



Newsletter Autumn Term 1



08 September 2017

Dear Parents

Welcome to the new school year and our first newsletter of 2017-2018.

All the children are settling well and we are looking forward to all the exciting events and activities we have planned for the year. A list of dates and events is included in this letter for your information.

Our newsletters are distributed in the first week of each half term via email and will be available for you to view or download from the website (www.denbydale.education). Other letters and information are also sent via email and where these may contain vital information, such as trips information, reply slips, etc. a text will be sent to alert you to the message. You can reply or contact the office with general enquiries to parents@denbydale.education printed copies of all letters are available in the main entrance for you to help yourself.

Text messaging

From time to time you will receive a text message from the school with regard to emergency closure, reminders, updates and other important information. The service is a discreet, convenient, secure and reliable method of communication that will only be used to send messages, we cannot receive them. Please be assured that the service is free to you as a recipient of the message.

Text messages will be sent to the 1st mobile number that you listed on your child's emergency contact form. We only allow one mobile number per child for text messages. Please let the school office know if you wish to change the mobile number for this service.

Healthy Schools



We are proud to have gained Sainsbury's School Games Gold Standard for the school. This recognises our commitment to sporting activities and promoting healthy lifestyles. Last year Denby Dale First and Nursery School attended over 80% of the inter school competitions organised by the Shelley Sports Partnership as compared to 65% in the previous year.

As part of our promotion of good health and nutrition children from Y1 – Y5 can bring a snack to school for morning break if they would like. Snacks allowed at break time are fresh fruit or vegetables or plain breadsticks. Please note other snacks are not allowed in school.

Allergies

We have quite a number of children in school with severe allergies. For this reason we are a 'nut free' school and ask you not to send in products containing nuts in your child's healthy snacks and lunchboxes. Thank you for your understanding.

Mentions Assembly

Our first mentions assembly of the school year will be next Friday. In response to parental feedback I am pleased to say that if your child has earned a mention you will receive an invitation by text on Thursday afternoon inviting you to attend the assembly at 8.55am the following morning. If you are unable to attend the invitation is open to grandparents or other close relatives. Out of school achievements such as sporting certificates will still be recognised and valued by school and will be presented during other weekly assemblies.

Fund Raising

Just before we broke up in July we finally hit the £4,000 pound target needed to buy a pirate ship. This was a school council initiative and the children worked hard (with a little help from parents and staff) to raise money through events such as Crazy Hair Day and a weekly bun sale. Some very generous donations from parents who wish to remain anonymous meant that we reached the target earlier than expected. We are now in the process of organising the removal of the fort and the installation of the new ship. We will keep you informed of the progress.

School has also been presented with a cheque from the 'used-i-form' shop for £120. Thank you to Mrs Jenkinson for running the shop over the summer holidays.

Parent Consultation Days

Our parent consultation days for Y1-Y4 will be held during weeks commencing 18 September and 25 September. This will be a chance for the class teacher and you to discuss how you can work together to support your child's progress over the year. Appointment letters will be sent home next week.

Nursery and Reception will hold their consultation days after half term once the children have settled and baseline has been completed.

Parent Reminder

To ensure the safety and well-being of your child/children can you please inform the school office if there are any changes to normal collection arrangement (e.g. child going on a playdate, being collected by another parent or family member).

Local Trades

We are building our own portfolio of local tradespeople (such as plumbers, electricians, joiners, etc) that we can call as and when minor works are needed in school, rather than relying solely on the local authority. If you are, or could recommend, a local tradesperson that we could add to our contacts list please email the school office (office@denbydale.education) with details. Public liability insurance and basic risk assessments will need to be provided by anyone undertaking work within the school (Mrs Kimmings can provide further information about this when required).

Autumn Term Topics and Activities



In **Dragonflies**, we will be welcoming children back into nursery, including all our new starters. Our main focus will be building positive relationships, establishing routines and modelling play across the provision. Alongside this we will be looking at transport, linking this to the children's experiences throughout the Summer break. It would be lovely if parents could bring in photographs of day trips or holidays for their children to share at group time. The children will also have the opportunity to explore our small world train track, experiment with boats in the water tray and join in with favourite songs like "The wheels on the bus".



In **Butterflies** we are learning about 'Ourselves' and how we can all share, take turns and be a good friend. We are establishing our routines, with the older children helping the younger children by showing them how we do things. We are exploring the different areas in the FSU, both inside and outside. At group times, to help us all get to know each other better we will be playing lots of fun name games and during circle time, we will be playing listening games and learning to tune in to different sounds. We will be playing games with numbers 1-10, focusing on counting and number recognition.

With a wet forecast for September, it would be really helpful if you send your child in wellies with some shoes in their bag for inside. Shoes with Velcro or easy fastenings are better so that your child can be as independent as possible when changing footwear. **(Nursery/Reception children)**

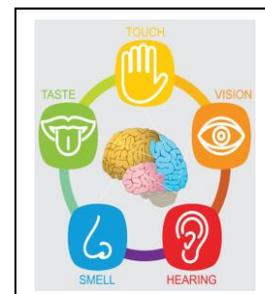
Just a reminder for Nursery children – please do not send drinks in bags. We have snack open throughout the sessions where your child can access milk or water. Also, the smaller the bag the better as our pegs are already getting rather cramped.



In Ladybirds (**Reception**) we are learning about 'Ourselves' alongside nursery. We are establishing our routines and learning how we do things. To help your child gain independence please let them carry their own book bag and water bottle, encourage them to find their own drawer in the morning and put their belongings away. We are exploring the different areas in the FSU area inside and out.

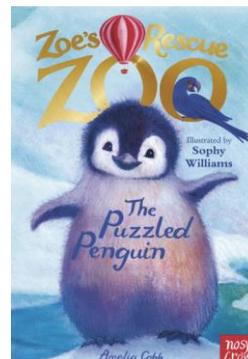
We will be using circle time activities to create and establish class goals, and encourage positive relationships. Very shortly we will begin our phonics so look out for emails regarding this. Reading books will be coming home after our reading meeting in October. Please try and come to this meeting as it is really important. We will be working hard on writing our names each day and doing Funky Finger activities to improve our fine motor skills. We will be playing games with numbers 1-20, focusing on counting and number recognition. PE will be on Thursday and Friday, please leave PE kits in school at all times as we may have other days when it is needed.

We have had an excellent start in **Year 1** and have been busy learning about the new routines and expectations now they have left the FSU. Our topic this half term is 'Ourselves' and the children will be engaged in a range of activities to help them investigate the 5 Senses and also recognise and explore different emotions.



We have begun Phonics and Reading activities in class. Further information about how you can support your child progress in **Year 1** will be available at the reading meeting in October and Parent Consultations at the end of September. Our class will have PE with a sports coach on Monday and Friday each week. Please ensure your child has both indoor and outdoor PE kits in school as either may be required, depending on the weather.

During the Autumn 1 term **Year 2** children's learning will be inspired by the topic 'Under the Sea'. We will be learning about different animals and their habitats. This is a great link to our novel, "The Puzzled Penguin", where children will deepen their knowledge around the topic. Within Literacy children will focus on a variety of writing tasks, such as poetry, shape poems and recounts. In Geography, the children will look at the five oceans on seven continents and what animals survive in such areas. Within music the children will be singing popular under the sea songs as well as creating their own instruments to make the music their own. Maths will focus on place value; counting in twos, fives and tens and then progressing onto addition and subtraction. In P.E the children will gain a variety of skills during their athletics, gymnastics and rugby sessions.



Welcome to **Year 3**, the children have all settled in well to the class routines and are already working hard so a good start to the new school year. The topic this terms is, 'Why are humans' animals too?' We will be looking at nutrition and the importance of animals eating the correct type and amount of food, and also the skeletons and muscles of humans and other animals. Within this topic we will also look at the 'cut-outs' by Henri Matisse and his interpretation of the human form and observational drawings of bones. During P.E we will observe how we use our muscles and skeleton to move and control our actions. In maths we will be consolidating the 3 and 4 times tables whilst also introducing the 6 and later 8 times tables. It is very important that these are also practised at home, maybe walking, or in the car, on the way to and from school.



Year 4 during this term the children will be inspired by the topic 'Battle of Britain'. We will be learning about evacuees, the blitz, rations and events through time. In addition to this we have a DT project to create robust Anderson shelters to protect ourselves and our families. Maths will focus on number, place value and Roman numerals. In P.E we will be focusing on gymnastics and athletics. In Literacy we shall look at descriptive language around 'The Lion the Witch and the Wardrobe'.



Year 5's topic this half term will be 'ANCIENT GREECE'. The children's literacy work will focus on a variety of the classical Greek myths and legends as well as the exciting world of Gods and Goddesses. Children, throughout the half term, will be given the opportunity to explore the influences this ancient civilisation has had on the world. Towards the end of the half term we will be having a Greek themed day where the children will be asked to come in, dressed as their favourite Greek God/Goddess or hero.



Extra Curricular Activities this half term

Monday	3-4pm	Gymnastics Club	Years 4 and 5
Wednesday	3-4pm	Athletics Club	Years 4 and 5
Thursday	3-4pm	Girls Football	Years 4 and 5
(14 th , 21 st and 28 th September only)			
Friday	3-4pm	Judo Club	Years 3, 4 and 5

Sporting Activities

There will be a Cross Country event for Years 4 and 5 at Thurstonland First School on Tuesday 12th September, 4pm-5pm. The Cross Country event for Years 2 and 3 will be at Shepley First School on Tuesday 19th September, 4pm-5pm. Further information is available from the school office (parents@denbydale.education).

School Admissions

Kirklees Council have moved to an online only application process. Applications open on **1 September 2017 and close on 15 January 2018** for **Reception class** places from September 2018 (children born between 01/09/2013 and 31/08/2014) and for **Year 6/middle school** places from September 2018 (current Year 5).

Please visit www.kirklees.gov.uk/admissions for further information or email pupiladmissions@kirklees.gov.uk .



Holiday Club

We are pleased to say that our summer holiday club was extremely successful and was enjoyed by the children and staff alike! Holiday club will be open to all age groups (2-5 years and 6-10 years) during the October half term break and booking forms can be obtained by contacting the office (parents@denbydale.education). Places will be limited, so please ensure your form is returned by Friday 29th September.



DENBY DALE DRAGONS P.T.A.

Next Meeting

Our next meeting is on Thursday 21st September at 6.00pm in the Community Room. This is our AGM and we will be planning fund raising events for this academic year. Everybody (parents/carers/grandparents) welcome.



Our **Stay and Play** sessions are running again every Monday and Friday from 9.15am to 11.15am for children aged 0 to 4 years. Please bring your child/ren along and join in the fun. Drinks and snacks will be provided (voluntary contribution £2). Monday's sessions can be accessed directly through the Community Room entrance door, which will be signposted. Friday's session is now in the Dragonflies building at the front of school.

Yours sincerely

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads 'Jackie Wood'. The signature is written in a cursive, flowing style.

J Wood
Head Teacher

Dates for your Diary

Tuesday 12 September	KS2 Cross-country, Thurstonland First School
Tuesday 19 September	KS1 Cross-country, Shepley First School
Wednesday 21 September	Individual Photos Yrs R – Yr 5 children
Thursday 22 September	Individual Photos Dragonflies and Nursery children
Thursday 21 September	PTA AGM @ 6.30pm
Tuesday 3 October	Girls football tournament @ Shelley College
Thursday 5 October	Harvest Festival
10 th -13 th October	Year 5 Bikeability
Wednesday 11 October	KS1 Indoor Athletics, Shelley College
Wednesday 11 October	Robin Wood Information Evening-Yr 5 (tbc)
Wednesday 18 October	Y2 Multi-skills, Shelley College
Thursday 19 October	Reading Meeting Reception and Year 1

Autumn Term:

School re-opens	Tuesday 5 th September 2017
School closes for ½ term	Friday 20 th October 2017
<i>School and Dragonflies closed*</i>	<i>Monday 30th October 2017</i>
School re-opens	<u>Tuesday</u> 31 st October 2017
School closes	Friday 22 nd December 2017
<i>Dragonflies closes for Christmas</i>	<i>Friday 22nd December 2017, 6pm</i>

Spring Term:

Dragonflies re-opens	<u>Tuesday</u> 2 nd January 2018
School re-opens	Monday 8 th January 2018
School closes for ½ term	Friday 16 th February 2018
School re-opens	Monday 26 th February 2018
School closes	Thursday 29 th March 2018
<i>Dragonflies closed Good Friday</i>	<i>Friday 30th March 2018</i>
<i>Dragonflies closed Easter Monday</i>	<i>Monday 2nd April 2018</i>

Summer Term:

School re-opens	Monday 16th April 2018
School and Dragonflies closed May Day	Monday 7th May 2018
School closes for ½ term	Friday 25 th May 2018
Dragonflies closed Bank Holiday	Monday 28 th May 2018
School and Dragonflies closed*	Monday 4 th June 2018
School re-opens	<u>Tuesday</u> 5 th June 2018
School closes	Friday 20th July 2018
Dragonflies closed*	Monday 23rd July 2018
Dragonflies closed*	Tuesday 24 th July 2018
Dragonflies closed Bank Holiday	Monday 27 th August 2018

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