

Dronfield Junior School Newsletter 16 4 January 2017

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Happy New Year to you all! I hope everyone had a lovely Christmas and enjoyed the festivities. With advent of 2017, 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.

The children have settled back into school well and are hopefully looking forward to a wealth of new learning. During this term the Y6s will investigate gadgets and inventions (with a nod to James Bond and a taste of caviar!), the Y5s will be 'evacuated', 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.

Last term – a huge well done to Year 3 for their excellent production of 'Babushka' and to Year 6 for their splendid Carol Concert. Thank you very much to both year group teams who worked so hard to produce such wonderful events. We are very privileged to have such huge talent at our school.

Bottom yard – I would like to say a big thank you to Mr Hazeldine, our caretaker, who throughout last term relentlessly cleared the school grounds of leaves and the bottom yard of leaves, mud and debris. Unfortunately at this time of year, it's a thankless and ever-present task. At the beginning of the Christmas holidays, he, again, cleared the excess debris from the bottom yard but during the Christmas holidays, the Council pruned the trees on land outside the school, parallel to the bottom yard, dislodging the 'extra' high fencing (erected to try to prevent the footballs being kicked over), which Mr Hazeldine has repaired, however, the small debris from the tree pruning is scattered on our bottom yard and this has been frozen over the last couple of days, thus preventing its extraction.

Y5 Hook Day – on **Wednesday 11th January**, the Y5s will enjoy their hook day to introduce their new topic 'World War II'. You should have received a more detailed communication from the Y5 team **last term**.

Production of Oliver – Dronfield Musical Theatre Group will be performing the musical 'Oliver' at the Civic Hall in May this year and are looking for local boys aged 8-14 to take part. They are looking for boys for the chorus as well as the roles of Oliver and the Artful Dodger. If you are interested then please pick up further information from the school office or speak to Mrs Ryder. You can also request further information by emailing oliver2017@btinternet.com. No previous stage experience is necessary.

Homework Support – children will continue to receive homework for English and Mathematics each week. 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.

Young Voices – the tickets will be sent home with your child on Monday 9 January 2017. A parent is unable to use one of their tickets for the performance and they would like to offer the spare ticket at a cost of £15. If you are interested, please speak to Mrs Myers or Mrs Cooper in the Office. As the tickets have not been allocated to family groups yet, it should be possible for this spare ticket to be included with your original group.

Drop in – Jonathan Flower from the Multi-Agency Support Team will be holding a drop-in, in the portacabin, behind the Y3 block, on **Monday 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, please take advantage of this.

Parking – please can I remind you that our car park is for staff only at all times (this includes after school.) We ask that parents do not drive into our car park and pick up their children from after-school clubs. This is to ensure the health and

safety of all our children. On Thursday after school between 5.20pm and 5.40pm, a large car parked up on the pavement between Gledhill Close and our school gates. Our children were leaving school following a club finishing. In order to get past the car, the children had to squeeze between the school wall and the car. It would have been unlikely that they would have been seen before they were on the road on Gledhill Close. This would have made them very vulnerable. The police have been informed. Please can I appeal to you on behalf of all our children - it is paramount that their health and safety is protected.

Medicines – new guidelines have been set out from Derbyshire County Council regarding the administration of medicines. We currently ask that if your child needs medicines in school that you fill out an indemnity form. Subject to whole school Governor approval, we are proposing the following: 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.

Discovery Club – This will be running on Wednesday evening next term. These will start on 11th January 2017 and will run for 5 weeks. To enrol please go to www.discoverysystem.org.uk and click on After School Clubs. Please note that the sessions are now £6 each, total of £30 for the half term.

Dinner Money for this term is £54 (£10 per week or £2 per day). Please make your cheque payable to DCC (not Dronfield Junior School as this causes problems with the bank) and write your child's name and class on the back. Cash must be sent to school in a named, sealed envelope or purse.

Clubs – all clubs will start w/c 9 January 2017

Monday – Street Dancing £12.50

Tuesday – Film Club for Y3/4 with Mr Mason and Mrs Thomson; Drama Club (for existing drama members) with Mrs Robinson.

Wednesday – Table Tennis £15

Thursday – 12.30pm -1pm Y5/6 Guitar Club with Mr Roberts. After school Disco Dancing 3.30-4.30pm for Y3/Y4 and 4.30-5.30pm for Y5/Y6 £12.50

Please send cash payments to school in a named, sealed envelope with details of the club. Cheques are payable to Dronfield Junior School and must include your child's name and club on the reverse.

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