



What an exciting week it was last week for 31 Year 6 children who ventured to France to sample life in a different country (and I went along too!) We had an amazing time: making baguettes and croissants; enjoying a crepe in a French café; haggling in a French market (the children were great at it; I wasn't so good!); getting up close to goats and learning how goats' cheese is made, tasting goats' cheese of differing maturities; sampling snails; learning how chocolate is made in a bespoke chocolate factory and tasting the produce and finally, visiting Europe's largest aquarium. The children were taught French words and phrases during the different visits and were encouraged to use them. They were an absolute pleasure to take away, they behaved impeccably and were both a credit to the school, and to you, their parents. Well done Y6! We also really appreciated you saying thank you to us on our return. I must extend my grateful thanks to Mr Mason, Mrs Ridgard, Mr Gilson and Mrs Cooper, who accompanied the children and ensured their safety and wellbeing. A further thank you must go to Mrs Cooper, who organised and co-ordinated the whole visit – it was, indeed, an amazing trip.

**Purple Crocuses for Polio** – The Rotary Club have donated 500 crocus bulbs to all schools to raise awareness of the worldwide campaign to eliminate Polio. Over the next fortnight, every child will plant one of the bulbs in a prominent area within the school grounds – ours will be planted in pots to be displayed on the steps at the front of the school (in front of the old main door) and in the grass on the bank.

**Dress Down Day** – The last day of term (**Friday 20<sup>th</sup> October**) will be a non-uniform day. If your child would like to come in non-uniform, we ask for a donation of £1, which will be split between school and the Purple Polio Fund.

**Scouts** - Congratulations to James E and Daniel S who have both achieved their Chief Scouts Silver Award at 5<sup>th</sup> Dronfield Cub Pack. They have both worked very hard to achieve this award. Well done boys, this is a great achievement.

**Living with Teenagers** – Please can I draw your attention to a FREE course looking at living with teenagers. This will take place weekly for 8 weeks starting on 30<sup>th</sup> October at Eckington Secondary School from 5pm – 7pm. You do not need to currently have a teenager in your household to access this course. The course will cover issues including: building self esteem, expectations and challenges, listening and problem solving, setting boundaries and parenting styles, sex and relationships, and drugs. You can book a place by ringing 01629 537169. You can also use this number if you have any questions about the course.

**Miss Hughes** - This half term holiday will be particularly exciting for Miss Hughes as she marries her fiancé! After half term, Miss Hughes will become Mrs Mowforth. We wish both Miss Hughes and her fiancé a fantastic day as well as a long and happy future together.

**Travelling Book Fair** – the book fair will be in school between **Monday 6 November** and **Monday 13 November**. Please look out for the posters which will be displayed shortly and your child will receive a leaflet to bring home.

**Dinner money** for next term will be £72. It will be £68 for those children who are going on the 'Buckinghamshire' Residential trip. A school meal costs £2 per day if your child has flexible dining. Please pay on ParentPay. Thank you.

**Remembrance Display** – Mrs Lunn will be asking the children if they would like to provide information about a relative's war time experience, to form part of a history remembrance display in school. Just a short passage about an ancestor's World War I or II experience and, if possible, a photograph (which will be copied and returned

home promptly). The information can be neatly handwritten or typed. Please send these to Mrs Lunn after the half term holiday (by Friday 3 November at the latest please).

**Dronfield Arts Festival** –The Dronfield Heritage Trust are hosting the first Dronfield Arts Festival from 4-8 May 2018. They are looking for performing Arts professionals and organisations to submit their best and boldest ideas to take part in the festival. For more information please visit <http://www.dronfieldartsfestival.co.uk/perform/>

**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 2017. **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](https://www.derbyshire.gov.uk/education/schools/school_places/default.asp)

**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? Thank you!

**The children finish school for half term on Friday 20<sup>th</sup> October at 3.30pm and start back on Tuesday 31 October at 9am. A huge thank you, to you as parents, for your continued support this half term. I am sure you will agree, it was been most successful.**

### **Dates for your Diary**

#### **2017**

Our Inset Days for the academic year 2017-2018 are:

Monday 4<sup>th</sup> September 2017, Monday 30<sup>th</sup> October 2017, Tuesday 2<sup>nd</sup> January 2018, Wednesday 3<sup>rd</sup> January 2018 and Monday 4<sup>th</sup> June 2018.

20 October – Break up for half term

30 October – INSET Day

31 October – School re-opens

6 November – Open evening for Y2 parents 6-7.30pm

9 November – Y6 'Buckinghamshire' residential departs

10 November - Y6 'Buckinghamshire' residential returns

12 December - Bags2School Collection

19 December – School closes for Christmas Holiday

#### **2018**

2 January – INSET day

3 January – INSET day

4 January – School starts

6 February – Safer Internet Day

16 February – School closes for half term

26 February – School re-opens

1 March – World Book Day

w/c 19 March – **Parent Consultation week (please note change of week)**

19 March – Bags2School Collection

23 March – School closes for Easter Holidays

9 April – School re-opens

**w/c 14 May – SATs Week**

23 May – Provisional sports days at English Institute of Sport (EIS) to be confirmed in December 2017

25 May – School closes for half term

4 June – INSET day

5 June – School re-opens

10 July – Bags2School Collection

20 July – School closes for summer holiday

All our newsletters are available to view and download from our website – [www.dronfield-jun.derbyshire.sch.uk](http://www.dronfield-jun.derbyshire.sch.uk)