



NEWSLETTER

ISSUE NO.1

14th September 2017

A MESSAGE FROM MR SIBLEY

Dear Parents,

I would like to welcome back all of you to DESS. I would especially like to welcome our new children, staff and parents to our school, I hope you will all be very happy here.

This week, I have enjoyed visiting the classes finding out about all the exotic places the children have visited over the long holiday (far more exotic than my own trips!)

You may have seen that much of the recent building work around the school premises, which is as a result of the construction of the Year 7/8 building, is finally coming to a conclusion. We are hoping that by the end of September this final construction phase will have been completed.

We have now opened a fourth Foundation Stage 1 class which is in the old music room. Temporarily, music has been moved to another classroom until the new build becomes available.

I hope parents found our new 'Meet the Teacher' event useful on Monday. Obviously, there will be more formal consultations for you to meet the teachers on 14th and 15th November. We are also launching a new 'Student Planner' which we hope will enable more fluid communication between child/teacher and parents.

There is an up to date calendar on our school web site which has many events for the whole academic year. I hope this helps you plan for the year. Please be aware there may sometimes be changes to this calendar which will subsequently be changed on the website calendar so please check this regularly. **Enjoy your weekend.**

UNIFORM AT DESS

We would like to thank parents for their support in ensuring that all children are well presented in their school uniform. This is an important element of being a member of the DESS community and helps to build a strong school ethos and identity for all the children, allowing the students to look smart and feel confident.

It is compulsory for our students to wear the correct DESS uniform which can be purchased from the on-site uniform shop located next to the Multi-Purpose Hall (MPH). The shop allows payment using QAR cash or QAR cheque only, no credit cards are accepted. Other uniform items can be easily purchased from other retailers, for example, school shoes, trainers, socks, tights, charcoal grey skirts, shorts, shorts & trousers. Leggings and long sleeved t-shirt under shirts and dresses are not allowed as part of the uniform, please see the uniform guide for other alternatives. We would be grateful if parents could also ensure that all items are clearly labelled with your child's name and class.

This year, if your child is seen wearing incorrect uniform they will be given a reminder slip to bring home. If children are repeatedly wearing incorrect items of uniform parents will be asked to meet with a member of the Senior Leadership Team to discuss this further.

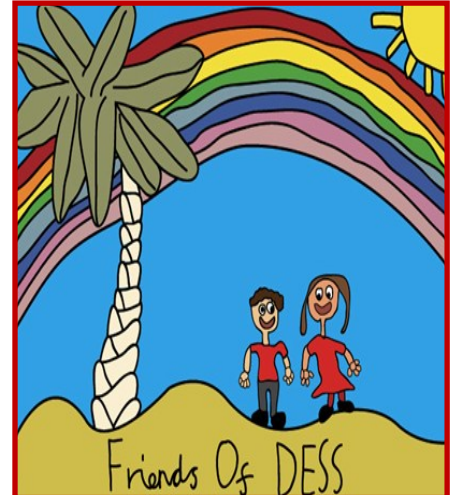
For more information about the DESS uniform guide & prices please go to this link: [Uniform](#). Please note, due to the current political situation, there are some delays with receiving uniform deliveries. Please bear with us during this time, your patience is much appreciated. Thank you for your cooperation with this and we look forward to seeing all of our children looking smart at DESS.

Find out about our children's achievements here:

[Awards of The Week](#)

THINGS TO REMEMBER

- ◆ Our Parent Council now have a dedicated page on the DESS website: [Parent Council](#)
- ◆ Our policies can be found here: [Policies](#)
- ◆ Our new Calendar of Events for the Autumn Term can be found here: [Calendar of Events](#). Please note that there may be times when dates may need to change.
- ◆ Our uniform guidance can be found here: [Uniform](#)



Music at DESS

Voice Squad

Voice Squad will start next week, Wednesday 20th September, at 2pm in the MPH.

All other music ECAs will start when the rest of the school ECAs commence.

Invitation letters to the new Voice Squad members will be given to children on Sunday, 17th September.

Sport at DESS

Notices

Trial results will be posted on the PE noticeboard this academic year.

The DESS PE swim split information has been added to the DESS website at this location: [DESS PE Swim Split](#).

It is extremely unfortunate that the Year 6 North Star trip to the UAE has been postponed. The PE Department is currently working hard to seek an alternative solution and provider. We hope to have confirmation of a new location for the trip shortly and will notify parents as soon as possible. We thank Year 6 parents for their patience in this.

If any Year 4,5 or 6 parent hasn't received a communication about BSME, please ask at Reception for a copy of the letter.

Friends of DESS

Annual General Meeting (AGM):

The new year will commence with an AGM which will review, amongst other important agenda items, the new positions in FOD for this academic year.

The AGM will take place from 7.30am on Thursday, 21st September in the small gym. A separate letter will be sent regarding the nominations for FOD positions.

Join our
fantastic team!

**Job
Opportunities**

Learning Mentor

Rosy O'Brien is our Learning Mentor at DESS. Rosy's role is a dedicated role and is integral to the pastoral care we offer at DESS. Our new families may find the service which Rosie offers particularly useful as she can help with a seamless transition of new children into school life. Find out more about our Learning Mentor and pastoral care on our website here: [Pastoral Care](#). There is a useful Learning Mentor leaflet included on the page which provides more information about Rosy's role.

NEW TO DESS?

We would be very grateful if a questionnaire could be completed about your child to help us understand more about them and to enable us to help integrate your child into school life at DESS. Questionnaires can be found for all year groups in the Welcome Packs on our New Starters webpage: [New Starters](#)