

Dronfield Junior School Newsletter 25 13 March 2017

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It was great to see so many of our children at the Science and Engineering day on Saturday at Sheffield Hallam University. We could not decide whether our favourite bit was holding a brain or eating the donut after it had been used to demonstrate a disc in the spine! Then what a beautiful day Sunday was and a reminder that Spring is round the corner. We look forward to another exciting week in school.

Musical Evening – On Thursday night, our choir sang at The Rotary Club of Dronfield’s Schools’ Musical Evening. It was a joy to see the children sing their hearts out. They performed with enthusiasm and you could see the enjoyment in their faces. A huge thank you to Mrs De Almeida who has done a great job training the choir. Mrs De Almeida is ably assisted training the choir, by Mr Burrows, Mrs Weston and Mrs Orford – my grateful thanks to you too.

Fairtrade – Last week the children were learning about Fairtrade, which began with a Fairtrade assembly on Monday with our visiting Fairtrade speaker, Mrs Keen. Then on Friday our children enjoyed a freshly baked Fairtrade muffin. My huge thanks go to Mrs Chilvers who organised these events and came into school on her days off to ensure they ran smoothly. Thank you!

Athletics – Good luck to the Y3 and 4 pupils who will represent us tonight at an athletics event at Dronfield Henry Fanshawe School.

Drama Club – there will be no Drama Club after school this week on **Tuesday 14 March**.

Chess Club – Mr Trafford has advised us that he will be unavailable on **Monday 20 March** so there will be no chess club after school on that day.

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.

Clarinet Assembly – Mrs Ridgard’s Y4 class (Y4LR) will be showcasing their talents on the clarinet on **Tuesday 21st March** at 9.10am. They will have spent 10 weeks learning how to play the clarinet as part of the Wider Opportunities programme which is funded by the school. Parents of children in Y4LR are warmly invited to our school hall to see the children perform.

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.

Comic Relief – It is Comic Relief on **Friday 24th March**. The Charity Group have asked that children come dressed as their favourite pop star or dress in their favourite style of music e.g. rock star, punk rocker, boy band member etc and bring a £1 for this worthy cause. Remember to wear your red nose and try to learn a funny joke to tell the class.



Governors' newsletter – please can I draw your attention to the Governors' newsletter on the website? You can find it under the Governors tab at the left hand side of our home page. The Governors are keen that you understand how they work with school but also offer the voice of challenge to ensure the very best outcomes for every child. My grateful thanks to all the Governors who contributed to this newsletter and to Mr Gilson, our Vice Chair of Governors, who compiles the newsletter.

Swimathon Fundraiser – Ella Scott (Y5H) and her mum are raising money for Marie Curie Cancer Care on Sunday 9 April. If you would like to donate, please visit www.justgiving.com and enter 'Kristina and Ella's Swimathon' in the search bar.

Dogs – Please can I ask that you do not bring dogs onto school premises? Thank you for your understanding with this.

Residential Trips –

Mount Cook 2017 (current Y4) – there is a remaining balance £115 for this trip which needs to be paid by Monday 26 June.

France 2017 (current Y5) – The final payment of £140 is due for payment by Friday 30 June.

Llandudno (current Y6) – The next installment of £57.50 is due to be paid by Friday 17 March with the final payment due by Friday 19 May.

We are happy to accept interim payments for residential visits if you prefer to pay in smaller installments. Cheques for all visits are payable to 'DJS Journeys'.

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.

Dinner Money – At the last full Governors' meeting, the Governors agreed our Dinner Money Policy earlier this term. 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.

Year 4 Bikeability – this will take place on the following dates: **Y4LR – Monday 27 March and Y4B – Tuesday 28 March**. Your child will need their Bike and Helmet in school on the appropriate day as well as suitable, warm outdoor clothing and footwear.

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 18th March**. Thank you in advance.

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**.

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 sending out letters detailing the activation code for your ParentPay account this week. I would be grateful if you could log in and activate your account as soon as possible as we will be using the ParentPay platform to email and text parents from Friday 17 March onwards. For the remainder of this term, we will continue to accept cash or cheque payments for dinner money or trips or you are welcome to pay using ParentPay if you prefer. From Monday 24 April, we will only accept payment for dinner money or trips through ParentPay. If you have any questions in the meantime, please speak to Mrs Myers or Mrs Cooper.

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.

2017 – Up-coming dates

- 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