Non Uniform Day** on Friday 17<sup>th</sup> November



## Poppy Appeal

From Monday 6<sup>th</sup> November, our children will have the opportunity to buy Poppy Appeal items. Our Year 6 Office Monitors Charlotte, Emily, Tiana and Nicole will be around school selling poppy merchandise throughout the week.

Prices for items are as follows:

- Poppy's 50p
- Ziptags 50p
- Reflective Poppy's £1
- Wristbands £1

Please can children bring the correct change into school if they would like to purchase an item. Thank you

## Toys in School

We do not allow toys or collectables (e.g. football cards) in school, unless the class teacher has specifically requested them. Please always check with the class teacher. If children require additional resources to support

their learning, these will be provided by the school.  
Thank you for your cooperation with this matter.

## Parking Outside School

Car parking at the beginning and end of the school day is a problem at most primary schools. Children and parents arrive and depart in a relatively short period of time and this causes congestion. We have a very busy main road outside our school and it is very important that everyone is kept safe.

We are aware of the ongoing issues regarding parking outside our school, and also alert our local PCSO. They regular makes visits to the schools in our area.

If you witness any actions outside school that concern you please can I ask that you report it to the police using the 101 number.

### **What can you do to help keep everyone safe around the school?**

Please don't:

- Block the road, emergency vehicles and other traffic may need access
- Park on yellow lines, zig-zags or block the school entrance
- Park on the pavement, across dropped kerbs or residents' driveways
- Park opposite or within 10 metres of a junction
- Expect drivers to reverse on to the main road
- Park where you will cause inconvenience to other road users
- Leave your vehicle with the engine still running
- Stop in the middle of the road to drop your child off, even for a few seconds

Please walk to school if you can. If you have to come by car, try to share trips with friends or we can use the car park next to the community centre. Parking on restricted areas or mounting the pavement is a traffic offence. Durham County Council advise that the **over-riding priority around schools is the safety of children**. Parents who choose to take their children to school by car must obey the parking regulations in place.

To report a car parked illegally please visit: <https://www.durham.gov.uk/article/3517/School-keep-clear-markings>

## Blocking Pavements

We are also receiving concerns about groups of adults blocking pavements when children have been dropped off. Please can parents and carers make sure pavements are clear for pedestrians to access. Thank you for your support with this matter.

## Reminder: Parent/Governor Vacancy

There is a vacancy for a parent governor on the governing board at DLPS.

We are very keen to encourage Parents and/or Carers of registered students to nominate themselves to fill this place. Our latest skills audit for governors has identified finance expertise as a key skill that we are currently seeking. Full training will be given and the vacancies are open to all parents, but anyone with relevant experience in this area would be very welcome.

If you would like to be a governor, please contact our school office for a nomination form. You can nominate yourself, or another parent; please check with them that they are willing to stand and ask them to sign the nomination form and the declaration in the spaces provided.

If you have any questions about what is involved please feel free to contact me or Mrs Andrea McGuigan (Chair of Governors) via the school office. You can also find lots of relevant information on [www.nga.org.uk](http://www.nga.org.uk)

Thank you for your continued support. Have a lovely half term holiday and we will see you all again on Monday 6<sup>th</sup> November.

*B Woods*

Mrs B Woods  
**Head Teacher**