

Dronfield Junior School Newsletter 24 6 March 2017

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Following on from the excellent Y5 WWII projects I told you about, I had the privilege of viewing the Y4 Icy Kingdom projects which were equally staggering in their content and presentation. Wow! Y4, you have worked really hard, researching your projects and presenting them in unique ways – well done! As with the Y5 staff, I know the Y4 staff were thrilled, as am I. Thank you to parents for supporting your child with this project, I hope you enjoyed sharing your child's learning.

World Book Day – World Book Day was a huge success. A big thank you to Mrs Ford for organising, and coordinating, some great activities. The Extreme Reading photographs were fantastic and the staff had a difficult job choosing the year group winners. The Y3 winner was **Grace Ingle**, the Y4 winner was **Florence Briggs**, the Y5 winner was **Ben Mottram** and the Y6 winner was **Daniel Kemp**. All winners received a book token and a BFG pencil with a rubber. We are hoping to display the photographs in school for all to enjoy.

Accelerated Reading – Congratulations to Leo Rowley, Jayden Wheeler and Hayden Nicholson-Goult whose names were picked out from all those who had achieved 100% on their book quizzes. Well done to all the children who had achieved 100%, keep it up.

Table Tennis – Congratulations to our girls' table tennis team (consisting of **Freya Hammett, Isobel Ryder, Jai Kang** and **Poppy Hodder**) who played excellently in the Runners' Up Final in Blackburn on Saturday. Whilst another school took the overall trophy, our girls fought valiantly against some tough competition and showed great sportsmanship. Well done girls – we are very proud of you. Thank you to Mr Hammett for transporting the girls and to Miss Rogers for supporting the girls in Blackburn and coordinating the event.

Maths Pop Quiz – Congratulations to our two teams who competed in the Pop Maths Quiz at Sheffield Hallam University on Saturday. Both teams worked really hard to answer some very difficult Maths questions (which challenged Mr Roberts and me!) 48 teams took part in the Y6 competition. Only first place was announced but one of our teams came 6th, and our other team came 11th. Our teams: one team consisted of: **Isobel Wood, Ben Lunn, Poppy Bell, Joel Thomson, Eleanor Lowry** and **Daniel Kemp** and the other team consisted of: **Rory Gadsden, Kalani Wau, Omeir Patankar, Daniel Clayton, Andrew Hampson** and **Dylan Ross**. Well done to both teams, we are so proud of you doing so well in tough competition. After the competition, both teams enjoyed a very interesting Maths lecture entitled 'The Creation of Number?' given by Ben Sparks from the University of Bath (Further Maths Programme). Thank you to Mr Roberts for supporting the teams.

Parent Consultations – Parent Consultations take place this week. Please ensure you have an appointment and take this opportunity to discuss your child's progress with his/her class teacher. This enables us to work in partnership with you for the benefit of your child. There will be no Teacher run clubs (Film Club/Drama) during this week (6th March).

Drama Club – There will also be no drama club after school on Tuesday 14 March.

Muffins – an email was sent on Friday 3 March giving parents the opportunity to pre-order a freshly baked muffin for their child to celebrate Fair Trade Fortnight. The muffins will be served at morning break on Friday 10 March. **Pre-orders must be placed online by Tuesday 7 March** – please visit www.schoolinterviews.co.uk and use code mn3tg (all lower case). Once you have pre-ordered the muffin, please send 50p in a named, sealed envelope by **Tuesday 7 March. Unfortunately, we are unable to accept orders after this date.**

Musical Evening – Good luck to school choir who are due to sing at The Rotary Club of Dronfield's Schools' Musical Evening at the Winding Wheel in Chesterfield on Thursday evening.

Chess Club – There will be no chess club **today, Monday 6 March**, due to Parent Consultations. Mr Trafford has also advised that he will also be unavailable on **Monday 20 March** so there will be no chess club on that day either.

Explore Science and Engineering – Explore Science and Engineering at Sheffield Hallam University on **Saturday 11th March, 12pm – 4pm** in the Atrium Heartspace. Sheffield Hallam University welcomes the public to experience the work that it does across the sciences and engineering departments. This event is bursting with hands-on activities for you and your children to literally get your fingers stuck in. The activities are aimed at children and adults alike and the event is free of charge.

Dancing – Congratulations to **Lottie Dyson** who achieved First Prize for her solo song and dance performance in the Novice category at the Dearne Springtime Festival. As Lottie has now achieved a high number of first place awards, she has to compete against children at least three years older than her. Well done Lottie!

Sainsburys Active Vouchers – we are collecting Sainsburys Active Vouchers so please ask family and friends to collect for us too. There is a collection box in Reception or your child can just hand their vouchers to the teacher. These vouchers not only help us to replace our old PE equipment, they also provide equipment for lunch times for individuals and for the Mini Leaders to support activities they design. Thank you in advance.

World Down Syndrome Day - World Down Syndrome Day is **Tuesday 21st March**



www.worlddownsyndromeday.org/lots-of-socks

(this date is significant as Down Syndrome results from an extra chromosome (trisomy 21). As a school, we want to support this. On this day, the Down Syndrome Association is encouraging people



to wear 'odd socks' and we would like the children to do this in school. The 'odd socks' message is that although there may be a small difference in appearance, there is more that unites us. There is no cash donation, just a hope our children join in by wearing 'odd socks' so that we can raise awareness.

Dinner Money – The Governors agreed our Dinner Money Policy last week. This policy has been adopted to ensure that there is a consistent and fair approach to any debt incurred by parents/carers whose children take school dinners. As the Local Education Authority is no longer accountable for the administration of dinner money debt, the responsibility now falls on schools to pursue all instances of non-payment. As a result, the school budget is required to directly fund any outstanding debts that cannot be recovered, thereby directly impacting the amount of money available to provide education to all pupils. A copy of our Dinner Money policy is on our school website and a paper copy is held in Reception.

Dinner money for this term is £70. If you have not already paid for the term, please can you do so as soon as possible. If you wish to pay weekly, the cost is £10 per week and must be paid at the start of each week. Please write your child's name and class on the reverse of your cheque and make it payable to DCC. If you are sending cash, please send this in a named, sealed envelope.

Football Shirt Appeal – we have been asked by Mrs Temple, one of our School Governors, if we can help orphan children in Malawi via a charity called Aquaid Lifeline. The charity is looking for donations of **good condition** football shirts to send out to orphan children in Malawi. If you have a good condition football shirt that you have grown out of that you would like donate, please bring it to Mrs Myers or Mrs Cooper in the school office. It would

be lovely if we were able to support such a worthy cause. If you would like to see what the charity does please log on to <http://lifelinefund.org.uk/what-we-do.html>. The last date for donations is **Friday 17th March**. Thank you in advance.

Clubs – clubs will continue as normal this half term. Street Dancing will cost £17.50, Table Tennis will cost £21.

Disco Dancing will run weekly until Thursday 30 March (inclusive). The cost for this term will be £15.

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 20th March** (6pm – 7pm) at Henry Fanshawe School. Please see separate letter, which went out on Safer Internet Day (7th February), to book your place.

Year 5 Concert – the children have started rehearsing for their Easter Concert. These will take place on Tuesday 28 and Wednesday 29 March at 6.30pm. Tickets will go on sale at a cost of £1 on **Monday 20 March 2017**. Each family is entitled to 2 tickets. If you are unable to come to the office to collect tickets, please send the money in an envelope with your child's name on and your chosen night for tickets. Any tickets left over will be available on a first come, first served basis from **Friday 24 March 2017**.

App advice – Derbyshire LA has suggested that schools make parents / carers aware of the following: please find attached to this email an infographic regarding five apps that you need to be aware of: four of these apps are potential safeguarding concerns but the final one lets you manage the time your child can spend online. The infographic is best viewed by using the QR code opposite so you can download the information. Additional information can be found by clicking on each icon which will take you to the relevant site. I cannot edit the infographic and I appreciate that some of the apps contained may not be relevant but for those parents with older children, it may be helpful. I do know that some of our children do have, and are using, Musical.ly.



Communications – The newsletter is now emailed to parents or available to view on our website. For this term only, we will continue to send out other letters regarding class trips or events. Please ensure you keep your contact details up to date.

ParentPay - We will be introducing ParentPay after the Easter Holidays. ParentPay is a more convenient and secure way to pay for school trips and dinner money. We will share more information with you over the coming weeks. If you have any questions in the meantime, please speak to Mrs Myers or Mrs Cooper.

Free Self-Harm Online Training Course for Parents/Carers - 'Talking to your children about emotional resilience and self-harm', the Virtual College in partnership with selfharmUK have created an online course that not only allows parents to understand more about self-harm, but also how they can proactively raise the topic with their children in confidence. They'll be launching the course sometime this week but parents/carers and staff can register for free online: <https://confirmsubscription.com/h/j/697873F692EA0A51>

INSET Days – our INSET days for the academic year 2017-2018 are: Monday 4 September 2017, Monday 30 October 2017, Tuesday 2 January 2018, Wednesday 3 January 2018 and Monday 4 June 2018.

Jacket Potatoes – please can you let the office know if your child no longer wishes to carry on with their jacket potato on a Friday? Thank you.

2017 – Up-coming dates

w/c 6 March – Parent Consultation week

4 April - Bags to School

7 April – School closes for Easter Holidays

24 April – School re-opens

25 April – Class Photographs

8 May - KS2 SATs

24 May – Sports Day

26 May – School closes for half term

5 June – INSET Day

6 June – School re-opens

All our newsletters are available to view and download from our website – www.dronfield-jun.derbyshire.sch.uk