



What an amazing week in school with Year 4 and Year 5 hook days. The Y5s waved tearful goodbyes to their parents as they were evacuated! They all looked great, as did the Y5 staff. The Y4s enjoyed an expedition into an Icy Kingdom! They, too, looked great, as did the Y4 staff. Both days saw the children excited and enthused about their creative topics. I would like to say thank you to you, too, for your support with dressing up for our hook days and that includes Year 6 at the start of term.

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**.

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 26th 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.

Safer Internet Day – this will take place on **Tuesday 6th February**. During this day, pupils will be looking at keeping safe online and be involved in various activities around this. The activities will be discussed with our Online Safety Ambassadors, who will have a key input into what we do and the opportunity to mold the activities which they think will be relevant for different year groups.

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.

Chess – There will be no Chess Club on Monday 22 January 2018.

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.

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 5th February** (6pm – 7pm) at Henry Fanshawe School. You should receive a separate email about this with an opportunity to book your place.

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.

Thinking of starting your own business? – Following a meeting of Dronfield 2gether last week, I was made aware of support for those thinking of starting their own business. This support is free to access as part of Clowne Enterprise and will 'provide one-to-one coaching support, at your pace, to fit in with your life.' They can help 'to make your business idea a success and support you to remove any barriers.' There is a flyer on our parents' notice board. If you cannot get into school, please contact us and we will give your further details. On a similar theme, please can I draw your attention to a free event called 'Business Start-Up Day' with the amazing micro biz champion Tony Robinson OBE at Loundsley Green Community Centre, Cuttholme Road, Chesterfield, S40 4QU on **Saturday 24 February** (10.30am – 1.30pm). You can book your place at www.eventbrite.co.uk/e/business-start-up-day-tickets-41495308585 or bit.ly/startabusinessday. Again more details are on our parents' noticeboard.

Clubs – all clubs (with outside providers) started 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.

Teacher run clubs

Chess Club runs on Mondays from 3.30-4.30pm.

Film club runs on Tuesdays 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 which needs to be paid by Tuesday 16 January. 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.

2018

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