



DOWNHAM PREPARATORY SCHOOL AND MONTESSORI NURSERY

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Newsletter to Prep & Nursery School Parents 23rd October 2020

Warm Clothes / Ventilation and COVID 19

We have just received the following guidelines from the Department of Education.

Schools should consider allowing pupils to wear “additional, suitable indoor items of clothing” during the winter as classrooms get colder because of the need for ventilation, the Department for Education has said.

In updated *action for schools* guidance published today, the DfE said increased ventilation “may make school buildings cooler than usual over the winter months”.

In a section on school uniform, the guidance states that “while schools will want to maintain the benefits of their uniform, they may wish to consider allowing additional, suitable indoor items of clothing to be worn during the winter period in addition to the school’s current uniform”.

The guidance has also added a line on ventilation to the “system of controls” that schools must have in place to prevent and deal with coronavirus outbreaks.

The document states that schools should be “always keeping occupied spaces well ventilated”, and that this approach “must be in place in all schools, all the time”.

It follows [calls earlier this month](#) for practical advice for schools on how to handle the winter months, after staff reported that their classrooms had already become cold.

Existing guidance on ventilation by Chartered Institution of Building Services Engineers (CIBSE), which is linked to on the HSE website, says draughts from open windows can be mitigated by moving desks and wearing “warmer fleeces”.

After half term we would like all pupils to wear a school fleece as we have to keep windows open and rooms well ventilated and the classrooms will be quite cold. Girls should also wear warm navy tights (not socks).

If your child does not have a fleece we have plenty in stock; good as new £10.00 and new £17.50. Please contact Mrs Law if you need to purchase one.

We would also ask that all of the children have a waterproof coat or school cagoule as we will continue to teach outside whenever possible. The children will continue to go out to play three times a day, unless the weather is extreme.

The children have different play areas for each ‘bubble’ which means we are using the playing field at play times. At this time of year it is always wet and muddy and their feet get wet in ordinary school shoes.

After half term please send your child to school in wellington boots, every child will need a pair of plimsolls to change into when they are indoors.

Uniform after half term for Prep Pupils:

School fleece Waterproof coat Tights (for girls)

Wellington boots Plimsolls

Uniform after half term for Nursery Pupils:

All in one waterproof suit (or waterproof trousers and jacket)

Appropriate warm clothing for indoors

Wellington Boots

Harvest Collection

We will wait until after half term to send your donations to our local EACH representative, for anyone who still would like to donate.

Please send the money in a sealed envelope marked EACH, with your child's name and class on the outside, and place it in the black box outside the school office.

Poppies

After half term, we will leave the box of poppies outside the office door, with the honesty box for your donations. All donations will be very much appreciated for this very worthy cause.