



Newsletter Spring Term 1

6 January 2017

Dear Parents

Happy New Year! Welcome back to the Spring Term 2017; we hope you all had an enjoyable break. We are pleased to welcome Mrs Sara Lewis to our Admin team she will be working full time in the office and I hope you will make her feel welcome as she settles into her new role. I am sure she will be an asset to the team.

We are thankful that the weather has been relatively kind to us so far. However, in anticipation of the onset of more wintry weather we would like to revisit our procedures in the event of school closures. Should it be necessary to close the school urgently (e.g. severe weather, heating failure etc.) an announcement will be made on the school website (www.denbydale.education) and by text message, as well as the Kirklees website (www.kirklees.gov.uk) and local radio. We aim to have the text message sent and school website updated by 7.30am, but this is not always possible. The school website will then be updated throughout the day and any necessary texts sent.

A big thank you for your generous donations over the last half term; we raised £278.25 for the 2016 Poppy Appeal and our Scholastic Book fair gave us over £300 worth of books for school.

Children in Need day saw our school council baking a spotty cake for all children to guess the number of spots. There was also a bun sale at break time. The day proved very successful and we raised over £670.00! Thank you for your support.



We had a very busy festive season. The Key Stage 1 & 2 children performed "Super Star" and the Foundation Stage children performed the "Snowman at Sunset". There were collection tins at the end of each performance and a total of £275.27 was raised for The Forget-Me-Not Children's Hospice.



All our children enjoyed performances by Pyramid Productions Theatre Company and had a visit from Santa, who brought presents for every class.

On Monday 12th December the school choir visited 'The Denby', a local residential care home, where they entertained staff and residents with some Christmas music. The school recorder group played familiar carols accompanied by the choir, who also sang songs from the school Christmas production.



DENBY DALE DRAGONS P.T.A.

Thank you to everybody who attended the Santa's brunch on Saturday 3rd December, it was a very well attended and fun morning.

Did you know that you can collect free funds for school when you shop online using easyfundraising? It doesn't cost you a penny extra and you can access over 3,127 shops and retailers who will give us commission for your purchases. Please visit www.easyfundraising.org.uk for further information

Stay & Play

Parents/Carers and children enjoyed a Rhythm Time party and visit from Santa on Thursday 15th December. Sessions are running again this term 9.15am-11.15am on Mondays and Thursdays in the Community Room.



Once again we will be collecting Sainsbury's Active Kids vouchers, which will be available in store soon. Please hand any vouchers in to the school office.

Contacting School

Following our recent restructure we aim to simplify communication between school and parents. For all school and extended provision/Dragonflies queries parents should contact us on parents@denbydale.education or telephone 01484 866071



Please do not use staff's personal emails as some staff work part time and information/requests cannot be seen by other members of staff.

All paperwork should be placed in the grey Parent Post Box inside the main entrance or handed in at the school office and not to class teachers/keyworkers as it may be misplaced in the classroom.

School Admissions

Please be aware that all Reception Class and Year 6 places must be applied for. Being in our Nursery does not automatically give your child a place in our Reception Class.

Kirklees Council have moved to an online only application process. Applications open on **1 September 2016 and close on 15 January 2017** for **Reception class** places from September 2017 (children born between 01/09/2012 and 31/08/2013) and for **Year 6/middle school** places from September 2017 (current Year 5).

Please visit www.kirklees.gov.uk for further information or email schooladmissions@kirklees.gov.uk .

Allergies

Please can I remind all parents that we have a number of children with severe nut allergies and therefore aim to be a nut free school. Please be aware when providing packed lunches that some spreads and cereal bars contain nuts and avoid sending these products in to school.

Spring Term Topics and Activities



In the **Foundation Stage Unit**. We are anticipating Winter weather and are ready to investigate snow and ice when it arrives! We have plans to take wintry walks around the school grounds. Our other half term theme is “Mardi Gras” as we lead up to Shrove Tuesday. We will be learning about different countries and their cultures, food tasting and creating bands and parades.



Dragonflies will be focusing on communication and language skills. Using instruments alongside the story of “Going on a Bear Hunt” as a way of encouraging the children to remember places and sounds. Alongside this we have also created a small world snow scene with ice for the children to explore and create imaginary role play situations with others.



This half term **Year 1**'s topic is “Toys”. We will be investigating the different materials (wood, plastic, metal) used to make toys.



In Maths we will be learning to tell the time and solve simple money problems.



In **Year 2** the children's learning will be inspired by the topic “Flight”. We will be learning about famous pilots like the Wright brothers, discovering the history of aeroplanes, and creating detailed PowerPoints using our ICT skills. In addition to this we have 3D DT project to create our favourite type of plane whether it is an old glider or a modern jet.

In **Year 3** this half term we welcome a student teacher, Miss Bamforth to the class. She will be with us for 6 weeks from the 23rd January. We will be looking at France, the United Kingdom and the United States from a geographical and cultural perspective. In R.E. we will be considering what it means to be a Jew and as part of this we will be visiting the Sinai Synagogue in Leeds. We will look at the Anglo-Saxons as Settlers and Invaders of our island, as well as the legend of King Arthur in Literacy. To finish off this half term it is our class assembly on Friday 10th February.



In **Year 4** our topic theme this half term is “Dragons – Fact or fiction?”. We are hoping for a visit from an animal showperson who has many lizards to share, hold and talk about. We will be looking at Myths and Legends relating to dragons and debating reports relating to possible sightings.

Year 5’s topic this half term will be “Extreme Earth”. We will be exploring the diverse nature of the planet we live on and discovering the fierce and ever changing climate. The children will get the chance to create active volcanoes, become reporters from the scene of natural disasters and find out ways in which we, as human beings, have learned to protect ourselves from Mother Nature. The children will also be looking at the work of aid agencies and charities that work around the world helping others.



Holiday Club

Holiday club will be open to all age groups (2-5 years and 6-10 years) during February half term, week commencing Monday 20th February booking forms can be obtained from the school office. Places will be limited, so please ensure your form is returned no later than Friday 27th January.

Extra Curricular Activities this half term



Monday	3pm-4pm	Dance Club	Years 2,3 & 4
Tuesday	Lunchtime	Table Tennis	Years 4 & 5
Tuesday	3pm-4pm	Netball	Years 4 & 5
Tuesday	3pm-4pm	Crafty Kids	Years 3, 4 and 5
Wednesday	Lunchtime	Netball	Years 4 & 5
Wednesday	Lunchtime	Chess Club	Years 3, 4 & 5
Wednesday	3pm-4pm	Hockey	Years 3 & 4
Thursday	Lunchtime	Advanced Recorders	Years 3, 4 & 5
Thursday	Lunchtime	Table Tennis	Years 4 & 5
Thursday	3pm-4pm	Boys Football	Years 4 & 5

Yours sincerely

J Wood

Head teacher

Dates for your Diary

Wednesday 25 January	Year 5 SPICED parent information evening
Tuesday 31 January	KS1 Road Safety training
Wednesday 1 February	KS2 Road Safety training
Wednesday 1 February	Year 1 Multi-skills at Shelley College
Thursday 2 February	KS2 & EYFU Road Safety training
Friday 10 February	Year 3 Class Assembly

2016 - 2017 Term Dates

Spring Term:

School and Dragonflies closed Bank Hol.	Monday 2nd January 2017
School and Dragonflies re-open	<u>Tuesday</u> 3 rd January 2017
School closes for ½ term	Friday 17 th February 2017
School re-opens	Monday 27 th February 2017
School closes	Friday 7 th April 2017
Dragonflies closed Good Friday	Friday 14 th April 2017
Dragonflies closed Easter Monday	Monday 17 th April 2017

Summer Term:

School re-opens	Monday 24 th April 2017
School and Dragonflies closed May Day	Monday 1st May 2017
School closes for ½ term	Friday 26 th May 2017
Dragonflies closed Bank Holiday	Monday 29 th May 2017
<i>School and Dragonflies closed*</i>	<i>Monday 5th June 2017</i>
School re-opens	<u>Tuesday</u> 6 th June 2017
School closes	Friday 21 st July 2017
Dragonflies closed *	Monday 24 th July 2017
Dragonflies closed*	Tuesday 25 th July 2017
Dragonflies closed Bank Holiday	Monday 28 th August 017

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

2017-2018 Term dates are attached. However INSET days have not yet been confirmed for that year.