

Dronfield Junior School Newsletter 01 4 September 2018

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Welcome back! I hope you all had an excellent Summer and are ready to face the exciting opportunities we have to offer this year. It was lovely to see so many smiling faces this morning and all children looking smart in their uniforms saying they were looking forward to coming to school, which was great to hear. I would like to extend a warm welcome to all the children for whom it is the first day at our school and also to Miss Galloway, who begins a new job, in Year 4, at our school.

As with all our children, I sincerely hope they will be very happy here, embracing what we have to offer and building their enthusiasm for life-long learning.

Our school newsletters are usually issued on a Monday, please look out for them as they contain a plethora of information about what is happening in school.

Firstly a hark back to last term to say a big thank you to all those children who donated their school shoes for the Variety Club Appeal. We had a huge collection for a worthy cause. My grateful thanks must also go to Mrs Sturdey who organised the appeal.

ParentPay – please can you ensure that you are registered for Parent Pay? All money in school is now paid through Parent Pay accounts. We also send our newsletters through ParentPay and our school text messages, therefore, it is vital you have an account so you are kept informed.

School Uniform – as I have said, all the children look great in their uniform today. We hope it will stay like this all year. If you need more information regarding our school uniform, please consult the school website www.dronfield-jun.derbyshire.sch.uk and click on the policies tab on the left hand side and from there click uniform policy. **Plain black** trainers are allowed as part of school uniform but we do not allow trainers with sporting manufacturers' logo. Smart, flat, black boots can be worn in the Winter.

Please ensure all clothing is labeled with your child's name. We had a lot of lost property last year, much of which was left unclaimed, as it was unnamed and therefore we could not return it to its owner.

Dinner Money – this has increased to £2.10 per day. Payment for School Meals must be made promptly via ParentPay, please.

Flexible Dining – If your child follows a flexible dining plan, please log in to your ParentPay account to select the days you wish your child to have school meals for next term. To do this, please select 'make meal bookings' (under your child's name) from the home page, select the week from the drop down list and choose the dates you would like your child to have a lunch. Please repeat this for each week available. Please ensure that your child is aware which days they have sandwiches and which days they have school dinners. Please note you will be charged £2.10 for a meal if they tell their teacher the incorrect information.

Alongside the advance booking facility, we would also like to offer the opportunity for you to book an ad-hoc meal (such as Christmas dinner, theme day or in an emergency) should the need arise. Bookings for ad-hoc meals are made in the same way as detailed above, but, the booking (and any payment needed) must be made by 8am on the day the meal is required.

Jacket Potatoes – on Friday the kitchen will offer Jacket Potatoes as an alternative to fish. The potatoes are available with the choice of one topping, either cheese, beans or tuna. If your child would prefer to have a jacket potato, please log in to www.schoolinterviews.co.uk using event code 433kd to register your child's topping

preference. This must be done by 5pm on Wednesday 5 September in order for your child to have a jacket potato this Friday and for the rest of the term. Please give school a week's notice if your child decides that they no longer want a jacket potato on Fridays.

Sponsored Walk – we are hoping to do our Sponsored Walk on **Monday 10th September**. We will make a route around school for this so that children can easily access water and the toilets. Children will be taking part in our sponsored walk to raise money for a new school adventure playground. Children can wear their PE kit for the sponsored walk – they will need to come to school in school uniform and they will change in the afternoon. Please encourage your child to collect sponsorship but only from people they know. This event is weather dependent and we will text you should we need to postpone. Due to the numbers of children, we are going to do the walk with two year groups at a time. Unfortunately, as we are very constrained for space, we will **not** be able to invite parents to watch.

Adventure Playground – unfortunately our Adventure Playground is in a poor state and we have taken the decision to make it 'out of bounds'. We have taped it off to remind the children. Please can I ask if you have younger children that you ensure, for their own safety, that they do not go under the barriers? Thank you in anticipation. We are looking to replace the Adventure Playground imminently. We are looking at, in excess, of £20 000, with a large portion of the money going on surfacing. I am working with a couple of parents who are helping to raise funds for this.

Trim Trail – please can I ask that children do not use the Trim Trail before school? Whilst there are teachers on duty from 8.50am, they do not supervise this area. Mr Hazeldine checks the Trim Trail each morning and advises us, from this we make a decision as to whether this equipment is to be used during the day, which we communicate to the children during break time. Please can I also remind parents that our Trim Trail is designed for children aged 7+; there are posters in the area that state this – children younger than this, using our equipment, do so at their own risk. Thank you in anticipation.

Contact Details – we will shortly send a copy of the contact details we hold for your child. When you receive your details, please check and amend as appropriate. We would appreciate it if you could return these details as soon as possible.

Class Dojo – In the coming days, your child's class teacher will give you further details of how you can log on to Class Dojo. This is a closed site where we share information about the whole school and individual classes. You will be able to view information posted for the whole school and also that for your child's class. You will not be able see information posted on other classes. You can also contact the teacher directly, but I would ask that you give the teacher a reasonable time to respond, this may not be the same day. I would not expect teachers to be responding out of office hours (9am-5.30pm).

Parent Introduction Meetings for Years 3, 4, 5 and 6 will take place this week and next week, at 6pm, in our school hall. The Year Group teachers will introduce themselves to you and talk about what, and how, your child will learn throughout the year. **The Year 6 meeting is tonight, Tuesday 4th September. The Y4 meeting is on Wednesday 5th September. The Y5 meeting is on Thursday 6th September. The Y3 meeting is on Tuesday 11th September.** We greatly value a strong home-school partnership which benefits your child.

Summer Reading Challenge – The 2018 Summer Reading Challenge was Mischief Makers. If your child took part in this challenge and would like to bring in his/her rewards and certificate for whole school assembly on **Friday 7th September**, we will be very pleased to celebrate their success.

School Photographs Wednesday 26th September – Children with pre-school siblings can have photographs taken from 8.30am in the Infant School Hall. Individual/sibling photographs will be taken during the school day. If your child has a sibling in the infant school, please can you let your child's class teacher know if you require them to have their photograph taken together?

Communication - if you need to see your child's teacher, he/she is usually available after school at 3.35pm, but please note that teachers are not available on Mondays after school (until February half term) as this is our staff meeting night. This will change to Wednesday after school, after February half term. To ensure safeguarding of all our children, we ask that you come into school to speak to the class teacher via the office. Please be aware that the class teacher will need to be ready to teach his/her class at 9am. Teachers in Lower School (Years 3 and 4) do see their classes onto the yard at home time, so it would be possible to ask to speak to the teacher directly at that time. Thank you for your co-operation.

Volunteering - We would welcome any parent/grandparent/carer to help out in school. Please see your child's class teacher if you would like to help out.

Attendance - If your child is ill and cannot attend school please ring the school as soon as possible. Please do not use Class Dojo in the first instance as a teacher may not log on to Class Dojo before school. All children's attendance is closely monitored and if your child's attendance falls below 95%, the school will look closely at the reasons and may refer to the Education Welfare Officer. Please can I also remind you that leave of absence requests for holiday during term time will not be authorized.

Positive behaviour – we will continue our behaviour system on the yard at break times and lunch times. We operate a card system. A green card will be given to a child/children who have demonstrated cooperative and/or supportive and/or kind play – these are the actions we wish to promote. A green card comes with a reward of five house points that a child/children can add to their house point chart. If children are playing too roughly or being unkind, we will show them a yellow card and they will have a one minute time out to allow them to think about, and correct, their behaviour before returning to playing. Should this continue when they re-commence playing, then they will be shown a red card which will be a five minute time out and the final opportunity to think about, and correct, their behaviour. We do not expect to be showing too many yellow cards and even fewer red cards, we will be focusing on the positive. If you have any questions, please see your child's class teacher.

Arrival at school - Children should not arrive before 8.45am as teachers are not on duty until 8.50am. If your child arrives late and the doors leading to the playground are closed, please bring your child to the main entrance and sign in at the Office. If you need to collect your child for appointments within the school day, please come to the main entrance and sign your child out.

Jewellery – The only jewellery we allow, are stud earrings and watches. Bracelets, including Charity bracelets, are not allowed.

Medicines - If your child needs to take medicine at school, this is usually antibiotics that need to be administered FOUR times a day, we will support with this but you will need complete an indemnity form, please. All medicines need to be presented in the original packaging with the child's name and dose listed. We are unable to support with the administration of any medicines without a completed indemnity form. All medicines, except inhalers, are kept in the staffroom. You can collect an indemnity form from Mrs Myers or Mrs Cooper in the office.

Healthy snacks at break times - For many years the school has operated a healthy eating policy. At morning and afternoon break times, children are allowed to bring in a healthy snack, such as: fruit, raisins, cheese strings, cereal bars (although not ones smothered in chocolate). **Please do not allow your child to bring crisps, chocolate bars or sweets for consumption at break times.**

Children who have packed lunches are, of course, allowed crisps and chocolate bars, but these must be eaten during the lunch hour and not during morning or afternoon break times. **All children are encouraged to bring in a water bottle (named) and take it home each night to be refilled for the following day.** We ask that water bottles be filled with **still water** rather than juice, cordial, flavoured or sparkling, water, please.

School Lane - For the safety of our children, please do not drop off or pick up outside the school gates. We operate a drop off zone in a morning outside the bungalows on School Lane. We also operate a voluntary one-way system going down School Lane during the morning and after school rush hour times. Anyone parked on white zigzag lines is liable for a fine. The traffic officers are out regularly at the request of the schools. Please can I ask that you park carefully for the safety of our children and considerately to the residents in our vicinity?

Cool Milk – if your child would like to have milk at breaktime, please register at www.coolmilk.com and make your payment online. The milk is delivered daily and is available for your child to collect from the school office at morning break time. It is your child's responsibility to collect the milk.

Healthy Schools Community Award – at the end of last year, we were awarded the Healthy Schools Community Award in respect of our work on health and emotional wellbeing. Representatives from the NHS will come to present the award in whole school assembly on Friday. A huge thank you to Mrs Chilvers and Mrs Robinson who were instrumental in us attaining this award and the main drivers for work in this area.

Premises Governors – most of you will know that we said a fond goodbye to Mr John Fletcher, our Premises Governor, in July. Mr Fletcher had over 20 years of service on the Governing Board and his knowledge and skills of the building industry (electrics, plumbing etc) benefited generations of children. We are looking for someone to replace Mr Fletcher on the Governor Board as a co-opted Governor. This person does not need to be a parent, if you know of anyone who has similar skills and experience of the building industry, and would like to be part of our Governing Board, we would be very grateful if you would please point them in our direction.

All our newsletters are available to view and download from our website – www.dronfield-jun.derbyshire.sch.uk