



I hope you had a great half term. We have lots to inspire us during this next half term. I look forward to sharing in the children's successes and also rewarding their resilience.

Craft Club for Y3 & 4 – As our staff meeting moves to Wednesday after school from this point onwards, Craft Club for Years 3 & 4 will now be on Tuesday night, starting tomorrow, Tuesday 27th February. We appreciate that some children may have other club commitments and that's fine. If your child would like to continue at Craft Club, he / she will need to see Miss Grogan please. There will be 3 sessions this term as the week commencing 19th March is parent consultation evening and Miss Grogan will obviously be involved in that. The cost for Craft Club this term will be £3.

World Book Day Thursday 1st March – Mrs Ford has lots of exciting activities planned: the children will be given a £1 book voucher and are invited to bring in a 'prop' to personify / represent a book character. Throughout the day, we will give them the opportunity to share their object and see if the rest of the class can guess the identity of their character. Also children will be invited to take part in a book swap within year groups. Children will be able to bring in a maximum of 3 books which they will be able to swap. Children will be given a token for each book they want to swap and will then be able to browse and collect a 'new' book for each token they have.

Online Safety – following on from my previous newsletter regarding Online Safety and the hope that you have been able to have a conversation with your child to discuss supportively their online activity. A news report on the NSPCC website from March last year <https://www.nspcc.org.uk/what-we-do/news-opinion/social-media-age-limit/> stated that 'more than half of parents (were) unaware of (the) age limit on social media.' Please can I draw your attention to the Net Aware website at <https://www.net-aware.org.uk/> which offers parents useful information about each social network, including age guidance for users. There is also information on our school website at <http://www.dronfield-jun.derbyshire.sch.uk/online-safety.php>

Dancing – Congratulations to **Lottie**, who has been selected, as one of a small number of children from around the country, to perform at Grand Prix in Silverstone in July. This is a great achievement – well done Lottie.

Cricket – Congratulations to **Josh** and **Harrison** who have been selected to play County cricket. This is a great achievement – well done boys.

Running – Congratulations to **Sophie** and **Josh** who completed the children's Race at Your Pace challenge. Over the course of a month, Sophie completed the five miles and Josh 10 miles. Well done both of you, it's great to know you are being really active. If your child would like to take part in the challenge, you can find more details at: <https://www.raceatyourpace.co.uk/kids-race>.

Chess Club – there will be no chess club on Monday 12 March 2018.

Jumping Clay – there are still spaces left on Jumping Clay club this term, starting on Thursday 1 March. The theme for this term is Woodland. If you would like to book a space, please text Catherine Slaney on 07799 182880.

INSET Days – our INSET days for the academic year 2018-2019 are: Monday 3rd September 2018, Thursday 25th October 2018, Friday 26th October 2018, Monday 3rd June 2019 and Monday 22nd July 2019.

Dinner Money for this term is £40.00 (£10 per week or £2 per day). Please make your cheque payable to DCC and write your child's name and class on the back. Cash must be sent to school in a named, sealed envelope or purse. Please ensure that dinner money is paid promptly either at the beginning of term or at the start of each week. Thank you.

Parent Consultations – the next Parent Consultations will take place the week beginning **Monday 19th March**. We will be opening the booking system for appointments shortly. There will be no Teacher run clubs (Film Club/Art Club) during this week (19th March).

Homework – we set homework for all our children as we believe that is a very important part of your child's education. By supporting your child doing their homework you will be helping them to practice and extend the skills and knowledge learned in school, whilst encouraging them to be an independent learner. Research has found that children whose parents get involved with their education do better at school. There are many ways parents can support their child with homework without having to know the answers themselves. As a parent, you have tremendous power to strengthen your child's confidence – and confidence is vital to learning. Give your child confidence through lots of praise and encouragement. Specific praise focusing on a particular aspect of their work ("I like the way you have...") is more effective than bland, blanket praise. Some people argue that to really do well, children – perhaps all of us – need ten-times as much praise as criticism! Wherever possible, try to provide a reasonably quiet place for children to do homework (or help them to get to other places where homework can be done). Encourage your child to discuss homework with you, including feedback from teachers. Try to help your child to see the enjoyable aspects of homework!

Clubs – please note that any teacher run clubs that were previously hosted on Wednesday afternoon will no longer run as our staff meeting changes to Wednesdays after school, after half term.

MAT Easter activities – please see separate attachment detailing the exciting activities that the Multi-Agency Team are offering during the Easter holidays.

TTRockstars – you will know that we have relaunched TTRockstars with Mr Roberts driving its profile in school. It is a Government requirement that children know their multiplication tables by the end of Year 4. In September 2017, the DfE announced that schools will be expected to administer multiplication tests to their Year 4 pupils from 2019-2020, these checks are aimed 'to aid children's fluency in mathematics.' TTRockstars is a great way to support your child learning their multiplication tables, whatever their age. Your child will have his/her account on this website and a unique log on. We are running different competitions linked to TTRockstars and we have purchased year group trophies to recognise, and celebrate, the children's successes. One of our noticeboards in the main hall is now dedicated to TTRockstars, again to reward, and celebrate success. Please see your child's class teacher if you need any further information.

Dinner money – Dinner money next term is £40 which should be paid on Parent Pay. 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.

Cliffe Park – Thank you to all who entered. We had some lovely pictures which I will submit.

Lost coat – one of our Year 3 children has lost his coat. It has been missing now for a number of weeks and we have searched the whole school on numerous occasions looking for it, without success. I can only think that someone has accidentally taken it home and has forgotten about it. Please can I ask you to have a look at home for a black Nike puffer jacket with the name 'Harrison R' inside it. We would be very grateful for its return. If you find you

have it at home, please could you hand it in to reception – we will just be happy to see it again. Many thanks in advance.

2018

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

24 April – Class photographs

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