

Dronfield Junior School Newsletter 07 8 October 2018

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Last week, we saw some fabulous speaking and listening skills on Wednesday as part of our No Pens Day Wednesday. It also revealed some budding Members of Parliament honing their debating skills! The Year 3s had a very exciting day at The Deep last week and they are currently designing information leaflets to share their learning.

Thank you for supporting our parent consultation evenings, I hope you found your meeting formative, which in turn, has helped to strengthen the home-school partnership.

School Council – following elections in Years 3, 4 and 5, I can announce that Teddy, Seth, Isla, Sam, Lily and Ben have become our new elected members of the School Council – many congratulations! A huge well done to all those children who designed posters for the hustings. They were great quality and I enjoyed reading all of them.

Girls' football – well done to **Deremi, Pearl, Elizabeth, Francesca, Heidi, Amelia P, Fia, Emma, Sophia, Amelia H** and **Rosie** who represented our school at a girls' football taster session after school on Monday at Dronfield Henry Fanshawe. It was great to see the members of Amy's and my football after-school football group, and also those who were giving the sport a try for the first time. This event was only for Y4-6 (I know there were Y3s keen to go – wait for next year!) The football skills groups were led by DHFS Sports Leaders and I felt very proud to see that a number of these were our ex-pupils (including Amy!)

Girls' Football After School Club – as Mrs Thomson and Mrs Cooper will be in France with the Y6 children this week, there will be no Girls' football after school club on Thursday.

Science Ambassadors – last Thursday, **Klara, Reegan, Ellie-Mae** and **Heidi** went to Northfield Junior School to be trained as Science Ambassadors. They took part in a number of science experiments and then presented a selection these to other groups. They honed both their scientific skills and understanding, as well as, their speaking and listening (presentation) skills. They came back to school wearing their Science Ambassador lab coats very proudly. Over the next two years, they will be involved in promoting science in our school.

School Office – please be aware whilst we are on the France residential (Tuesday – Friday, (inclusive)), there will only be Mrs Myers in the office so if she is dealing with parents in Reception, she will not be able to get to answer the phone. Please leave a message and Mrs Myers will get back to you, or phone back later. Thank you in advance.

Parking – Unfortunately I have had a number of complaints about inconsiderate, and sometimes, dangerous parking. This was particularly apparent after the Year 3 visit to The Deep. Please can I appeal to you to think carefully about where, and how you park, for the safety and wellbeing of all our children? Sadly, the parking situation outside school, and indeed, on the roads around school, is not improving. Parking a little further away and walking in, is good for the physical and emotional wellbeing of all those that partake.

Can I also remind you that we 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. We do ask that parking officers visit the area regularly to try to help with our parking difficulties.

Residential Trips – letters have been emailed regarding residential trips for 2019-2020 School Year for current Y4 pupils to go to Mount Cook (in Y5) and for current Y5 pupils to go to France (in Y6). The deposits are set up as payment items on ParentPay. The deposit for France (£65) needs to be paid by Friday 19 October and the deposit for Mount Cook (£30) needs to be paid by Monday 22 October. For further information, please check your email or the communication section of your ParentPay account.

Y4 Trip to Perlethorpe Outdoor Education Centre Friday 19 October – an email has been sent to Y4 parents about this trip – please check your email or the communication section of your ParentPay account for more information. Please log into your ParentPay account to pay and provide consent.

Gardening Plea – Our school garden always looks brilliant and we are greatly indebted to our small band of parents and grandparents who facilitate this. The team is ably led by Kath Lunn, a very friendly and approachable parent. However, the gardening group is getting ever smaller in number and need more willing volunteers to make it sustainable in the long term. No gardening experience, or knowledge, is needed, just a willingness to get involved. Please come along and give it a go; the gardening group meets on Tuesday morning at 9am. You would be made very welcome.

On another note, we would welcome any donations of: plant pots, hand held tools (such as trowels and forks etc.) and any scrap decking to repair our planters. These donations would greatly assist us in our plans for the school garden.

Homework – as you will know, we have changed how we approach homework, with children now selecting a task that appeals to them, from a range given. The early indications are that children are receptive to this change and I, for one, have seen some excellent homework in a number of different classes across the school. Long may it continue!

PE Kit – please can you ensure your child has their full PE kit in school on the days they do PE. As the weather starts to get colder, they will need trainers, jogging bottoms and a sweatshirt. Classes will go out for PE in all but severe weather conditions.

Teacher Clubs – Miss Rogers will be starting running club this week, on Tuesday 9 October up until half term from 3.30pm to 4.30pm. To secure a place on this club, please speak to Miss Rogers who can be found in Year 5. Mr Hands will also be offering after school football for boys in Y5/Y6 on Tuesday from 3.30pm-4.30pm. Please speak to Mr Hands to put your name down.

Book Fair 5-9 November – the Book Fair will be visiting school again between 5 – 9 November which will contain a great selection of books. Further information will be handed out nearer the time.

Careers Convention – Dronfield Henry Fanshawe School are holding a Careers Convention on **Wednesday 21st November** from 6pm until 8pm. An invitation is extended to everyone in the community so please share this information with anyone who would find it useful. The event will host fifty exhibitor stands from universities, colleges, training providers, apprenticeship providers and employers.

Early Help – Derbyshire County Council are reviewing their Early Help Services and have opened a consultation. As a Derbyshire resident, you are encouraged to have your say and contribute to the consultation. This page gives you an insight into what Derbyshire County Council are proposing <https://www.derbyshire.gov.uk/council/news-events/news-updates/news/have-your-say-about-proposed-changes-to-our-early-help-service.aspx>

This is the link to the online questionnaire <https://www.derbyshire.gov.uk/council/have-your-say/consultation-search/all-consultations/consultation-details/early-help-review.aspx>

Photography/Video Consent – near the end of last term, we asked you to complete a form to provide consent for taking photos/video in school. If you completed one of these forms, we assume, unless you notify us otherwise, that the permissions you provided remain the same. I would be grateful if you could complete this form and return it via your child's class teacher as soon as possible.

Violin Lessons – we have a new violin teacher who has started with us. If your child is interested in having violin lessons, please leave your child's name and your contact details with Mrs Myers/Mrs Cooper in the office.

Secondary School – please can I remind all Y6 parents that they need to make an application to Derbyshire Council for a Secondary School place in September 2019. **The closing date for applications is 31 October.** You can do this online at https://www.derbyshire.gov.uk/education/schools/school_places/default.asp

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

2018

9 October – Y6 France residential to depart
12 October – Y6 France residential to return
19 October – Y4 Visit to Perlethorpe Education Centre
24 October – Break up for half term
25 October – INSET Day
26 October – INSET Day
31 October – Last date for applications for a Secondary School place
5 November – School re-opens
5-9 November – Travelling Book Fair
6 November – Open evening for Y2 parents 6-7.30pm
8 November – Y6 residential London Trip departs
9 November - Y6 residential London returns
12 November – Friendship Week
30 November – Y5 Hindu Temple visit
12 December Bags2School Collection
19 December – Christmas dinner
21 December – School closes for Christmas

2019

7 January – School starts
5 February – Safer Internet Day
15 February – School closes for half term
25 February – School re-opens
7 March – World Book Day
8 March – Y4 Hindu Temple visit
w/c 25 March – Parent Consultation week
3 April – Bags2School Collection
12 April – School closes for Easter Holidays
29 April – School re-opens
w/c 13 May – SATs Week
22 May – Provisional sports days at English Institute of Sport (EIS) to be confirmed in December 2018
24 May – School closes for half term
3 June – INSET day
4 June – School re-opens
9 July – Bags2School Collection
12 July – Last day at DJS for Y6 children transferring to DHFS

19 July – School closes for summer holiday

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