

Dronfield Junior School Newsletter 16 4 January 2018

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Happy New Year to you all! I hope everyone had a lovely Christmas and enjoyed the festivities. As we welcome in the New Year, we welcome back all our children. With advent of 2018, we aim to continue focusing on 'achieving potential whilst having fun'; building resilient learners, inspiring creative thinkers and encouraging empathy, respect and understanding of all members of our community and beyond.

With the advent of 2018, our school has grown a little bigger and we now have 264 children on roll. We have had a few children join us since September and I believe that it is testament to the friendly and caring ethos of all our school community that these children have settled effortlessly amongst us. Well done everyone!

The smiling faces in classrooms seems to indicate that children are happy to be back into school and they are hopefully looking forward to a wealth of new learning. During this term the Y6s will investigate gadgets and inventions themed through Star Wars, the Y5s will be transported back to the late 1930s and early 40s, the Y4s will 'experience' polar regions (although, hopefully, only in the classroom!) and the Y3s will enjoy a voyage through history from The Stone Age to the Revolutionary Romans.

This is the time for New Year's Resolutions and in school we are going to be challenging the children to be extra tidy in all areas of the school: the classroom, the cloakroom and shared areas. Please can I ask that your child brings to school a pencil case which is able to fit into their drawer. With large numbers of children comes increased pressure on cloakrooms. Where possible, we have put up more coat pegs but we are very limited for space. To alleviate the pressure on our cloakrooms, please can I ask that your child brings a modest sized school bag and PE bag so these fit on the coat pegs as well as the child's coat. It would be useful to ensure that your child's coat has a hook for hanging up as this may help it to stay on the peg. Thank you.

Last term – a huge well done to Year 4 for their excellent production of 'The Good, The Bad and The Donkey' and to Year 5 for their splendid Carol Concert. Thank you very much to both year group teams, Mr Burrows and Mrs De Almeida who worked so hard to produce such wonderful events. It was also a privilege to hear to our choir sing at the annual Parish Church of St John the Baptist community carol service. It was very atmospheric and they sang like angels – congratulations to everyone involved with the choir. Lastly I would like to say thank you to you, as parents, and also to grandparents, for making lovely comments about how much you had enjoyed our Christmas concerts. At the end of the year, I felt so very proud of our children and staff.

Henry Fanshawe School Panto – a huge well done to the children who performed in the Dronfield Henry Fanshawe School pantomime alongside pupils and staff from DHFS. Our children had been rehearsing after school every Friday under the tutorship of three Y11 pupils from DHFS. It was a great collaboration and the children were given rapturous applause on each of the three nights that they performed. DHFS also commented on how excellent, and talented, our children were on their school Twitter account.

Y6 Hook Day – on **Friday 5th January**, the Y6s will enjoy their hook day to introduce their new topic 'Games, Gadgets and Gismos' themed through Star Wars. You should have received a more detailed communication from the Y6 team **last term**.

Homework Support – children will continue to receive homework for English and Mathematics each week and occasionally a topic or science based learning project. We are very grateful that you talk to your child about what he/she has been learning at school (the homework is usually linked to this), please continue to keep a watchful eye over how well homework is completed. If your child does experience problems, please write a note on the homework so the teacher can follow this up. In this way, the partnership between home and school, is strengthened for the benefit of your child.

Drop in – Jonathan Flower from the Multi-Agency Support Team will be holding a drop-in, in the library on **Tuesday 9th January at 9am**. If you want to discuss support for your child's attendance or any other issues regarding your child, or want to know sources of support they offer. If you wish to take advantage of this, please let Mrs Myers know that you would like to see Jonathan and you will be escorted through school to the library. Please note that Jonathan will see parents in the order that they see Mrs Myers.

Y6 Parents' SATs Meeting, Monday 15th January at 6pm – We will be holding our annual meeting for Year 6 parents about the SAT papers the children will be sitting in May and how you can help at home. We will be making recommendations of books you may like to purchase to support your work with your child at home. You will be able to purchase these from us at a reduced cost of £4.50 (which is the cost to school, these books will usually cost £12 in the shops and on the CGP website). You can order these books (prior to the meeting) via ParentPay from tomorrow; they will also be available to order after the meeting, again via ParentPay. Please note that the closing date for orders is **Friday 19th January**.

Footballs – we have bought some new footballs for the bottom yard but as you can appreciate our school funds for footballs is finite so we try to divide the money between each term rather than spending it to keep replacing balls, which would run the risk of potentially of having no money for balls at an early point in the school year. Some parents have suggested that we have a donation 'pot' for footballs, which I would like to try, therefore there will be a sealed container on the counter in Reception if you would kindly like to donate to supplement the football fund. Thank you in advance.

School uniform – I would very much appreciate it if the children could wear long trousers, or skirts with tights, whilst the weather is unpredictable and intermittent (snowy, wet, icy etc) as well as being very changeable throughout the day. Wearing such clothes outside provides better protection. We are restricted for outside play space so I would rather not limit that further, unless absolutely necessary. If children wish to wear shorts inside but then slip on jogging bottoms for outside, that is fine. Thank you in advance for your support.

Parking – please can I ask that park with care and consideration and think about local residents who need to be able to get out of their drives?

Medicines – a brief reminder about our policy on medicines - if your child needs medicines or antibiotics during school time, we will supervise the administration of those medicines, provided you have completed an indemnity form and you have written, and signed, an accompanying letter to the class teacher which names the medicine and number of days you would like us to supervise its administration. You should hand over the medicine to the office or to the class teacher with the accompanying paperwork. All medicines need to be in their original packaging (this includes the outside packaging as well as the blister pack). We cannot supervise the administration of a tablet that has been cut from a blister pack, or a tablet in a blister pack alone, without the outside packaging. I hope you appreciate that this protocol will be enforced to safeguard all our children.

Dinner Money for this term is £64 (£10 per week or £2 per day). Please make your payments via Parentpay. Thank you.

Clubs – all clubs will start w/c 8 January 2018

Monday – Dancing with Michelle £18 (3.30-4.30pm)

Tuesday – Street Dancing with Dancedaze £18 (3.30-4.30pm)

Wednesday – Table Tennis (Y3/Y4 – 3.30-4.30pm, Y5/Y6 – 4.30-6.00pm)

Thursday – Jumping Clay 3.30-4.30pm

Friday – Rugger Eds 3.30-4.30pm

Registration forms were emailed out at the end of last term (copies of these emails can be found in the Communication area of your ParentPay account). If you require a copy of a form, these are available from the School Office.

Y3/Y4 Craft Club - This will continue on Wednesday after school, starting on Wednesday 17 January from 3.30pm-4.30pm. Please see Miss Grogan to sign up for this club. However, priority will be given to children who haven't been to this club already this academic year. If your child has already taken part in this club, and would like to continue, please see Miss Grogan and she will add your child's name to a waiting list and they will be included if there is space. Please note places are limited.

Y5/Y6 Craft Club – there will be no craft club with Mrs Genders this term

2018

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

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)

25 May – School closes for half term

4 June – INSET day

5 June – School re-opens

3 July – Y2 Parents' Meeting

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