

Dame Dorothy Primary School

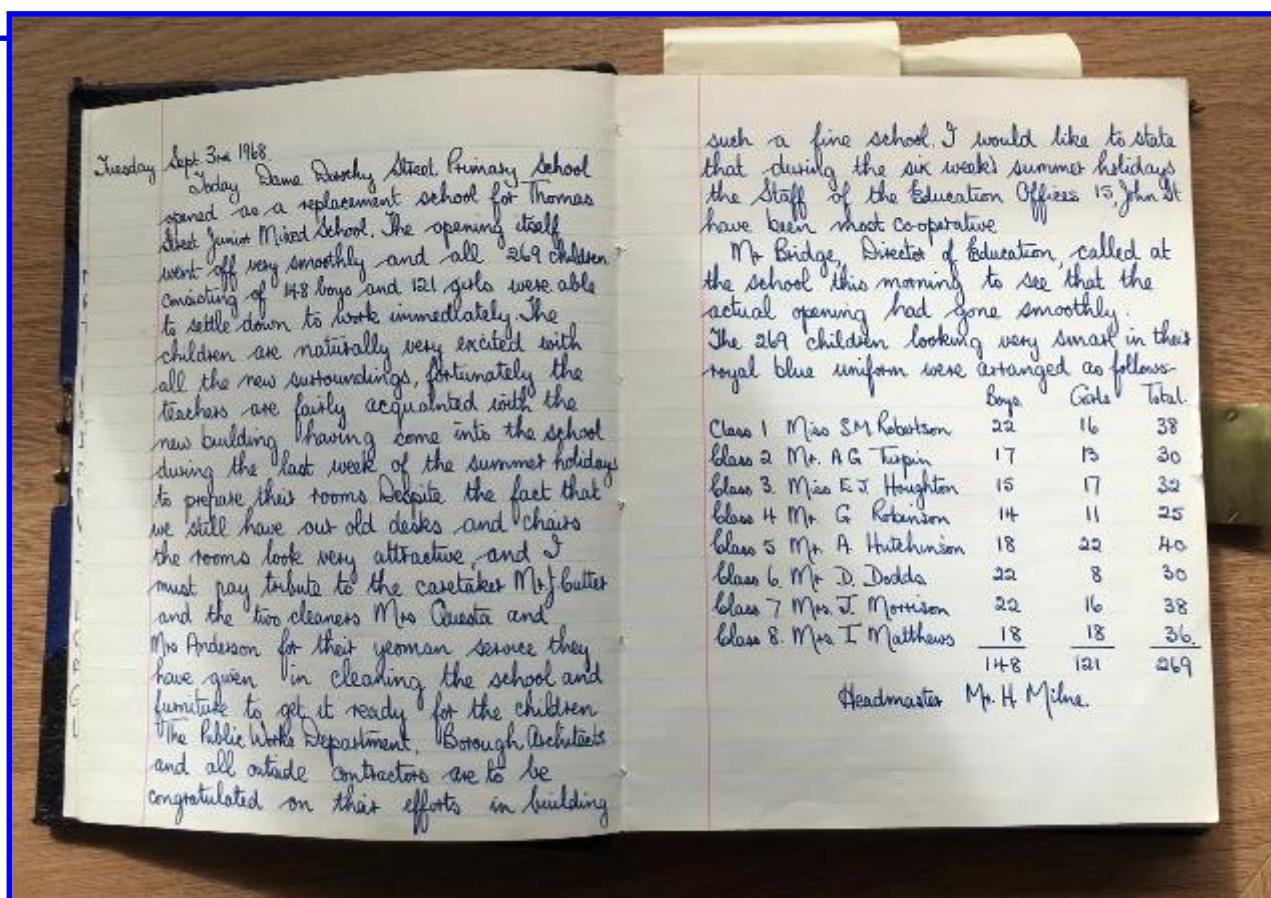
Weekly Newsletter

6th - 8th September

Welcome back: It's lovely to welcome back all of our children and families to another year at Dame Dorothy. I am pleased to report there were lots of happy faces complete with new uniforms on the first day back and plenty of catching up about all the things they have been getting up to during the summer holidays. As always we will be doing our utmost to provide the best education possible for every child with lots of opportunities to go on educational trips and participate in musical and sporting events. There will be a chance for you to meet with your child's class teacher during September and find out about the key areas they will be covering from the national curriculum and how you can best support their learning. The greatest thing any parent can ever do to support their child's development is to sit down every night at home with a book of your choice and read together. Show them how much you love to read and make reading for enjoyment a fun part of their daily life.

Dame Dorothy school is fast approaching a very special birthday of its own. In September 2018 the school will be celebrating its 50th birthday. We found the original school log book written by Dame Dorothy's very first head teacher, Harry Milne, describing the opening day of the school 49 years ago. I thought you might like to read his description of that very first day.

Remember to check out our Facebook page



Well done to all the Reception children for having a great start to the year. We have been delighted to welcome some new families into the setting too. The transition period continues next week from 8.45 to 12.

Don't forget your PE kit for Monday.



Ship Ahoy: You will no doubt have noticed that in the far corner of the school field a ship has appeared. This ship is a replica of the last ever one to be built here on the River Wear back in 1968 and is the work of local artist Mike Clay. Many thanks to the Friends of Dame Dorothy who part funded this project and of course Mike who spent many back breaking hours building the ship. The children have been busy putting forward suggestions for the name of the ship and that will be revealed on Monday night at our special launch for the St Peter's Youth and Community Group on the school field. For more details about this please see '**Special Event**' below and on Facebook.



Special Event: The school has formed a partnership with various organisations in the St Peter's Ward to help provide opportunities and facilities for our local community. One part of this partnership involves the restoration of the old caretaker's house, which has stood empty for many years now. It will become a multi-purpose building that can be used by the school, parents and groups during the day and by local youth groups in the early evening. Funding has been secured from external sources to carry out the necessary work which will take place over the coming months.

To celebrate the beginning of this partnership we are hosting a launch event on the field this coming Monday and all parents, carers and children are most welcome to attend. There will be games, face painting, food and special guests at the launch of the St Peter's Youth & Community Group and we would love to see you there.

Term Time Holidays: Ofsted's judgement of school includes our pupil attendance record. We have worked very hard to improve the attendance of our pupils over the years and we are proud of the improvements we have made. However, the number of parents taking children out of school for holidays rose dramatically last year. We are aware that holiday companies raise prices during school holidays and reduce them during term time but we would ask parents to avoid booking during school terms. Missed schooling does have a negative impact upon children's education and the pace of school means that they miss out on key concepts being taught that take a great deal of time to catch up. Please avoid booking your holidays in term time to best support your child and our school.

Reminder: Y5 and Y6 start swimming next week, as always, volunteers are needed to walk to and from the Aquatic Centre. If you can help, even once, please contact the office. Please remember to bring your kit and donation of £1.50 each week.

If anyone has a school swimming kit at home, please return it as soon as possible.



Lunch money for year 3 to year 6 is £10 and MUST be paid on a Monday morning in in order that it can be banked in line with local council procedures.

Standing Reminders:

11.09 St Peter's Youth & Community Group launch— school field 3-5pm
13.09 Year 3 @ Broom House Farm

The Safeguarding designated people are;
Mr Williamson, Mrs Pearson and Mrs Burdon.
The Anti-Bullying Coordinators for the school are;
Mrs Burdon and Mrs Pearson.
Please view the Anti-bullying policy on the school website.