

Dronfield Junior School Newsletter 28 03 April 2017

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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.

Y5 concert – What a great showcase of talent! The Y5 Concert ‘Lights, Camera, Action!’ was just excellent – you could see the children’s enjoyment on their faces. All the children rose to the challenge and performed brilliantly on both nights. Congratulations to you all, children and staff alike. You made me proud to be part of DJS.

Science – Congratulations to **Maisie Welsh** who secured 1st prize in the Kelham Island Science competition as part of British Science Week. This competition was supported by a number of schools so we are very proud of Maisie for taking 1st prize. Well done Maisie!

Orienteering – Well done to **Freya Hammett, Cosmo Johnson, Sam Spinks, Poppy Hodder, Sam Pashley, Issy Tomlinson, Isabella Turner** and **Joel Thomson** who represented the school at an orienteering event held at Eckington Secondary School last Thursday. The children completed very well - final results have not been published yet. My grateful thanks to Miss Rogers who co-ordinated the event and escorted the children.

Fun to Run – Congratulations to following y3 children - **Amelia Hudson, Fia Compai, Eden Kus, Ivy Blandford, Ben Gilmore, Augustus Sabanas, Ervinas Baraunaskas, Ioli Charalampopoulou, Charlotte Wright, Bjarta Stefansson and Leo Pennington** who represented our school at the fun to run event which took place at DHFS on Monday 3 April. The children were great ambassadors of our school and showed great sportsmanship. Well done! My grateful thanks to Miss Rogers who co-ordinated the event and escorted the children.

Friday 7th April - This will be a **non-uniform day** so children can wear clothes of their choice; in return we ask for a donation of £1 towards school funds, which will use for supporting activities that benefit all our children.

Parking – I have had a complaint from a local resident who, on Friday, left her house at 2.45pm and could only just squeeze past a car parked at the top of Appletree Drive. The driver of the car was sitting at the wheel. I am aware that there are a number of elderly residents who live at the bottom of Appletree Drive and I am anxious that an ambulance or a fire engine could have great difficulty getting through and those extra minutes could have severe consequences. Please can I ask you to park with consideration and think about our local residents and, in an emergency or not, how quickly support services could reach them. As the weather seems to be improving, please can I ask you to consider parking a little further away and enjoying a stroll in the warmer weather? It has been brought to my attention that parents are ‘waiting’ in their cars at the drop-off zone. Please can I remind you that the drop-off zone is for letting children alight from a vehicle only. ‘Waiting’ in the drop-off zone causes increased traffic congestion and therefore becomes a safety risk for all our children.

Digital Parenting – last week, you should have received a magazine called ‘Digital Parenting’. It is packed with very useful information about keeping your child safe online and also skilling you up to support your understanding of the risk. Please read it. Can I recommend the article ‘What is digital resilience, and why is it so important to your child’s future?’ on pages 14 and 15.

Y3 Trip to Sherwood Forest 2 May – please log on to your ParentPay account to see the details of this trip (in the Communication area) and to make your payment. Thank you.

Sports Day – Due to circumstances beyond our control, the date we had originally given you for Sports Day has had to be changed. The new date for our annual Sports Day will now be **TUESDAY 20TH JUNE** at same venue - the English Institute of Sport, Sheffield. Parents may join us at 12.30pm. I do apologise for any inconvenience this change of date may cause. Further information regarding transport and arrangements will be available shortly.

Dogs – There are still dogs (being carried) in the playground. Please can we ask that you do not walk or carry your dog on the school premises? We are requested to actively discourage dogs on school premises.

ParentPay – You should have received your letter detailing the activation code for your ParentPay account. Thank you to all those parents who have logged in and activated their account. Please note that if you have a child at Dronfield Henry Fanshawe you can add your child (at our school) to this account – log on to Parent Pay with your existing account (for your child at DHFS) and click add a child, you will then be asked for your activation code when this is inserted it will merge the accounts. 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 **now** onwards. 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 **up to Friday 7 April**. From **Monday 24 April**, we will only accept payment for dinner money or trips through ParentPay. If you have any questions in the meantime, or if you require another copy of your activation letter, please speak to Mrs Myers or Mrs Cooper.

Flexible Dining – If your child follows a flexible dining plan, please log in to your ParentPay account to select the days you wish your child to have school meals for next term. To do this, please select 'make meal bookings' (under your child's name) from the home page, select the week from the drop down list and choose the dates you would like your child to have a lunch. Please repeat this for each week available. Please ensure that your child is aware which days they have sandwiches and which days they have school dinners. Please note you will be charged £2 for a meal if they tell their teacher the incorrect information.

Alongside the advance booking facility, we would also like to offer the opportunity for you to book an ad-hoc meal (such as Christmas dinner, theme day or in an emergency) should the need arise. Bookings for ad-hoc meals are made in the same way as detailed above, but, **the booking (and any payment needed) must be made by 8am on the day the meal is required.**

Y5 Swimming – the Y5s have had their final swimming session this term. Swimming will re-commence on **Friday 28 April**.

Clubs for next term - There will be no more Drama Club or Film Club after the Easter Holidays, as we encourage our children to pursue outdoor activities as nights are lighter and the weather improves (hopefully!) All clubs that are operating next term that are run by teaching staff will commence the week beginning **Monday 1st May**. A **full** list will be available on our next newsletter.

The clubs (which are run by outside providers and require payment, with the exception of Rugger Eds and Discovery Club as they manage their own bookings) will appear in your ParentPay account at the start of next term. These will start w/c 24 April.

History Club with Mrs Lunn will run on Tuesdays 3.30-4.30pm.

Boys' football (Y5/Y6) with Mr Hands will run on Mondays 3.30-4.30pm.

Girls' Football with Mrs Thomson and ex-pupil, Amy Cooper, will run on Thursdays 3.30pm-4.30pm.

Rugger Eds will continue after the Easter Holiday, starting on Friday 28 April to Friday 26 May. The cost is £25 – please collect a registration form from the Office if you are interested.

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.

Ofsted webinar - Ofsted is committed to improving engagement with parents and sharing information about what they do. With this mind, Ofsted are offering you an opportunity to 'attend' a webinar which they will be running on **27th April at 7pm**. During the webinar they will discuss what Ofsted do, how they prepare for inspection, what happens during an inspection and the priorities in the East Midlands. If you are interested in 'attending', you can do so by registering at the following link: <https://attendee.gotowebinar.com/register/5645404351662691586>

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 was due to be paid by Friday 17 March with the final payment due by Friday 19 May.

Please pay via Parent Pay. We are happy to accept interim payments for residential visits if you prefer to pay in smaller installments. We will accept cheques for all visits up until the end of term but we would prefer you to pay on Parent Pay, please. Cheques need to be made 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.

Dronfield Infant School PTA Fashion Show – The Infant School PTA are holding a Fashion Show on **Thursday 6 April** at 7.30pm at Hilltop Sports and Social Club. Tickets are available from the Infant School Reception or on the door, they are £3 each or 2 for £5.

Communications – The newsletter is now emailed to parents or available to view on our website.

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

7 April – School closes for Easter Holidays

24 April – School re-opens

25 April – Class Photographs

8 May - KS2 SATs

26 May – School closes for half term

5 June – INSET Day

6 June – School re-opens

20 June – Sports Day

Please be aware that school closes at 3.30pm on Friday, 7th April for the Easter Holiday and re-opens on Monday 24th April at 9am. All that remains for me to say is Happy Easter, I sincerely hope you all enjoy a restful break.

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