



Federation Newsletter for our Duke Street and Highfield Families October 2021

The vast majority of children have started at both schools now and appeared to have settled in beautifully. It's heartening to see so many children walk / run in enthusiastically, ready and raring to get in and have fun! We continue to be sensitive to the needs of all children. Our family is fully inclusive and every single child is welcome. Our approach is based on the unique child and equal opportunity does not mean the same for everyone- it means giving our children what they need at the right time.

Some children need help with toilet training- that's okay .

Some children need support with speaking- that's okay too.

Some children find it incredibly hard to tune in to social skills and can sometimes lash out at others impulsively— we work hard with these children to help them use more appropriate communication, we understand them, it's hard especially after a pandemic, so we know this can happen, it will pass and it is not personal to the child who it is done to. We want to reassure parents we are there, we are helping both children involved.

Some children find all transitions and new situations difficult, they cry and are very distressed—that's okay too. Again we are with them, we understand and we are helping.

Can we please ask that you respect that every child is different. Very often the children who make themselves known physically to others, have the biggest challenges which we have to try to understand and support.

This is life, this is acceptance and this has to come from parents too. Thank-you for your understanding and support.

Different brains = amazing futures.



We are 'In It With Indie'



In it with Indie

This is Indie. Indie is such a vibrant little girl who makes everyone laugh- she is always making jokes and looking for fun! Indie left Duke Street Nursery in July after being with us for three years, to start her journey at school. Some of you may know we received the devastating news at the beginning of September that she has a brain tumour. She will require months of treatment. We are absolutely devastated for Indie and her amazing family for what they are going through.

We will be organising lots of fundraising over the coming weeks and months to raise money to support their family. So please support in whichever way you can.

In the meantime, if you would like to donate anything at all, please hand it in to the school office. There is also a Just Giving page which has been set up by a family friend if you would like to donate that way instead

[Gofund.me/54dc8100](https://www.gofundme.com/54dc8100)

Let's all get behind Indie and her family and show them how amazing our Federation Family really is!

Headteacher's absence

Due to some family health issues and two further medical procedures I require, I will be absent for a few months until January. I will be leaving you in the very capable hands of Louise Cheetham at Duke Street and Natalie Sinclair at Highfield , they will both become Acting Headteacher's of each individual school. I know you and your child will be in excellent hands whilst I am away. I will miss the children, staff and parents very much, I wish you all good health and happy days ahead.

E.Y.F.S reform

You should all have received a letter with information about the changes in early years. If not, please ask in the office. Your child will not know any different, we will be continuing to offer learning through play an exciting hands-on experiences .



Universal credit

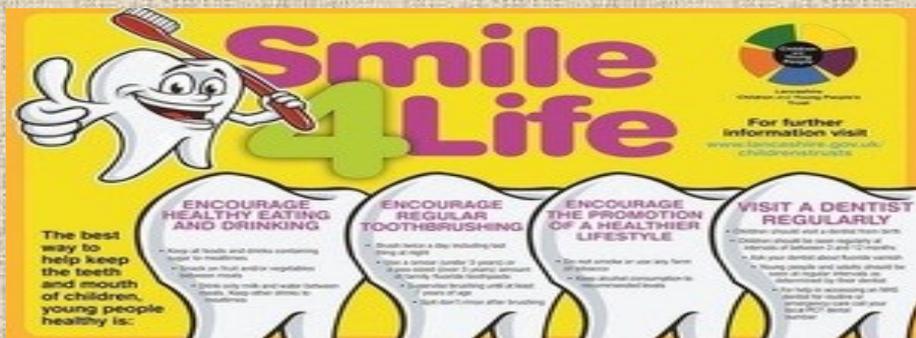
We are aware many of our families access universal credit and there is soon to be reduction . As always we are sensitive to this, we know and understand the real struggle some will find themselves in. Please be assured we are here to do whatever we can to support you through this transition. Please speak to Louise, Natalie or Rachel our Family Support Worker, we can help with debt management, benefits, food hampers from Chorley Council or Living Waters and emergency food hampers from nursery.



Oral health



The concern for the oral health and general wellbeing of children has been prompted by the release of new statistics from Public Health England (PHE) that reveal around one-in-four (23%) of 5-year-olds have had dental decay. It's really important your child is registered with a dentist and they are taken for regular check ups. We know there is a shortage of places available, so if you are having trouble please speak to Rachel our family support worker who can help you find vacancies and get your child booked in. In the meantime there a plenty of ideas on the Smile 4 Life website as how to keep your child's teeth and gums healthy.



Tapestry is our online communication tool, your child's key person will send photographs and ideas as how to support them at home. If you are struggling to access please speak to office staff who will support you setting this vital tool up.



Please explore our website www.dukestreet-nur.lancs.sch.uk. By viewing the pages and galleries you will get a feel for the learning experiences we provide and an insight into what we have to offer your children at Duke Street and Highfield Nursery Federation .



Checkout our Facebook and Instagram pages which will keep you informed of some of the activities and learning experiences we create with the children. We share reminders and updates on our page most days, so please give us a like.

Please ensure your mobile number and email address are kept up to date in the nursery school office as we send frequent texts and emails with up to date communication and other aspects of Nursery.