

Dronfield Junior School Newsletter 20 29 January 2018

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Wow, the Y3 children, and staff, looked amazing in their Roman outfits! As they congregated in the hall, it felt like I had been transported to Roman times. The children's faces displayed their awe and wonderment of the Roman era. Thank you to all Y3 parents who supported this day and the children, and staff, who embraced it so whole-heartedly. I have no doubt it will be an experience the children will remember for many years to come.

Bronze Ambassadors – Harrison I, Ruben D, Lottie, Alice W, Henry N, Ben S, Olivia G, Finley W, Marcie F and Lottie M represented our school at the Bronze Ambassadors Conference last week, which took place at the English Institute of Sport. These pupils will organise sports events which will involve all our pupils. My grateful thanks to Mrs Ash and Mrs Anderson for escorting and supporting these pupils.

Table Tennis – congratulations to **Matthew S** who played in the Derbyshire School Games Table Tennis Individual Challenge County Finals last Tuesday. Matthew played excellently against tough opposition (one boy was ranked 3rd in the country!) He won 3 out of 5 of his games. Very well done Matthew – we are all very proud of you.

Internal gate between the Infant and Junior School – Please be aware that I have instructed Mr Hazeldine not to unlock this internal gate between the Infant and Junior School until the end of a class' outside PE lesson. In respect of this, it will vary when this internal gate is actually unlocked, but as a rough guide, if you can see a class finishing their PE lesson outside, this internal gate will be locked, once the children are all inside, it will be opened. All other 'internal' gates into school remain locked until 3.30pm which is our usual procedure.

Traffic – please can I ask parents and carers driving on School Lane and roads surrounding the school to take extra care when pulling into the kerb where pedestrians are walking on the pavements. A nasty accident was narrowly avoided last week, when a car wing mirror nearly hit a child's head.

School Car Park / Main Entrance – Unfortunately due to the design of our building, the school car park and the main pedestrian access into school are one and the same. This poses obvious problems which we try hard to limit. Wherever possible, we advise visitors not to enter the car park between 8.40 – 9.10am and 3.20pm – 3.40pm and no deliveries take place between these times. However, we do occasionally have small numbers of children, who are out of school, at events, and they need to be back in school for 3.30pm – in this case a vehicle, transporting these children, would have to enter the school car park to drop the children off and see them safely inside.

Year 3 – we are aware of the congestion in the Year 3 cloakrooms with 90 children trying to hang their coats, and bags, up in a small space. The Year 3 team have thought carefully about how this could be managed in a different way. With this mind, we are going to pilot something slightly different for the Year 3s. At 8.55am, the Year 3 door will be put on the latch so children can enter school via this door from this time. They will hang up their coats, and bags, and go to the classroom where a task will be waiting for them. We do stress that **only the children** should enter through the Year 3 door as we are looking at a method to reduce the congestion. This was discussed with the children last week. By giving the children five minutes to come into school, we are hoping this will reduce congestion in the Year 3 cloakroom and also make for a calmer, speedier start to school days.

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.

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.

School Disco on Tuesday 13 February – Our school disco is a “Rainbow” Disco. Please note that as our hall is small, we can only accommodate two year groups at a time, therefore the disco for Y3 & Y4 will be 5.30pm-6.45pm and the disco for Y5 & Y6 will be 7.00pm-8.15pm. Entry is £2 per child, payable on the night. Drinks, sweets, crisps and tattoos will also be available to purchase so please bring some change to spend. On the night, your child will be required to sign in with a member of staff and will be signed out at the end – specific details will be given nearer the time. **If your child would like a hot dog at the disco, please log on to www.schoolinterviews.co.uk and order the hotdog using event code xv9tc by 12 noon on Wednesday 7 February. Once you have made your booking, please send £1 to school in a named sealed envelope by Friday 9 February. If payment is not received, your child will not receive their hotdog at the disco.**

Thank you - a big thank you from all of us to the Mather family who have both made a great donation to the ‘football fund’. We really appreciate it.

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.

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.

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

5 February – Online Safety evening for parents at Dronfield Henry Fanshawe School (6pm – 7pm)

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