



I hope you enjoyed your May bank holiday weekend and were able to take advantage of some of the warm weather we had. As the days get longer, and warmer, there's a real feel that Summer is on its way. I hope you were able to sample, and enjoy, the myriad of art events on offer in Dronfield over the weekend. Well done to all those children who took part in the re-arranged Dronfield Fun Run on Monday. It was great to see so many of you participating.

Mini tennis – congratulations to **Ervinas, Charlotte, Oliver and Amelia** who represented our school at a Mini tennis competition last week at Dronfield Henry Fanshawe School. The children played excellently, and showed great sportsmanship. We came 3rd. Thank you to Mrs Mowforth and Miss Rogers, for coordinating the event and escorting the children.

Music examinations – Congratulations to **Ruben** who achieved outstanding results in his Grade 1 piano examination, achieving a distinction. Well done Ruben – this is a great achievement!

Fund Raising – some of children have been raising money outside of school for worthwhile causes. Congratulations to:

- **Lillia** who raised £350 towards the cost immunology treatment for Stephan Hawcroft, by organising a tombola and colouring competition – the latter which was judged by Chris Waddle!
- **Karla** who raised £75 by giving up chocolate and sweets for Lent. The money raised was donated to Teenage Cancer Trust
- **Grace** and **Jasmine** who raised over £150 by running 3km in a 12 hour relay as part of 'Run for Eilish'.

Well done girls – it's lovely to see you actively helping and supporting others outside school.

Warm weather – hopefully the warm weather will continue, my optimism knows no bounds! Please can I ask that your child has a water bottle in school and that they have applied sun cream? We will encourage the children to seek shade if the weather gets particularly hot.

Parent Questionnaire – Many thanks to all the parents who completed our online parent questionnaire. I am grateful for your responses, which were overwhelming positive – thank you! You will receive an email with the results.

Sports Day – Our annual Sports Day is **WEDNESDAY 23rd MAY** at the English Institute of Sport, Sheffield. The children will leave for the EIS (English Institute of Sport, Coleridge Road, Sheffield S9 5DA) just after registration. In the morning all classes will take part in a circuit of athletics activities, so that every child will try 12 running, jumping and throwing events. After lunch, we have the inter-house Sports Day which will begin at 1pm. Parents and Grandparents are very welcome to come and watch from 12.30pm onwards. Parking and entry is free and there are plenty of tiered seats, but it tends to be very cool, so bring something warm! Children will need a packed lunch and water bottles and they should come dressed in the PE kit with their house colour T-shirt. They will also need a sweat shirt or track suit top to keep warm when not competing.

I would be very grateful if parents would make a voluntary contribution of £4 per child towards the cost of hiring the EIS and coach travel. Please make this payment online through ParentPay. **Please acknowledge in the notes field how your child will be travelling home from the EIS, eg in parents' / relative's car or on the coach – this is most important so we can account for your child.** Please be aware that if your child is travelling back to school on the coach, they will be back in school around 4.40pm, depending on the amount of traffic.

Congratulations to Maxim who came first in the boys U12 race and Kizzy who came second in the girls race in the Dronfield Town FC Fun Run at the weekend.

Plea for Decking – please can you let the office/Mrs Sturdey know if you have any spare pieces of decking that you no longer need. We would like to repair some of the raised beds in the School Garden and spare pieces of decking are ideal. Many thanks.

On Thursday 24 May we will be holding a ‘Happy Shoes Day’ which is an annual event organised by Living Streets’. Wear the shoes that make you happy, have fun and help us create safer walkable streets for all. We ask for £1 donation for you to wear your shoes to school that make you happy! All donations will be given to Living Streets whose mission is to achieve a better walking environment and inspire people to walk more.



Football tickets – we are holding a sealed bids auction to raise money to be able to buy more footballs when needed for the bottom yard at break times and lunchtimes. The prize at our auction is two tickets to a Category B home fixture at Sheffield United FC during the 2018/19 season. If you would like to take part, please put your bid into an envelope marked ‘Football tickets auction’ and either hand it in at the school office or ask your child to give it to his/her teacher. Thank you in advance.

Infant gate – please note the Infant gate will be open at 3.30pm when all the children have come back into school from PE, this is to safeguard our children. I would like to take this opportunity to remind you that our adventure playground and Trim Trail are both designed for children aged 7 and up. If parents of Infant children allow their child access to this equipment, they do so at their own risk and need very close supervision.

Lost Property – there is a large amount of lost property in the Den, including clothes, shoes, sandwich boxes, water bottles and plastic containers. If you have lost something, please encourage your child to have a look in the Den. You are also welcome to look in lost property after school, with your child.

NO₂ Emissions - please could I ask parents not to leave their engines running outside school or on neighbouring streets when waiting for children? This would then reduce our children’s (and our neighbours’) exposure to nitrogen dioxide which is emitted from diesel engines. *‘The main effect of breathing in raised levels of nitrogen dioxide is the increased likelihood of respiratory problems. Nitrogen dioxide inflames the lining of the lungs, and it can reduce immunity to lung infections. This can cause problems such as wheezing, coughing, colds, flu and bronchitis.’* We do have a number of children in school with asthma and other respiratory conditions who are particularly vulnerable. Thank you in advance for your support.

Leave of absence – please can I remind you that holidays during term time are against Government regulations. Leave in these cases would be unauthorised and we are obliged to inform the Local Authority who may issue a fine (this decision does not involve the school). There is more information about this on the Derbyshire County Council website. There are, however, a **few** occasions when a planned leave of absence is agreed due to exceptional circumstances. When you are completing your leave of absence form, please provide supporting evidence (for example: if you are going abroad for a family wedding and are seeking more than a day’s leave, you will need to provide a copy of the wedding invitation.) Unfortunately, taking a holiday during term time because it is cheaper, is not recognised as an ‘exceptional circumstance’. Please note that if a child’s attendance is below 95%, then it would be unusual for leave of absence to be granted even under exceptional circumstances.

Communication - if you need to see your child's teacher, he/she is usually available before school at 8.45am until 8.55am and after school at 3.35pm (except Wednesday due to Staff Meeting). Please be aware that the class teacher will need to be ready to teach his/her class at 9am. To ensure safeguarding of all our children, we ask that you come into school to speak to the class teacher via the office. Thank you for your co-operation.

School Uniform – please can you ensure that your child has the correct school uniform? The following is taken from our school prospectus which can be viewed on the website under the parent tab. Our uniform consists of:

- Sweatshirts, cardigans, jumpers – burgundy with white and gold logo or plain burgundy
- Polo Shirts – sky blue or white with gold and burgundy embroidered logo or plain sky blue or white
- Formal trousers or shorts (cullotte style for girls) – black or grey
- Skirts – black or grey
- Tights – black or grey
- Shoes – black (or **plain black** trainers).

In the summer, girls may optionally wear a blue or red gingham check dress (girls can wear white cycling shorts underneath which are above the knees for modesty). We also sell reversible coats in burgundy or navy blue.

Items which are **not** allowed to be worn:

- Inner layers which can be seen above the polo shirt collar
- Tracksuit bottoms, jeans, combats, leggings, casual shorts, hot pants, mini skirts or skinny trousers
- Trainers with sporting manufacturers' logos, Converse, Ugg Boots, Doc Martens, ballet shoes or sandals
- Nail varnish or make up
- Unnatural hair colouring

Uniform is now ordered through the School Trends website – www.schooltrends.co.uk. The order is collated on a monthly basis and takes approximately 14-21 days for delivery (from the collation date).

Friends of DJS Gardening Group – we have an active parent/grandparent (and any other willing adults – aunts or neighbours etc) gardening group that meet most Tuesday mornings in our school garden after drop off. With the weather warming up we will be out and about and would love anyone who can spare a little time and enjoys gardening to come along. No experience or equipment needed.

We also run a weekly Tuesday afternoon gardening reward session during which a small group of children from across the school get to go out and do a bit of gardening. If you are available 2.45-3.30pm on a Tuesday afternoon, please get in touch. Contact Mrs Sturdey via the office or Katharine Lunn (Y5 parent) for more information.

Assessment at the end of KS2 – the Standards and Testing Agency have produced a leaflet for parents regarding assessment at the end of KS2. We have put this leaflet on our website under the parent tab at the left hand side of the home page. The Government Standards and Testing Agency (STA) have also produced videos for parents of children taking tests in Year 6. These can be downloaded from the following website:

<https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/key-stage-1-and-2-national-curriculum-tests-information-for-parents>

Payment Dates for Residential Trips – the payment item on your parent pay account will show you the final amount owing and the dates this needs to be paid by. However, for your information -

Mount Cook – final balance due by 8 June 2018

France – final balance due by 14 August 2018

Cadbury Trip – final balance due by 29 June 2018

2018

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

5 July – Y2 Parents' Meeting

10 July – Bags2Schools Collection

13 July – Last day for Y6s who are due to transition to Dronfield Henry Fanshawe School

16 July – Changeover Day

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