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## Newsletter September 2018

### Welcome Back!

We have had a wonderful start to the new academic year; our new starters in Foundation One and Foundation Two have settled into school life very well and I am thoroughly enjoying my new role as Headteacher!

We have welcomed several new members of staff to the team: Mrs Nile has started in her new role as Deputy Headteacher and Miss Nithsdale has started in her new post of Deputy Headteacher too. Miss Smith has taken up her teaching post in Year 3; Mrs Stenhouse has joined the team in the school office; and Mrs Smith, Mrs Marsh and Mrs Jenvey have joined the school support staff team.

Congratulations to Mrs Lister on the birth of her son, Joe on 22 August and also to Miss Fennell Year 6, who married during the summer holiday and has returned to school as Mrs Spouse.

Should there be any questions you have regarding your child, please approach the class teacher in the first instance. Should you need to speak to anyone further, please contact Mrs Sharp (Foundation Stage One and Two), Mrs Nithsdale (Year One and Two) and Mrs Nile (Year Three, Four, Five and Six.)

As usual, there will be quite a few letters coming home during the first couple of weeks, including your child's emergency contact form - so please check with your child each day to see whether they have brought any letters home with them. Please make sure the emergency contact is completed and returned to school, as soon as possible. New guidance recommends that schools hold up to **3 emergency phone numbers for different adults**. The guidance also recommends that schools should take immediate action when contact cannot be made by phone with parent on the first day of a child's absence.

Please note that children should not arrive at school too early, especially during the winter months, when it is still dark in the mornings. Although the gate is open from 8.30am, there is no direct supervision on site until the start of the school day at 8.50am and therefore school cannot take responsibility for your child until that time.

### **Improvements to Site and Premises**

During the summer holiday, we have been very busy improving the school environment at a cost of approximately £30,000. These improvements, which have been across the school, include new tarmac being laid to the KS1 playground and new fencing around the Foundation Stage playground.

### **Doncaster in Bloom**

Once again we have entered the 'Unusual Container' category for the Doncaster in Bloom event. Anyone can vote online via the link below or can be done at the Civic Office by walking in and viewing the entries.

Our entry is called '**Even the plants are kicking off!**' If you are able to vote it would be much appreciated - the children love to work with Mr Wilson on the school grounds!

<https://www.surveymonkey.co.uk/r/DoncasterinBloom>



### **School Improvement Priorities**

School priorities are determined with regard to the following: data analysis, outcomes of the school's rigorous self-evaluation systems, government/LA initiatives, consulting with children and parents, both formally and informally and embedding successful school initiatives which warrant further development.

Our key priorities identified for improvement over this coming school year are:

### **1. Achievement**

Increase the progress of pupils in reading across the school.

Increase the number of pupils attaining the expected level in phonics at the end of Year 1.

Increase the number of children in KS1 attaining the expected level in reading, writing and maths.

Increase the number of children in KS1 attaining at the expected level in spelling, punctuation and grammar.

Increase the number of children in KS1 attaining greater depth levels in reading and writing.

### **2. Learning & Teaching**

Improve the provision for practical learning in science and geography.

Ensure that all members of teaching staff are graded as consistently good and outstanding.

### **3. Behaviour & Safety**

Reduce the level of persistent absenteeism to no more than 3%.

Introduce electronic system for recording behaviour incidents, etc. across school.

## **Music Tuition**

This year we have decided to fund peripatetic music tuition so that children across KS2 have the opportunity to learn to play a musical instrument, free of charge. So far 83 children have taken this opportunity. If your child is interested in playing a musical instrument in the future, please ask to speak to Mrs Shaw. Please encourage your child to remember to bring their instruments to school each week, practise at home and join the school orchestra.

## **Sports Coaching**

This year we intend to continue to use our Sports Funding for 2018-2019 to employ specialist Sports Coach, Mr Halstead, who will lead some lessons in Physical Education and provide outdoor games during lunch-times. We have also bought in the services of the PE Leader from Sir Thomas Wharton Academy to organise sports competitions and increase the children's participation in inter-schools competitive events.

### **Macmillan Bake Sale**

Mrs Parr, our wonderful school cook, will be holding a bake sale on Friday 28 September to raise money for Macmillan Cancer Support. Produce will be on sale from 3.30pm on the front playground (if inclement weather it will be relocated to the shelter near Year 2 classrooms.)

### **School Council Elections**

Elections have now taken place for the School Council, Sports Council, Enterprise Council, Eco Council and Year 6 Anti-Bullying Ambassadors:

#### **School Council Representatives**

Year 1	Samuel Hutchinson & Georgia Bates
Year 2	Isla Rockliff & Joshua Bagshaw
Year 3	Benjen Seymour & Isabell Happs
Year 4	David Dutton & Willow Woods-Hanson
Year 5	Megan Probert & Noah Marshall
Year 6	Ruby Clements & Jakub Smoczek

#### **Sports Council Representatives**

Year 1	Max Cooper & Lacey Matthews
Year 2	Sebastian Bucknall & Luke Docherty
Year 3	Henry Bowles & Maddison Enderby
Year 4	Finley Oades & Ruby Grainger
Year 5	Emma Howells & William Straw
Year 6	Charlie Iball & Ava Phillips

#### **Enterprise Council Representatives**

Year 1	James Gullett & Ellie Lindley
Year 2	Rowan Lyons & Max Falcus
Year 3	Gracie Blythe & Divine Ilori
Year 4	Carson Wileman & Thomas McKenzie
Year 5	Beau-Lucy Evans Booth & Georgia Palframan
Year 6	Evie Bark & Macy Aykroyd

### **Eco Council Representatives**

Year 1	Alicja Urban
Year 2	Owen Newton
Year 3	Amelia Sissons
Year 4	Isabella Thompson
Year 5	Gabriella Avsar
Year 6	Emilea Murray

### **Anti-Bullying Ambassadors**

Year 6	Emilea Murray
	Ava Nias-Craven
	Adaugo Nzeadi
	Leo McConway-Gee

### **Uniform**

Thank you for sending the children back to school in the correct uniform - especially **black** footwear; they all look so smart. Please note that red cardigans are not part of the uniform. Also, please do not allow your child to come to school wearing make-up, nail varnish or jewellery, other than one pair of stud ear-rings and a watch.

### **Attendance & Punctuality**

During 2017-2108 we achieved an attendance of 96.7% (our target was 97%) Although this is still a high level of attendance it is the lowest figure for 4 years and we will continue to strive to improve on this figure during this academic year.

Please read the attached letter - regarding unauthorised leave and irregular attendance at school. Headteachers cannot grant leave of absence during term-time, unless there are exceptional circumstances, which are listed on the absence from school letter. **Please note being self-employed is not regarded as 'exceptional circumstances'**. Unfortunately, there have been a few instances where parents have reported their child's absences as being due to illness when they have, in fact been on holiday. Please be aware, that we are often informed when this happens and have a duty to investigate; as a result, several fines were issued last year.

Please do not be offended if you receive a letter regarding your child's attendance if it falls below **95%**. We are required by the Local Authority to notify parents if this happens - for any reason. If, following the first letter, there are any further unauthorised absences in the following 15 days the school may request Doncaster Council to issue a fine.

If your child is absent for **10%** or more of school sessions they are defined by the government as a '**Persistent Absentee**' and information regarding your child's attendance is reported to the Local Education Authority and Department for Education. The school office will also request sight of appointment cards for medical or dental appointments in order to authorise any absence in the school day. Also, please note that **children in all year groups are assessed during May** and therefore any absences should be avoided during this month. In addition to the end of Key Stage assessments (Years 2 & 6), there is a compulsory phonics assessment for every child in **Year 1** which will take place during **June 2019**.

### **Payments to School**

Payments to school for dinner money, trips, music lessons and extended school clubs have to be paid using the Parent Pay website, or at a pay point. If you have not set up an account with Parent Pay, or have lost your login details, please speak to staff in the school office. Login details for new children in F2 will be issued by the office within the next few days.

### **Lost Property**

Please remember to label your child's clothing and other belongings, particularly lunch boxes. Due to the amount of unclaimed belongings we have to store (and eventually dispose of), all lost property is circulated around the school and if unclaimed, is kept for one week only.

### **School Photographs**

Photographs of children in school will be taken on 17 October 2018. All children present on that day will have an individual photograph taken, and those with siblings in school will also have a family group photograph taken.

## **Parking**

Our PCSO, residents of Mill Lane and the surrounding roads request that you show consideration when parking. The number of cars dropping off and collecting children at the start and end of the school day can cause a major obstruction and is also putting the safety of children at risk. Please do not park across residents' driveways or on the grass verges. Please do not park in the school car park, or use it as a short-cut to walk into school

Lots of information regarding the school is also available on our school website [www.warmsworth.doncaster.sch.uk](http://www.warmsworth.doncaster.sch.uk) so please check here if you need to find out more.

Mrs Train