



I was not expecting more snow! Thank you for getting your children to school today, I do appreciate that some side roads and paths for pedestrians were particularly icy. A huge thank you to Mr Hazeldine, who cleared our site over the weekend and then gritted our paths again early this morning.

As we gallop towards the Easter holidays, I would like to share with you a number of successful events we celebrated last week, please read on to find out more.

Athletics – well done to our Year 4 children: **Sophie, Eden, Fia, Ivy, Georgia, Lucy, Annie, Lily Sophie, Amelia, Maisie, Francesca, James, Leo, Piers, Edward, Matthew, Ervinas, Alec, Alex** and **Alistair** who represented us at Sports hall athletics last Monday at Dronfield Henry Fanshawe School. The children performed really well and showed good sportsmanship. We celebrated with them in whole school assembly on Friday.

Boccia – well done to our Year 3 and 4 children: **Heidi, Reegan, Ronnie, Jenny** and **George**, who represented us at a Boccia competition last Thursday at Eckington Secondary School. They have a great time, developed their skills in a new sport and showed really good sportsmanship. We celebrated with them in whole school assembly on Friday.

Photography competition – Andy Evers, Family Youth and Children's Worker from the Baptist Church in Dronfield came to whole school assembly on Friday and offered the children the opportunity to enter a photography competition. He brought some flyers explaining the competition which will send out with your child this evening. Please see your child's class teacher if you don't receive a flyer.

Parent Governor – We are looking for two Parent Governors to join our Governing Body. An email has been sent out today with further information – this can also be found in the Parent Section of our website. A paper copy of the election pack can be collected from the School Office.

Parent Consultations – our Parent Consultations will take place this week. I hope that you have your appointment and you are able to share your child's achievements and next steps with his / her class teacher. Please note there will be no Teacher run clubs (Film Club/Art Club) during this week (19th March).

Clarinet Assembly – Mrs Ridgard's Y4 class (Y4LR) will be showcasing their talents on the clarinet on **Tuesday 20th 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.

Fairtrade – on Monday 26th February, during Fairtrade Fortnight, the children had an assembly to learn and develop their understanding of Fairtrade. We are very grateful to Mrs Thorpe, our visiting Fairtrade speaker, who conducted these assemblies – thank you! Thank you for ordering a Fairtrade muffin. We have put our order in to our local bakery, those who have ordered a muffin will have it on **Wednesday 21st March**.

World Down Syndrome Day - World Down Syndrome Day is **Wednesday 21st March** (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 brightly coloured socks, long socks, printed socks, 1 sock... even 3 socks for 3 chromosomes



(#LotsOfSocks) and we would like the children to do this in school. The 'lots of 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 'lots of socks' so that we can raise awareness.

Charity Group Biscuit Bonanza – Later this week, probably Wednesday and Thursday, the Charity Group will be running an Easter biscuit decorating bonanza. Our fantastic school kitchen team will kindly mix the biscuit mixture for the Charity Group to cut out the biscuits and then the children will be offered the opportunity to ice and decorate a biscuit to either eat after their lunch or take home for just 50p. The Charity Group have been busy crafting and will be selling Easter chick and bunny book marks along with Easter chicks containing chocolate eggs. Each item will cost 50p and correct change would be appreciated. All money raised will be donated to the PACT House (Parents' Association of Children with Tumors and Leukemia) near to Sheffield Children's Hospital. This is a home-from-home where families who have a child receiving urgent treatment at the hospital can stay so they are close by.

British Science Week – British Science 'week' started on **Friday 9th March and runs until Friday 16th March**. To celebrate this, Miss Spencer is launching the 'Science Selfie' competition. To enter the competition, you need to take a picture of you (a selfie) doing Science outside school. Your selfie could be taking part in a Science activity at home or elsewhere. Be as creative as you like and captions can be included if you wish. There will be a small prize per year group. Closing date for entries is **Thursday 22nd March**. Please hand in your entry to your class teacher.

Sports Relief – we will be celebrating Sports Relief on **Friday 23rd March**, the Charity Group ask that children come dressed in sports attire (please be mindful of the weather!) and bring a £1 for the Sports Relief Charity. On Friday, the children will be working towards running a mile, each class will run part of a mile.

WWF's Your Promise Your Planet - I would like us to take part in the WWF's Your Promise, Your Planet initiative – change one thing to help our planet: make a difference. WWF's literature states that: 'We're facing some of the biggest environmental threats ever seen. From the pollution of our oceans to the devastation of our forests, the planet is in crisis. But there are simple, every day actions you can take to make a difference.

You could ditch plastic cutlery, become flexitarian, carry a reusable coffee cup or even switch to a green energy supplier. WWF's Earth Hour is the perfect time to do your bit.'

There are three simple steps:

1. Make your promise for the planet at wwf.org.uk/earthhour
2. Share your promise #PromiseForThePlanet
3. Switch off your lights at **8.30pm on 24th March**

Let's be part of the global movement to protect our planet.

TTRockstars – the next TTRockstars' challenge which will be 'Most Improved Rock Speed', will begin this week and be open until Thursday 12th April. Each Year Group winner will be awarded a trophy and certificate in whole school assembly on Friday 13th April.

Y5 Swimming – thank you for bearing with us regarding swimming. Due to the recent inclement weather, I have made the decision that the children did not go swimming as the paths leading to the Sports Centre have not been sufficiently cleared and are particularly icy. Please be aware that swimming will re-commence on **16 April**.

Lost Coat – a child in Y4 has lost his coat. It is a black coat with orange in the hood, the child's name is in the back of the coat and the label at the side. Please can you check at home to see if your child may have picked this coat up accidentally. Please hand it into Mrs Myers or Mrs Cooper, in the school office.

Clubs – We will have the following clubs on offer next term:

History Club, Tuesday 3.30pm-4.30pm for children in all year groups with Mrs Lunn – your child will need to speak to Mrs Lunn by Friday 23 March to put their name down,

Tennis Club, Monday 3.30-4.30pm with Mrs Mowforth for children in Y3/Y4, again please speak to Mrs Mowforth to put your name down.

Running Club, Monday 3.30pm-4.30pm with Miss Rogers for children in Y3-Y6, Please speak to Miss Rogers to put your name down.

Calpol – whilst we are happy to assist your child in the administration of medicines in school, if you require your child to have calpol throughout the school day, you will need to provide a bottle and complete a medical indemnity form from the School Office.

Poppies – children who attend our Knitting Club are knitting poppies for the Chesterfield Community Poppy Cascade to commemorate 100 years since the end of the First World War. If you are interested in knitting poppies to support this cascade, you are welcome to pick up a pattern or drop off completed Poppies at the School Office. We would also welcome donations of red wool if anyone has any spare – many thanks.

Dancing – over the last two weeks every child has had the opportunity to have a dance taster session with Michelle, which I was told all classes (and teachers!) thoroughly enjoyed. Michelle is a fully trained dance teacher and offers dance classes after school on Mondays 3.30pm-4.30pm. The sessions cost £3 each. If your child would like to take up this excellent opportunity, please see Mrs Myers or Mrs Cooper in the school office who will pass your name to Michelle. Thank you.

Year 4 Bikeability – this will take place on the following dates: Monday 16 April and Tuesday 17 April. Your child's teacher will confirm the exact date shortly – your child will need their bike and helmet in school on the appropriate day as well as suitable, warm outdoor clothing and footwear.

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.

Please be aware that school closes at 3.30pm on Friday, 23rd March for the Easter Holiday and reopens on Monday 9th April at 9am. All that remains for me to say is Happy Easter, I sincerely hope you all enjoy a restful break.

2018

w/c 19 March – Parent Consultation week

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