



Newsletter Autumn Term 2

03 November 2017

Dear Parents

We hope you had a restful half term break.

I would like to 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.

Following on from the school council's fundraising events earlier this year and parent donations. We are pleased to say the removal of the fort and the installation of the Pirate Ship will be happening week commencing the 13th November. During the installation, part of the playground will be out of bounds. Thank you very much for all of your contributions and support.



We will be holding an assembly on the 9th November for **Remembrance Day**, including a minute's silence. Poppies, wristbands etc. are available for children to buy in school between now and then.

Children in Need is almost upon us! Friday 17th November, the theme is the 'Big Spotacular'. The school council have suggested that children can choose to dress up with as many spots as you possibly can or transform into Pudsey.

Please can you donate your spottiest cakes and biscuits and bring them into school on Friday 17th November. As usual, we are asking for a minimum donation of £2 to take part in all the activities and wear non-uniform, dress up.

In addition a variety of Pudsey items will be on sale throughout the week. Thank you for your support.



Outside Area

Thank you so much to the small working party of parents who came to help sweep up the leaves around school. If you ever have a few spare minutes to do some sweeping for us, we would be very grateful.

Jewellery

Please remember that children are only allowed to wear stud or sleeper earrings in school. All jewellery must be removed prior to PE lessons. Earrings must be removed by the pupil. Responsibility cannot be taken by the teacher for loss or breakage of jewellery or watches.

Autumn Term Topics and Activities



In **Dragonflies** the children will be exploring the idea of Light and Dark. They will have the opportunity to experiment with torches and shadows in our dark den. We will be exploring colour, using a range of media to create marks including dark, shallow sand on foil trays, paint pouches, pastels and large scale powder paints in the outdoor area. Our focus story for the coming weeks will be "Whatever Next", the children can enjoy recreating this story in our role play area and create their own rockets to take them to the moon!

In **Nursery** this half term will be a very busy one as we are continuing to learn about 'Ourselves' before we start working hard on our Christmas production! We will still be thinking about Autumn and discussing the children's experiences of Bonfire night and fireworks (colours, light and dark). Please feel free to send in some pictures so we can share them with the children. We are working hard with hearing the initial sounds in words and having a go at writing our names (even if it is just a few marks on the page). We are still working hard with our counting and will also be thinking about shapes and weight.

Please can you try and send your child with a small, preferably drawstring bag. We are limited for space, especially now with more bulky winter coats. The children are finding it very difficult to hang their coats on their pegs. There is no need to send your child with a drink as they have access to milk and water throughout each session at the snack table. If they are thirsty, they can ask at any point for a drink of water. Please can you try and send your child with 'easy fasten' shoes e.g. Velcro. This helps the children to be independent but also helps us if shoes need putting back on quickly.



Reception will be doing some work around the theme of Autumn. We will be responding to experiences such as bonfires and fireworks through art, design, dance, drama and language. In phonics we will be building and learning our phase two tricky words. In mathematics we are working hard to read write and order numbers to ten and beyond. We will be doing some simple additional as well. Please check all your children's belongings are labelled.

This term in **Year 1** we are continuing to explore stories set at night. We will be investigating light and dark and our starting point for this will be 'The owl who was afraid of the dark'. We will be setting up a black out tent in the classroom.

You can help your child in numeracy by helping them to read, write and spell numbers 1 to 10 (e.g. 1, one, 2, two) with all the numerals/letters facing the correct way. They will need to write numbers as words in their assessments this half term.

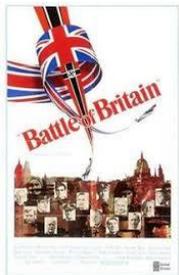
In literacy we will be learning about adjectives and nouns and identifying these in our reading and writing.



This half term in **Year 2** we are looking at 'Space and Transport', focussing directly on The Wright Brothers and Neil Armstrong. Within both History and Literacy, we will discover the life events that were unfolded around these historic moments. Linking to this is our Design and Technology, where the children will be creating aeroplanes/gliders that the Wright Brothers famously built. Our science sessions will be surrounding everyday materials and their uses. Maths will be focussed on addition and subtraction.

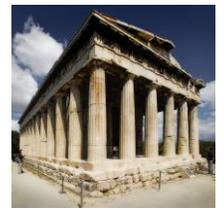


In **Year 3** this half term we will be listening to the song 'I've been everywhere' by Johnny Cash and 'Route 66' by Chuck Berry to introduce our Geography topic: The Great America Road Trip. This topic will travel through the North and South American continents and distinguish between the terms 'continent', 'county', state and city along the journey. We will compare the built environments and the landscape, and through that identify some key regions of the American continents. We will be reading the book 'The Miraculous Journey of Edward Tulane' written by Kate DiCamillo. The book is about a toy rabbit who not only embarks on an unexpected journey through different parts of America but also discovers his own personal journey of what it means to love and be loved.



In **Year 4** this half term the children's learning will be inspired by the topic 'Battle of Britain'. We will continue our learning looking at the Blitz and how the war came to an end. In addition to this, we have an art project to research Sophy Bristol, practising her style and creating our own masterpieces.

Year 5 will be continuing their exploration of the Ancient Greek civilisation this half term. The children will be writing descriptive poetry based on 'The Illiad' and other stories of the Trojan War as well as exploring the 'daily life' of a range of people during this period in history. The children will be putting into practice their singing and other musical talents when rehearsing and performing a variety of songs. The songs stem from a range of music genres that tell the story of Paris and Helen!



Holiday Club

Holiday club will be open to all age groups (2-5 years and 6-10 years) from Tuesday 2nd to Friday 5th January 2018. Booking forms are available in the main entrance or by email to parents@denbydale.education . Places will be limited and allocated on a first come; first served basis so please ensure your form is returned no later than Friday 8th December 2017.



Extra Curricular Activities this half term

Monday	3-4pm	Tennis	Years 4 and 5 (last one 18.12.17)
Monday	3-4pm	Crafty Kids	Years 1 – 5 (last one 11.12.17)
Tuesday	3-4pm	Fencing	Years 3, 4 and 5 (last one 19.12.17)
Wednesday	3-4pm	Dance Club	Years 3, 4 and 5 (last one 22.11.17)

Sporting Activities

There will be a Key Stage 2 Sports Hall Athletics event at Shelley College on Tuesday 7th November, 1pm-3pm. The final will take place on Tuesday 14th November at Shelley College.

There is also a Dance Festival on Tuesday 28th November 4 – 5.15pm at Shelley College, for those who attend the Dance Club. Further information available from the school office (parents@denbydale.education).

Driving & Parking

Please remember to drive safely close to school and park considerately, leaving the yellow zig zag lines, neighbours' driveways and the bus routes at the junction to Pingle Rise clear.



DENBY DALE DRAGONS P.T.A.

The children have worked very hard over the past few weeks designing Christmas Cards which you will be able to purchase and send to friends and family, I hope you will agree that the quality of artwork produced is excellent and that you will support the school in this fundraising effort.

In this half term we will be holding a film night on the 15th November and our usual Santa Brunch, details of which will be issued very soon.

The PTA would like to thank you all for your continued support in helping us raise much needed funds for our school and we are always looking for new members to strengthen our team so please let Sara in the office know if you would like to join us.

30 Hours Free Early Education and Childcare for 3 and 4 year olds.

As you are probably aware, we now offer 30 hours Free Early Education and Childcare for eligible families.

Parents must apply for the additional free hours through the Government's national online website www.childcare.tax.service.gov.uk (parents do not need to apply through the online service if they only want to claim the universal 15 hours entitlement for 3 and 4 year olds). If you are eligible you will be issued with an eligibility code which you must enter on to the attached '30 Hours Free Childcare – Eligibility Check Consent Form' and hand to the school office. We will then be able to check and validate the code with Kirklees and formally offer you a funded 30 hour place, subject to availability. We would encourage you to go online to obtain your eligibility code as soon as possible as applications must be validated the term before you wish to claim the place. Eligibility codes are issued from the date the eligibility decision is made by HMRC not the date of application. Although many parents are likely to receive a quick decision from HMRC some cases may take several weeks.

Those parents who already access the 30-hour funding need to re-confirm their eligibility with HMRC before their 'Validity End Date' (parents need to reconfirm every 3 months). You can still reconfirm your eligibility, even if you have missed the deadline, through your 'Childcare Service Account' <https://www.gov.uk/sign-in-childcare-account> If you completed your original application with HMRC over the phone you need to phone the 'Customer Interaction Centre' to reconfirm your eligibility on 0300 123 4097.

Please contact the school office if you need further information.

Stay and Play

Our sessions will continue to run between 9.15 and 11.15 every Monday and Friday. Children will have the opportunity to access a wide range of provision including craft, small world and rhyme time. There is also a soft play area with sensory fun for babies.

We will be holding our Christmas Party towards the end of term, details will be displayed shortly. Our booking list will be available over the coming weeks so please book your place early to avoid disappointment.

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.

Kirklees Parks

The public engagement part of the Kirklees councils play strategy review is now starting and everyone is invited to fill in a questionnaire and attend an event. This gives everyone an opportunity to go along and discuss the playable spaces near to where you live. Dates are attached.

The survey is <https://www.snapsurveys.com/wh/s.asp?k=150591065381>

Yours sincerely



J Wood
Head Teacher

Dates for your Diary

Tuesday 7 November	KS2 Sports Hall Athletics, Shelley College
Wednesday 8 November	Tennis Trials Years R – Yr1
Wednesday 8 November	E-safety Event Scissett Middle School 6pm – 8pm
Thursday 9 November	Remembrance Assembly
W/C Monday 13 November	Anti-Bullying Week
Tuesday 14 November	KS2 Sports Hall Athletics Final, Shelley College
Friday 17 November	Children in Need
W/C Monday 27 th November	Balance ability - Reception
Thursday 14 December	School Christmas Dinner
Tuesday 19 December	EYFU Performance @ 9.30 am
Tuesday 19 December	KS1 & 2 Christmas Event 6.30pm (details to follow)
Thursday 21 December	EYFU Christmas Panto 9.30 am
Thursday 21 December	KS1 & 2 Christmas Panto 1.45 pm
Friday 22 December	School closes for Christmas Break
Tuesday 2 – Friday 5 th January	Holiday Club

Spring Term:

Dragonflies re-opens	Tuesday 2nd January 2018
School re-opens	Monday 8th 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
Dragonflies closed Good Friday	Friday 30 th April 2018
Dragonflies closed Easter Monday	Monday 2nd April 2018

Summer Term:

School re-opens	Monday 16 th April 2018
School and Dragonflies closed May Day	Monday 7 th 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 20 th July 2018
Dragonflies closed*	Monday 23 rd 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