



What a week it was last week with the weather! Thank you very much for battling snowy, icy and slushy roads, and pavements, and difficult driving conditions to get your children to school last week. I really appreciate your efforts. Hopefully this week will be easier!

School Council – last Friday, it was lovely to welcome Mrs Cutler and the School Council from the Infant School to our School Council meeting. A very productive meeting was held, discussing road safety which is topic close to both Council's hearts. The School Councils are hoping to continue to work together to help make School Lane and neighbouring roads safer for all our children.

Table Tennis – good luck to Matthew Stewart who has been selected to play in the individual table tennis competition on Tuesday at Springwell Secondary School. We're all rooting for you Matthew.

Dinner money – please can I ask that you keep your dinner money account up-to-date on ParentPay? If you have any difficulties, please see Mrs Myers or Mrs Cooper in the office. Our dinner money policy is on the school website under the 'policies' tab.

Y6 Parents' SATs Meeting – A big thank you to all the parents who attended the Y6 SATs meeting, your support for the home school partnership is greatly appreciated. If you were unable to make the meeting, please pick up the handout from Mrs Myers or Mrs Cooper in the office. If you have ordered books, this order has now been placed and we are hoping they will arrive tomorrow. When they do arrive, we will give them directly to your child.

Thank you - a big thank you from all of us to the Loftus family and to the Roe family who have both made great donations to the 'football fund'. We really appreciate it.

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

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', which should include the words '**Welcome to Cliffe 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.

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.

Cycle Campaign – DCC are holding two public consultation sessions on Wednesday 24 January 10am-5pm at Dronfield Library and on Friday 26 January from 4pm-8pm at the Sandpiper Hotel to provide information on the proposed shared route (pedestrian/cycle) from Unstone Green (where it connects to the new Peak Resort Bridleway) to Dronfield alongside B6057 (old Sheffield Road). The plans include a new Toucan crossing in Unstone Green and a widened footpath past Unstone Junior School all the way up to the roundabout as you enter Dronfield. The route is part of DCC's plan to create a traffic free walking and cycling route from Dronfield to Clay Cross and includes making a route to school safer. If you are unable to attend one of the consultations but wish to register your support please do so by emailing Alan Marsden – alan.marsden@derbyshire.gov.uk

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 you 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.

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