

Dronfield Junior School Newsletter 01 6 September 2016

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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, saying a bright and breezy 'Good Morning' and all children looking smart in their uniforms. I would like to extend a warm welcome to all the children for whom it is the first day at our school. As with all our children, I sincerely hope you will be very happy here, embracing what we have to offer and building your 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. Our newsletter towards the end of the Summer Term (or letter addressed to Y2 parents given out on Changeover Day) gave you advance notice of events this week and the beginning of next week, which I will remind you of again in this newsletter.

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.

Parent Introduction Meetings for Years 4, 5 and 6 will take place over the next few days, 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 5 meeting is on Wednesday 7th September. The Y4 meeting is on Thursday 8th September. The Y6 meeting is on Monday 12th September.** We greatly value a strong home-school partnership which benefits your child.

Summer Reading Challenge – The 2016 Summer Reading Challenge was The Big Friendly Read. 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, 9 September**, we will be very pleased to celebrate their success.

Roald Dahl 13 September – We will be celebrating Roald Dahl's 100th birthday in school on 13th September. As part of the celebrations, we would like your child to dress up as a Roald Dahl book character. Dressing up as 'George' from George's Marvellous Medicine, or 'Matilda,' is a thought for children who are less keen on dressing up. In school, we will be learning by completing some Roald Dahl-themed activities in each class. There are simple, and some elaborate, ideas for dressing up at www.roalddahl.com/dress-up. We ask that your child support us by bringing in £1 for this non-uniform day so that we are able to contribute half the money collected to Roald Dahl's Marvellous Children's Charity, which helps make life better for seriously ill children, and the other half to school funds. Thank you in advance.

School Renovations – the scaffolding which was needed when the school roof was being renovated, has now been removed and **staff** will again park on our drive. During the Summer holidays, our outside toilet block, which contained various equipment, was demolished. We have erected new storage units for this equipment but have retained the open space, where the original block was situated, as an extra picnic area with a pleasing vista. Construction vehicles have taken their toll on the school drive and as a short term measure we have had it patched. We are desperately looking into funding to have the whole drive resurfaced.

School Photographs 22 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 before school at 8.45am and after school at 3.35pm. 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.

Dinner Money - Dinner money for this half term is £68.00 (34 days @ £2) but please note the changes below for each year group due to school visits. Please make cheques payable to Derbyshire County Council and all money should be sent to school in a named, sealed envelope or purse.

Y3 £66.00 due to a day trip to The Deep on 20 September

Y5 £64.00 for the children going on the Caythorpe Trip (15-16 September)

Y6 £56.00 for the children going on the France Trip (11-15 October)

Flexible Dining – we do provide the option for flexible dining where your child can have a school meal on a specific day(s) each week. If your child wishes to have school meals on a specific day(s), please send a note to your child's teacher showing the day(s) your child wants to have school meals. This day(s) must be fixed for the term and cannot be changed.

Attendance - If your child is ill and cannot attend school please ring the school as soon as possible. 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 authorised.

Positive behaviour – we are going to pilot a new behaviour system on the yard at break times and lunch times. We have shared this with the children during assembly today. We are going to 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, please complete an 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?

Y6 France Trip (11-15 October) – We will be holding a meeting for parents and children going on the residential to France on Wednesday 21 September at 6pm in our school hall. Please bring your child's passport and E111 (EHIC) card to the meeting. You will be given a copy of the itinerary, but you may want to make notes. We expect the meeting to last about 40 minutes.

Y6 Open Evening – Dronfield Henry Fanshawe School will be holding an Open Evening for Y6 children and their parents on Thursday 22nd September at 6pm.

Contact Details – we will shortly send out forms for parents to complete with their contact details to enable us to ensure that our records are up-to-date. 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.

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.

Dates for your Diary (There will be many more dates to add!)

2016

7 September – Introduction meeting for Y5 Parents 6pm
8 September – Introduction meeting for Y4 Parents 6pm
12 September – Introduction meeting for Y6 Parents 6pm
13 September – Roald Dahl 100th Birthday. Dress up as a Roald Dahl character.
15 September – Y5 residential to PGL departs
20 September – Y3 visit to The Deep
21 September – Parents' and children's meeting regarding the France residential
22 September – School photographs (individuals and family groups). Y6 Open Evening at Dronfield Henry Fanshawe at 6pm
29 September – Macmillan Coffee Afternoon
w/c 3 October – Parent Consultations Week
5 October – No Pens Day Wednesday
11 October – France residential to depart
21 October – Break up for half term
31 October – INSET Day
1 November – School re-opens
3 November – Sparkle Disco
7 November – Open evening for Y2 parents 6-7.30pm
16 November – Y6 residential London Trip
20 December – School closes for Christmas Holiday

2017

3 January – INSET day
4 January – School starts
9 February – School closes for half term
10 February – INSET Day
20 February – School re-opens
w/c 6 March – Parent Consultation week
7 April – School closes for Easter Holidays
24 April – School re-opens
25 April – Class Photographs
w/c 8 May – SATs Week
24 May – Provisional sports days at English Institute of Sport (EIS) to be confirmed in December 2016
26 May – School closes for half term
5 June – INSET day
6 June – School re-opens
21 July – School closes for summer holiday