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The first whole school assembly of 2018 was a lovely experience with everyone pulling together to support our New Year's resolution, or maybe it was because 'The Force was with us'! Friday saw the Year 6s experience their Star Wars hook day – both the children and staff looked amazing, even I felt obsequious under Mr Hands' Darth Vader's power!

**Thank you** – a huge thank you to **Ryan A, Cameron F, Zachery K, Joe W** and **Josh H** who took the initiative to launch a writing competition last term. They designed posters to advertise the competition and told the children about it in whole school assembly. They presented their prizes last Friday, again in whole school assembly. Congratulations to **Ben D** (1<sup>st</sup> prize) who wrote The Emoji Creation, **Ivy B** who wrote The Lost Football (2<sup>nd</sup> prize) and **Jessica S** (3<sup>rd</sup> prize) who wrote The Snowboy. This was a great project boys, well done for taking the initiative, I am very impressed.

**Drop in** – Jonathan Flower from the Multi-Agency Support Team will be holding a drop-in, in the library on **Tuesday 9<sup>th</sup> January at 9am** for you 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.

**Attendance** – the school is working closely with the Multi-Agency team regarding attendance. We are aiming for at least 97% attendance for every child to give them the best chance of reaching their full potential. Research has shown that if a child's attendance is lower than 90%, they have less chance of success and find it harder to make progress. With this in mind, we will keep you informed of your child's attendance if it drops below 95% so you are aware of this and we can work together to support you, if needed, thereby giving your child the very best opportunity to achieve maximum success.

Alongside this, is a need for your child to be punctual. A good, punctual start to the day is essential for children and is an important habit to learn whilst they are young. This is a life skill employers look for in candidates for jobs as they get older.

**Year 4 Hook Day** – on **Friday 12 January**, the Y3s will experience their hook day. You should have received a Class Dojo message from the Y4 team notifying you of the plans for the hook day on Friday. Please can your child dress in winter clothes (jeans, boots or wellies, woolly jumpers, mittens, hats etc)? We ask if you could kindly support us with these activities by giving a £1 donation to help fund some of the planned activities which will take place on Friday and over the coming weeks. Thank you in advance.

**Y6 Parents' SATs Meeting, Monday 15<sup>th</sup> 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 19<sup>th</sup> January**.

**Year 3 Hook Day** – on **29 January**, the Y3s will experience their hook day. Travelling back in time this term to the Stone Age, they will then move forward in history from that point to reach The Romans on 29 January! If your child would like to dress up in Roman costume to enhance the experience, we would be grateful. The teachers will be

dressing up too! During the day, the children will be involved in lots of Roman-themed activities and will bring home a clay pot they have designed and made. We ask if you could kindly support us with these activities by giving a £1 donation. Thank you in advance.

**Cliffe Park** – Cliffe Park in Dronfield is undergoing a facelift. The Town Council are planning some great changes to the park which will enhance it for all. They have set a competition for children who attend the schools in Dronfield. Children have been asked to draw a picture entitled 'Memories of the park'. The winning entries will form a border around a new bespoke Welcome sign which will be erected at the entrance to the park. This is a great opportunity to have your artwork displayed and be part of 'history'. If you would like to take part, your picture needs to be on a sheet on A4 paper and should be bold and colourful. The closing date for entries is **Monday 26<sup>th</sup> February**. Please give your entry to Mrs Myers or Mrs Cooper in the school office. All winners will receive a small prize, see their picture on the park's Welcome sign and be invited to the grand opening ceremony when the park re-opens.

**Change4Life** – please can I draw your attention to the Change4Life website <https://www.nhs.uk/change4life>. This is a great website which includes an app you can download so you can see how much salt, sugar and saturated fat is in familiar family favourites; it also shows simple swaps to help you cut back on the sugar in your food and drink. If you join Change4Life, you can be one of the first to order a Change4Life snack pack, with money off vouchers for healthier snacks and stickers for your children.

**Active children** – we want all our children to be active at break times and lunch times. We encourage all children to go outside to benefit from the fresh air and be active but some are less keen than others and loiter in the cloakroom. Please can you support our 'get moving' message? Research shows that physical activity can help school aged children in lots of ways including: improving self-confidence, behaviour and social skills; improving attention levels and performance at school; developing co-ordination, strengthening muscles and bones, improving mood and making them feel good, helping develop better sleep patterns as well as improving health and fitness.

**Cross Country Running** – a huge well done to **Maxim J** who competed in the Derbyshire County Cross Country Championships at the weekend in very muddy conditions. He came 8<sup>th</sup> in the U11 boys from all across the County. Congratulations Maxim – an excellent achievement!

**Online Safety Evening** – Dronfield Partnership of Schools is offering an evening for all parents/carers of pre-secondary age pupils who attend schools within the Partnership of Dronfield Schools. The event will be delivered by members of the Dronfield and Eckington Multi-Agency Team. The event will be held on **Monday 5<sup>th</sup> February** (6pm – 7pm) at Henry Fanshawe School. You should receive a separate email about this with an opportunity to book your place.

**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.

**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.

### **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.

**Chess Club** will continue on Monday from 3.30-4.30pm. **Film club** will start again on Tuesday 9 January from 3.30-4.30pm, the cost for this half term is £3.

**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. The cost for this club is £3. 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 – Sports Day at the 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](http://www.dronfield-jun.derbyshire.sch.uk)