



## Newsletter Spring Term 1

12 January 2018

Dear Parents

Happy New Year! Welcome back to the Spring Term 2018; we hope you all had an enjoyable break.

At Christmas, we said a fond farewell to Mrs Sipka and we wish her all the best in her retirement. This week, we have welcomed two new members of staff, Mrs Pogson and Dr Biggs who will be working across the school, teaching and supporting different classes.

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](http://www.denbydale.education)) and by text message, as well as the Kirklees website ([www.kirklees.gov.uk](http://www.kirklees.gov.uk)) and local radio. The school website will 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 £216.40 for the 2017 Poppy Appeal. The Children In Need theme The 'Big Spotacular' with spotty buns and cakes sold in the day proved very successful and we raised over £512.79! Thank you for your support.



We had a very busy festive season. The Key Stage 1 & 2 carols around the tree evening was a huge success. The Foundation Stage children performed the "Nativity". There were collection tins at the end of the performance and a total of £176.80 was raised for The Forget-Me-Not Children's Hospice. Thank you.

On Monday 18th December the school choir visited 'The Denby', a local residential care home, where they entertained staff and residents with some Christmas music.

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

Santa's brunch on Saturday 9th December, was a very well attended and fun morning.



DENBY DALE DRAGONS P.T.A.

At Christmas, we also said a huge thank you to Kelly Scollick who is now resigning from running the School's P.T.A. She has organised many school events and raised lots of funds, as well as contributing so much to making social events fun and enjoyable. Thank you Kelly.

## Stay & Play

Parents/Carers and children enjoyed a Pyjama Drama party and visit from Santa on Monday 18<sup>th</sup> December. Sessions are running again this term 9.15am – 11.15am on Mondays and Fridays in the Community Room.

## 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 2017 and close on 15 January 2018** 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](http://www.kirklees.gov.uk) for further information or email [schooladmissions@kirklees.gov.uk](mailto: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.

## Nursery Reminder

Children are finding it hard to access their own bag and coats are falling onto the floor due to bulky bags. We would really appreciate it if you child's bag could be a pump bag style with drawstrings (these can be purchased from school). This helps our children to be independent as possible.

Thank you for your support.

## Absences

Please remember to report all absences to the school office by **9.15am** on the morning of your child's absence. It is important that infectious illnesses are reported to school so that we can monitor any outbreaks.

## Mentions Assembly

Reminder to parents the assembly starts at 8.55am so we ask that parents come round to the front entrance as soon as the children have been dropped off at their classroom. Parents are seated in the hall first and then the children come in. Once the children are in the hall we cannot let parents in as it disturbs the assembly. Please make sure that mobile phones are turned off or are on silent during the assembly. Although we understand that you may want to take photos of your child/ren we cannot allow filming or photographs during the assembly as we have vulnerable children in school. However if you would like to stay at the end of the assembly you can take a photo of your child on the bench with their sticker.



## 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 19<sup>th</sup> 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 26<sup>th</sup> January.

# Spring Term Topics and Activities



Dragonflies will be focusing on communication and language skills. The children will have the opportunity to join in with ice investigations and explore the use of ice in mark marking activities. To extend this focus the children can engage in small world polar play in the water tray, individually or with friends and share stories in our wintery reading area. In the outdoor area we will be looking at “We’re Going on a Bear Hunt”, the children can use movements alongside language and join in with repeated refrains.

In the **Foundation Stage Unit** we will be about winter and cold places. The children will have chance to investigate ice in different ways and explore any winter weather when it arrives! Outside we will be working on bat and ball skills and ‘keeping warm’ in the cold. Reception will be looking at non-fiction about animals that live in cold places such as polar bears and penguins. Nursery will be reading Traditional Tales and will enjoy role-play and re-telling stories with puppets. We will all be learning some simple poems, rhymes and songs about winter too. Towards the end of the half term we will be learning about Chinese New Year and how it is celebrated.



Nursery would like to welcome our new children. They are settling well and learning all the new routines. During the cold weather the children are having lots of practice at putting their coats on independently and trying hard to fasten their own zips. Keep up the good work!

Our topic in **Year 1** will be Toys. The children will be investigating different types of toys, how they work and what they are made from. They will be comparing toys from long ago with toys from the present day.

In order to support your child's learning we will be having a toy sharing day when your child will be asked to bring an interesting toy to school. Details will follow shortly.

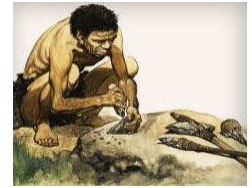


Please note that PE is now on Mondays (Football) and Wednesdays (Dance). Please ensure the children have both indoor and outdoor PE kit in school all week.



The topic this term in **Year 2** is ‘The Great Fire of London’. We will be exploring a variety of aspects to spark off the children’s imagination. In literacy we will be looking at diaries, newspaper articles, poems and descriptive settings. In maths we will be looking at multiplication, division and fractions. We will be looking further into everyday materials in science and carrying out experiments. In art/design technology we will be creating model houses mirroring those during the Great Fire of London and creating a range of art work by exploring different media. The facts and stages of the fire will be discussed during our history sessions.

**Year 3** This half term we will be travelling back to the Stone Age when we will look at the time before the Romans and changes in Britain from the Stone Age to the Iron Age. We will be researching how the historians have learnt about the Stone Age and also thinking about how they lived, ate, cooked and hunted.



To compliment this our science topic is Rocks and Fossils. We will investigate simple geological features, learn about the three main classes of rock and name some common types of rock. We will study how fossils are formed and try and make our own fossils. We will walk around the village looking at uses of stone in the local area and I am trying to arrange for a local fossil expert to come and show us his collection.



In **Year 4** the children's learning will be inspired by the topic 'Ancient Egypt'. We will be learning about the ancient civilisation looking at mummification and hieroglyphics. In addition to this, our science project will cover states of matter, researching evaporation and condensation within the water cycle. In Maths, we will look at measurement and data handling. Literacy will be linked through Ancient Egypt looking at stories from other cultures

**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 be exploring North and South America, becoming reporters from the scene of natural disasters and learning about night and day as well the time zones that cover our planet. Our Maths work will focus around fractions, decimals and percentages.



### Extra Curricular Activities this half term



Monday	3pm-4pm	Netball	Years 4 & 5
Tuesday	3pm-4pm	Hockey	Years 2, 3 & 4
Wednesday	Lunchtime	Tennis	Years 3, 4 & 5
Wednesday	Lunchtime	Dance	Years 3, 4 & 5
Wednesday	3pm-4pm	Boys Football	Years 4 & 5
Wednesday	3pm-4pm	Bricks4Kidz	Years R & 1
Thursday	3pm-4pm	CSI Club	Years 1 & 2
Thursday	3pm-4pm	Crafty Kids	All Years

Yours sincerely

*J Alderson*

Acting Head teacher

## Dates for your Diary

Wednesday 17 January	Year 5 SPICED parent information evening
Tuesday 23 January	Year 1 & 2 Road Safety training
W/C 5 February – 16 February	Parent Consultations EYFU, KS1 & KS2
Wednesday 14 February	Year 1 Multi-skills at Shelley College
Thursday 15 February	Year 1 Class Assembly
Thursday 15 February	Valentines Disco
W/C Monday 26 <sup>th</sup> February	Reading Week
Friday 2 March	World Book Day

## 2017 - 2018 Term Dates

### **Spring Term:**

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

### **Summer Term:**

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

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