



## Newsletter Autumn Term 2

06 November 2015

Dear Parents

We hope you had a restful half term break and have enjoyed the Halloween festivities. Last half term proved very successful. We were lucky to have a presentation by David Wright from The South West Grid for Learning (SWGfL). The evening was extremely informative and highlighted facts that parents, carers and teachers need to be aware of and how we can support children in this 'online' world.

Our open day was very well attended and you will be pleased to know that, as always, your children did us proud. There were some wonderful comments from parents and members of the community about how lovely the school looks and how polite and respectful the children are. The tour guides from Year 4 and Year 5 were particularly complimented.

Also may I say a big thank you for your generous donations for harvest festival which were gratefully received by the Welcome Centre in Huddersfield.



As we head into the second half of the Autumn term we would like to update you on the activities and events over the next few weeks and on the run up to Christmas. A list of dates and events is included in this letter for your information.

We will be holding an assembly, including a minute's silence, on remembrance day 11<sup>th</sup> November and poppies are available for children to buy in school between now and then.



Children in Need is upon us! Next Friday, 13<sup>th</sup> November, the school council has planned a ramble through Wither Woods – We're Going on a Pudsey Bear Hunt.

It will be a non-uniform day, so the children should dress for a ramble (boots, coats, hats etc). As it is Children in Need, the children may like to wear spotty clothes/face paint.

Wristbands will be on sale on Thursday and Friday next week (small £1, large £1.50). We are asking for a donation of buns to sell on the day too, please.

A suggested donation of £2 will cover the activities on the day.

Thank you for your support.

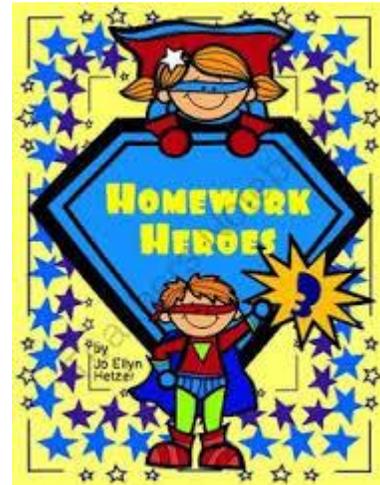


As you may be aware, the new "Trim Trail" has now been installed. It is proving very popular with all of the children. It has been paid for with money raised by the PTA, so we would like to say a huge THANKYOU for all of their fundraising and your continued support.



## Homework

Each class now has homework routines established. These are outlined on the school website and on the VLE. Homework now forms part of children's assessment so it is important that they take responsibility for their learning and are producing work that is of the highest standard. Homework is vital to help inform future learning; all class teachers use homework to help address specific difficulties and spellings and mental maths targets are assessed through regular tests where children work to achieve their personal best.



## Mentions



With staff and governors we have discussed how better to share the children's achievements and make sure you know and can celebrate with your child when they have earned a mention in assembly.

Mentions assembly is a special time for the children and teachers to share and recognise achievements across the whole curriculum. In an atmosphere of mutual respect staff can share with all children the quality of work and the precise reasons for each child's mention. It has a great effect on children's performance as, for example, children recognise the importance of reading through the reading challenge or the progression of maths through individual achievements across school.

Children who have earned a mention are recognised on our achievement board in the main entrance and on the school website. We are also going to send a text to let you know when your child has received a mention. This will be done after the assembly so as not to spoil the surprise for your child.



The mentions book is available in school and you are welcome to come in and read the book at a time of your convenience – school is open from 7.30am till 6.00pm and during all holidays except Christmas.



## Communication



We are constantly trying to improve communication and recognise that we have many parents who are unable to catch the class teacher on the door. We now have a dedicated e-mail address [parents@denbydale.education](mailto:parents@denbydale.education). Send your message marked for the attention of the member of staff. You will then receive an acknowledgement of receipt. If a reply is required you will receive a reply within 5 working days.

Other ways of communication remain the same.

Staff are available before and after school for the passing on of day to day information.

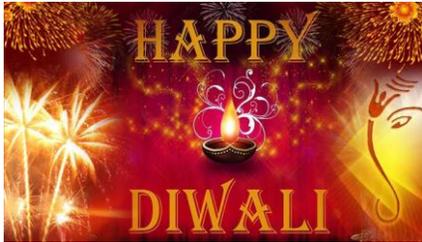
Appointments to see the class teacher or myself can be made by phone or e-mail and we will aim to meet you as soon as practically possible. I am available to see parents who cannot make it in school hours and appointments can be made for early morning or up to 6.00pm in the evening.

Our website is updated regularly and has details of events and information about what is happening in your child's class. Please go on and have a look [www.denbydale.education](http://www.denbydale.education).

There are also paper copies of letters in the main entrance.



## Autumn Term Topics and Activities



This term the **Early Years Foundation Unit** will be finding out about Autumn festivals such as Bonfire Night and Diwali. We will also be exploring ideas around the theme of Dark, Light and Colour. As the weather gets cooler and damper please can you send coats, hats and wellington boots for the children, clearly marked with their name.

On **Thursday 12<sup>th</sup> November** we are holding a Reading information evening for Reception parents in the school hall. We will show you how we teach reading in school and how you can help your child at home. The evening will start at 6.30pm and last for approximately 1 hour. Please contact the school office if you need further



During the first part of the half term **Year 1** children's learning will be inspired by the topic 'Night Time'. We will begin with Bonfire Night and this will lead on to discussing nocturnal animals and safety in the dark. We will investigate the difference between fluorescent and reflective fabrics and the best colours to wear during the day, and night, in order to ensure you are seen. As we move into December our thoughts will turn to Christmas and Christmas themed activities.



During the Autumn term **Year 2** children's learning will be inspired by the topic 'African Animals'. We will be looking at a variety of animal information texts as well as traditional stories from Africa including Kenya and Gambia. In addition to this we will be undertaking and performing some animal dances in PE, we will listen to and compose our own animal music, and we will also be learning new art skills in order to create animal artwork.

In **Year 3** this half term we will be continuing our topic on magic. We are focusing on non-fiction texts and writing an exciting newspaper report. We will also be creating a sweet shop, inspired by the Roald Dahl book 'The Witches.' This will include lots of Design and Technology work, making chocolate and sweet tasting.



In **Year 4** this half term our new topic is "The Dragons Den". The children will be developing their entrepreneurial skills in a series of challenges. They will use their teamwork and creative skills. In science they will learn about how sound is made and design and make their own musical instruments.

**Year 5's** topic this half term is 'BACK TO THE FUTURE'. The science focus will be on the Earth, Sun and the Moon but we will also be touching on other aspects to do with Space. The children's literacy work will focus more around time travelling and the exciting new worlds they will be visiting! In order to time travel the children will be designing their very own time machine! Our artistic focus this half term will turn to the works of Peter Thorpe, famous for his Space themed artworks.



**Holiday Club**

Holiday club will be open to all age groups (2-5 years and 6-10 years) during the first week of the Christmas holidays (21<sup>st</sup>-23<sup>rd</sup> December) and booking forms can be obtained by contacting the Dragonflies office (dragonflies@denbydale.education). Places will be limited, so please ensure your form is returned as soon as possible.



**Extra Curricular Activities this half term**

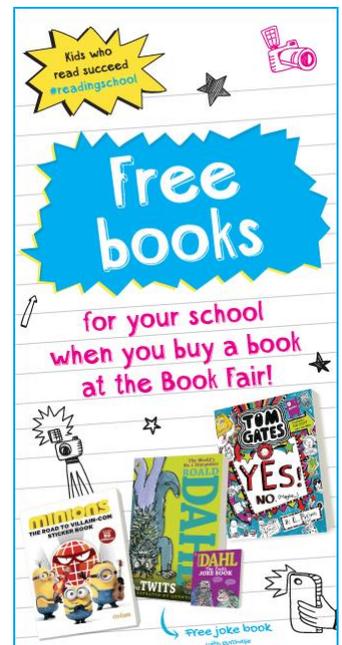
Tuesday	3-4pm	Street Dance	Years 3 and 4
Monday	lunchtime	Multisports	Years 2, 3, 4 and 5
Thursday	lunchtime	Advanced Recorders	Years 3, 4 and 5
Thursday	3-4pm	Hockey	Years 3 and 4

**Parent Consultation Days**

**Nursery** and **Reception** will hold their consultation days this half term as the children have settled and baselines have been completed. This will be a chance to talk about your child's progress and discuss how we can work together to support your child over the year. Appointment letters will be sent home next week.

**Scholastic Book Fair**

The Book Fair will be arriving in school Monday 23<sup>rd</sup> November to Thursday 26<sup>th</sup> November, with hundreds of new children's books to browse and buy. There are over 200 titles for you and your child to choose from, and with prices starting from only £2.99, there's sure to be a book for everyone. Don't forget that every book you buy can help to get FREE BOOKS for our school library! A leaflet will be sent home shortly with details of the books available.



## Outdoor Environment

The Countryside Officer, Andy Wickham, is hoping to complete construction of our new pond by Christmas. He will be assisted by volunteers and would be grateful for any additional help from our parents. If you are able to help the dates are as follows:

Tuesday 10<sup>th</sup> November  
Friday 13<sup>th</sup> November  
Tuesday 8<sup>th</sup> December  
Wednesday 9<sup>th</sup> December  
Wednesday 16<sup>th</sup> December



If you are able to help on any of these dates please complete the Volunteer Registration Form available in the school entrance or download from School Information, forms on the website.

## School Admissions

Kirklees Council have moved to an online only application process. Applications open on **1 September 2015 and close on 15 January 2016** for **Reception class** places from September 2016 (children born between 01/09/2011 and 31/08/2012) and for **Year 6/middle school** places from September 2016 (current Year 5).

Please visit <http://www.kirklees.gov.uk/community/parentsCarers/schools/admissions.aspx> for further information or email [schooladmissions@kirklees.gov.uk](mailto:schooladmissions@kirklees.gov.uk).



**DENBY DALE DRAGONS P.T.A.**

The PTA recently organised the first of many events for the school children which was the film night and in fitting with the time, a Halloween film of 'Hotel Transylvania'. The evening was fab and it was great to see so many of you bringing your children along. Almost everyone was wearing Halloween costumes too! We managed to raise £170 for the PTA funds!

Thank you to those of you who sent in your questionnaires, giving us an idea of what you would like to see the funding spent on. Although not a huge response, we are able to help ensure funds are allocated as you hope to see. Once a plan is in place, we will let you know where the funds will be going this year.

Now onto the next up and coming event. We will be holding a 'Santa brunch' on Saturday 12th December between 9-11am at the school. More to come out about this shortly, but it will be a morning of tea, coffee and a warm brunch as well as a special, special appearance by a special, special person, so be sure your children have their list ready to share!

We would also like to thank all of you for your contributions, we are very grateful for your help in ensuring we can continue to build on the great school we have!

And finally we'd like to take this opportunity to thank everyone involved with the PTA and their hard work. Lots of planning and organising goes into the events and everyone puts such a positive effort into every single event.

**Gemma Lennon-Chair**

## Community News

The recent opening of our new **Stay and Play** sessions has been a great success. These sessions take place in the Community Room on Monday and Thursday mornings, 9.15am-11.15am. They are led by Early Years professionals and children between the ages of 0-4 years (and their parents/carers!) have enjoyed exploring a variety of activities ranging from sensory experiences to large construction activities.

We have had positive feedback from parents/carers accessing the sessions and welcome further suggestions so that we can continue to enhance what we are offering. One of the suggestions/requests has been to enhance our outdoor provision. If anybody has any good quality outdoor toys they would be willing to donate we would be very grateful.

On the run up to Christmas the children will have the opportunity to engage in lots of fun craft activities. We will be having a Christmas Special Stay and Play on Monday 14<sup>th</sup> December. Places for this are limited so there will be a list for parents to register their child prior to the day.

Thank you to everyone who has helped to make this new service a success.

## Church Project

The children will be given the opportunity to partake in our church project. They will be creating a 3D scene of the popular Christmas Carol " Away in a Manger." The display will be on show in Denby Dale church from Friday the 4th December. The children will have the opportunity to visit the church to see their work.

On **Saturday 12<sup>th</sup> December** Denby Dale Pie Hall are hosting a Christmas Family Disco, 7.30pm-10pm- please refer to letter sent home earlier this week for further information.

Yours sincerely



J Wood  
Head Teacher

## Dates for your Diary

Tuesday 10 November	KS2 Sports Hall Athletics, Shelley College
Thursday 12 November	Reception Class Reading Meeting
Friday 13 November	Children in Need
Tuesday 17 November	KS2 Sports Hall Athletics Final, Shelley College
Monday 23 – Thursday 26 November	Book Fair, 3pm-3.30pm and (5pm-6pm in Dragonflies)
<u>Friday 27 November</u>	<u>INSET day – whole school and Dragonflies closed</u>
Tuesday 8 December	KS1 & 2 Christmas Concert 1.30pm & 6.30pm
Wednesday 9 December	KS1 & 2 Christmas Concert 6.30pm
Thursday 10 December	FSU Christmas Concert 2pm
Friday 11 December	Flu vaccinations for Year 1 and Year 2
Monday 14 December	Stay & Play Christmas Party with Rhythm Time
Wednesday 16 December	Pinocchio for FSU children
Thursday 17 December	Cinderella for KS1 & KS2 children
Friday 18 December	School closes for Christmas break
21 <sup>st</sup> -23 <sup>rd</sup> December	Christmas Holiday Club
4 <sup>th</sup> January	School and Dragonflies re-open
12 <sup>th</sup> February	School closes for half term break

## 2015 - 2016 Term Dates

### **Autumn Term:**

School and Dragonflies closed\*  
School re-opens  
School and Dragonflies closed\*  
School closes  
Dragonflies closes for Christmas

Monday 2<sup>nd</sup> November 2015  
Tuesday 3<sup>rd</sup> November 2015  
Friday 27<sup>th</sup> November 2015  
Friday 18<sup>th</sup> December 2015  
Wednesday 23<sup>rd</sup> December 2015, 6pm

### **Spring Term:**

School and Dragonflies re-open  
School closes for ½ term  
  
School re-opens  
School closes  
Dragonflies closed Good Friday  
Dragonflies closed Easter Monday

Monday 4<sup>th</sup> January 2016  
Friday 12<sup>th</sup> February 2016  
  
Monday 22<sup>nd</sup> February 2016  
Thursday 24<sup>th</sup> March 2016  
Friday 25<sup>th</sup> March 2016  
Monday 28<sup>th</sup> March 2016

### **Summer Term:**

School re-opens  
School and Dragonflies closed\*  
School and Dragonflies closed May Day  
School closes for ½ term  
Dragonflies closed Bank Holiday

Monday 11<sup>th</sup> April 2016  
Friday 29<sup>th</sup> April 2016  
Monday 2<sup>nd</sup> May 2016  
Friday 27<sup>th</sup> May 2016  
Monday 30<sup>th</sup> May 2016

School and Dragonflies closed\*  
School re-opens  
School closes

Monday 6<sup>th</sup> June 2016  
Tuesday 7<sup>th</sup> June 2016  
Wednesday 20<sup>th</sup> July 2016, 3pm

\* Please note: The above dates include 5 additional closure days for staff training.