



Newsletter January 2025



Message from Mr Jones

It has been a positive and energising start to the new term, and I want to share how proud I am of the children's enthusiasm and dedication as we settle into our learning journey together. They have returned with a wonderful sense of focus, resilience, and kindness toward one another, creating a warm and purposeful atmosphere across the school.

There are some exciting changes on the horizon for Deykin, and I would love for you to be a part of them. Your involvement and support are invaluable as we continue to grow and build a thriving school community together. More details will follow soon, and I look forward to working with you to make this a fantastic term for everyone.

Welcome!

I am thrilled to welcome Miss Burke back from maternity leave. She is now teaching in Year 2 with Mrs Thompson and has already settled in well.

I am also excited to welcome our new Deputy Headteacher, Mrs Evanson to Deykin. We will be arranging a parent meeting very soon for you to be able to meet with her and I am sure you will see her around school during arrival and dismissal times if you haven't already.





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Further Welcomes!

At Deykin Avenue, we always strive to provide the very best for our children and community. One of the ways that we have done that this year is by ensuring we have the best teachers and leaders in our school.

We recently advertised for an Assistant Headteacher and, as part of the interview process, our student council thought of some tough questions to ask during the interviews. They questioned the hopeful leaders on how they would make our school even better and helped us ensure we chose the right person for the role.

We're excited to share that we have successfully appointed a new Assistant Headteacher, who will be joining us later this academic year. This is fantastic news for our school, as it means even more support and improvements in teaching and learning, and the educational offer your children receive.



As much as we love telling you of all the AMAZING things that your children do whilst in school we want to hear from you! Any achievements, activities or celebrations that you would like to share with us and all our families, please do. We would love to hear about these and celebrate with you.



Send any information/photos to our enquiry email:
enquiry@deykinav.bham.sch.uk
with the subject title 'Let us Know'
We can't wait to see and we will share them in our next newsletter.

X (formerly Twitter)

We want to keep you up to date with the exciting learning taking place in school. Please follow us on X to see what we are up to.
Follow us: @DeykinAvenue



School Uniform

As part of the Deykin family, we all take pride in wearing our school uniform, which helps create a sense of unity and belonging for everyone.

The Deykin Avenue Junior & Infant School School Uniform is:

White cotton shirt or polo shirt

Navy jumper, cardigan or sweatshirt

Black shoes (no trainers)

Grey trousers or skirt (or blue and white check pinafore dress in the summer)

Children should only wear stud earrings to school and these should not be worn on PE or swimming days (No hoop earrings).

Please make sure your child has the correct uniform.



PE Kit

We are introducing PE Kit that all children must wear.

We are a Deykin family and want all children to feel part of this. We also want to ensure children are wearing appropriate clothing for PE.

A plain white t-shirt

Black shorts/joggers

A plain black zip up hooded top

Trainers/black pumps

No earrings are to be worn on PE or swimming days



Expectations

As we continue our journey of improvement, we have introduced a clear set of expectations to the children. We wanted to share these with you so that you know what we expect in school and so you can also talk to your child about them.



Classroom Expectations

Rights and Responsibilities



I have the right to be heard.

I have a responsibility to listen to others.

I have the right to express my views freely.

I have a responsibility to respect the
viewpoint of others.

I have the right to an education.

I have a responsibility to ensure I do not
disturb others learning.

I have a right to be treated with respect.

I have a responsibility to treat others with
respect.

I have a right to be safe.

I have a responsibility to ensure that I am
being safe within the classroom.



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Corridor Expectations



We line up in single file.

We walk in the corridors.

We are quiet and respectful as we walk around school.

We are quiet and patient when we collect our things from our pegs/trolley.

We hold doors open for each other and we use our manners.

We greet people with a 'good morning or good afternoon'.



Expectations



Assembly Expectations

We line up in single file.

We walk into the hall silently and we are directed by our teacher.

We sit cross-legged, facing forward.

We listen carefully to the person leading the assembly.

We share our thoughts and ideas when asked by putting our hand up.

We are respectful of others' views.

We walk out of the hall silently.



Expectations



Lunchtime Expectations

We line up in single file.

We ask for our food politely and say thank you.

We walk quietly and carefully with our trays to a table.

We eat our dinner using the correct cutlery.

We use quiet indoor voices to talk to our friends.

We put up our hand if we need help from an adult and we use our manners.

We take our tray and clear it away when we have finished our food.



Expectations



Library Expectations



We are quiet when using the library.

We handle books with care.

We place books back on the shelves where we found them.

We ask our teacher politely to scan our library card and book before borrowing a book.

We return books we have borrowed.

We keep our library tidy.

We let the books take us to a faraway place.



What Parents & Educators Need to Know about

JUSTALK KIDS

WHAT ARE THE RISKS?

JusTalk Kids is a child's version of the JusTalk app – a highly popular social networking platform – designed for users up to 13 years of age, allowing them to video call, message and participate in group chats. While adults can link their own JusTalk account to their child's and make use of parental controls, it's important to understand the risks associated with the app.

SUBSCRIPTION FOR PREMIUM ACCESS

While JusTalk Kids is free, there's the option to subscribe to a kids' premium account or a premium family account. At a cost, this feature allows children to have access to more fun features such as games they can play with others in a call; exclusive stickers; a badge denoting them as a premium subscriber; and exclusive ringtones and themes.

RESISTANCE TO CONTROLS

JusTalk Kids endeavours to allow children the sense of having a chat-based app while allowing parents to set controls (within the app or from their own adult JusTalk account). The basis behind this is positive; however, some children are challenging their parents by refusing to use JusTalk Kids, preferring to use the adult version without any restrictions in place.

KNOWING THE PARENT PASSCODE

After downloading JusTalk Kids, parents can set a passcode which users must enter to add contacts. The parental controls help to manage which content can be viewed and who children can add as a contact: this then allows children to chat with friends in a controlled environment. However, prospective contacts don't have to know a specific username. In theory, someone could type in a random name and then add them as a friend.

POTENTIAL DATA LEAKS

JusTalk and JusTalk Kids claim to be secure and encrypted, going so far as to state that even the developers themselves won't access your data. However, a security lapse in 2022 highlighted that messages were not in fact encrypted – leading to concerns around the security of the app and the transparency of the development team.

CYBERBULLYING

Online chats can provide a sense of anonymity, leading some users to post things which they wouldn't normally say in person. Combined with the option of group chats, there's a risk that young people might join in with this kind of behaviour, escalating it further and potentially turning what should be a fun experience into something deeply negative.

TOO MUCH SCREENTIME

A report by the UK Parliament Education Committee highlighted a 52% increase in children's screen time between 2020 and 2022 – as well as finding that 25% of children used their smartphones in a manner consistent with screen addiction. Introducing children to social networking apps when they're too young can lead to bad digital habits and a reliance on technology from an early age.

Advice for Parents & Educators

JUSTIFY THE CONTROLS

If parents allow their child to use JusTalk Kids, they should explain that they're putting parental controls in place to make the app safer. Make sure the child knows not to put their full name on the account and doesn't use a photo of themselves as their profile picture. This type of open discussion will help to ensure that a child is aware of the app's potential risks and knows how to reduce them.

TALK ABOUT ONLINE FRIENDSHIPS

Young children could be excited to use this app. However, highlight that they must do so in a positive, respectful and responsible manner. While it can be easy to get caught up in a group chat, it's important to talk to others politely and call out any unpleasant behaviour. Discuss the importance of limiting their contacts to people they know in real life and use parental controls to enforce this.

DOS AND DON'TS OF SHARING

Some children might not understand the potential dangers of oversharing online. Set clear guidelines around what *is* and *isn't* safe to share on the internet, and discuss the concept of a digital footprint. Children need to understand that the things they say and share online can never be completely erased. Even if they delete it themselves, it can be saved and distributed by others.

ENCOURAGE OPEN COMMUNICATION

Apps like JusTalk can sometimes lend themselves to bullying behaviours. Parents should monitor what their child is sending and receiving, check in with them regularly and encourage them to share their feelings (both positive and negative) at home. Remind them that they can block a contact if someone is treating them disrespectfully.

Meet Our Expert

Dr Claire Sutherland is an online safety consultant, educator and researcher who has developed and implemented anti-bullying and cyber safety policies for schools. She has written various academic papers and carried out research for the Australian government comparing internet use and sexting behaviour of young people in the UK, USA and Australia.



#WakeUpWednesday

The National College

Source: See full reference list on guide page at: <https://nationalcollege.com/guides/justalk-kids>

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Attendance

Autumn term Attendance:

Year 6: 90.72%
Year 5 93.52%
Year 4 93.47%
Year 3: 88.69
Year 2: 91.19%
Year 1: 87.61%
Reception: 85.65%



Getting your child to school really **matters**. Did you know...

If your child's attendance during the school year...	Your child would have lost approximately...	or they would have missed approximately...
was 95%	9 Days from School	50 Lessons
was 90%	19 Days from School	100 Lessons
was 85%	29 Days from School	150 Lessons
was 80%	38 Days from School	200 Lessons
was 75%	48 Days from School	250 Lessons

You should not take your child on holiday during term time. Please encourage punctuality to maintain school attendance.

Remember Absence = Lost Opportunity

EVERY DAY MATTERS
SCHOOL + YOU = SUCCESS



Please can you ensure that non-emergency dental and optician appointments are booked outside school hours.

For any other medical appointments, we ask for evidence with via letter, appointment card or email. This is to support your child's authorised absence.

We aim for all children to achieve 96% or above attendance.

If your child is absent from school please report to the school office on 0121 464 4460

UPCOMING EVENTS

10th February 2025:

School nurses in for Reception Eye Screening Test

11th February 2025:

Internet Safety Day

14th February 2025:

Children Break up for half term



Each half term, we will send out further information on how you can get involved in your child's learning! This half term, there will be:

Parent Workshops:

Opportunities where you can come in and learn more about how we teach your children. This will help you further support your children at home!

Parent Classes:

Opportunities to develop your own skills, whether this be English classes or qualifications. Keep an eye out for more information sent out soon!

Big Changes!

New School Entrance:

We are in the process of moving our school's main entrance to Deykin Avenue! Once completed, the main office will be where our current year 1 classroom is and will ensure that you have the best experience whilst at our school, as well as ensuring the ongoing safety of our children.

New Classroom:

With the main school office moving to our current year 1 space, we will obviously need a new classroom! Year 1 will be moving to where the ICT Suite is currently.

The ICT suite has undergone a significant makeover already and is newly decorated and kitted out for our year 1 children to move in very soon. You may be wondering why we don't need our ICT Suite anymore...



Our iPads are here!

Once they have been set up, each children from year 1-6 will have a device that they can use both in school and at home. This will enhance their learning experience at school and support any learning taking place at home too! Please rest assured, the devices are heavily monitored, with significant safeguards in place to ensure your child is safe whilst online. There will be more information sent out on specific dates for this in the coming weeks.



Thank you



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Thank you for all of your support and attendance to school events this year- we hope to see more of you in the coming weeks for class workshops.

If there is anything at all you would like to feedback or any additional support you feel you need, please do not hesitate to contact our office team and arrange an appointment.