



Newsletter Summer Term 1

20 April 2018

Dear Parents

Welcome back to the Summer Term 2018. We hope you had an enjoyable Easter break and that the weather remains favourable.

Year 5 returned safely from their residential visit to Robin Wood Activity Centre in Todmorden. They had a fun packed 3 days of outdoor activities.

Thank you to all parents who were able to join us for our Easter bonnet parade. The children all looked fantastic in their Easter hats; designs were inspired and it was lovely to hear the children perform their Easter songs with enthusiasm. Thank you, also, to our PTA parents for serving refreshments in the community room beforehand.



DENBY DALE DRAGONS P.T.A.

The Easter bonnet parade raised £18.77
Thank you to everybody who attended.

The school book fair provided lots of quality books for school and also raised £69.65, thank you to those that kindly donated your books.

A final thank you for your support with our fund raising for Sports Relief. A total of £466.11 was raised!

Thursday 26th April is Film Night, short films and cartoons for KS1 and Paddington Bear 2 for KS2.

Volunteers

Are you interested in becoming a Reading Friend? Kirklees are offering free training to parents/community members to provide effective reading support in schools.

Reading Friends is a paired reading project which involves adult volunteers giving up an hour of their time per week to read with pupils in Kirklees schools. During the hour, volunteers will support two pupils for the duration of a term (av 8-10 weeks). If you are interested please call into the school office for more details.

Summer Term Topics and Activities



Over the next half term the **Dragonflies** children will be looking at the basic idea of growth and change. Initially the children will have the opportunity to explore the compost and develop their larger motor skills through diggings, this will lead onto a more structured activity where the children will be planting their own sun flower seed and creating a small herb garden. Continuing with the idea of growth and change, the children will be enjoying “The Very Hungry Caterpillar” and “5 Little Speckled Frogs”. We have our very own caterpillars coming to Nursery so that the children can observe their transformation first hand and let them go into our herb garden as butterflies. This will stretch throughout the provision and opportunities for number games in the water tray, fruit tasting and symmetrical butterfly prints are just a few of the activities that the children can access independently throughout the session.



FSU This half term we will continue our work on “People and Places”. Hopefully spring has now arrived and we will be observing the environment and how it is changing. There will be spring walks and opportunities to spot the different signs of spring. Mrs Wallace has worked very hard for us and made some raised beds for planting seeds. The children will be able to plant, care and observe the changes as they grow. We are thinking about the “Life Cycle of Frogs” so please be on the lookout for frog spawn/tadpoles when you are out and about. Please let us know if you find any!

Nursery will be thinking about “Rhythm and Rhyme” and listening to stories by Julia Donaldson. We will be looking at shapes and investigating with them in our environment. Counting one to one and number recognition will also be ongoing.

Reception

In phonics the children will continue to work on phase three sounds and tricky words. We will be retelling and writing stories. Counting, ordering and adding and subtracting to twenty. We will also be looking at the properties of shapes. In PE we will be concentrating on outdoor games.



This half term the children in **Year 1** will be investigating plants and animals within the school grounds and local area, observing how they grow and change. We will go for a walk in the woods to identify different types of plants and animals and look for similarities and differences. The date of the walk will depend on the weather, we will send details out nearer the time. We will be retelling and reading Traditional Tales such as Jack and the Beanstalk and Little Red Riding Hood. We will be using adjectives to describe the characters and settings.

In **Year 2** this half term we will be looking at “Memories”. This will aid the children’s writing in literacy as the focus will be short stories based on their own memories/events. In DT the children will be making their own memory boxes which they will be able to keep and treasure. In history, the children will look into real events and create timelines. Plants will be the key focus in our science lessons, the children will make predications, plant seeds and observe these in a variety of conditions.



Our **Year 3** science topic this term will be the “Outdoor Classroom” we will investigate parts of a plant and what plants need to grow, looking at habitats in the school grounds that do, and do not provide these requirements. In art we will study famous landscape artists and their techniques then apply what we have learnt to our own art of the local environment. As part of our humanities topic – The Vikings, we will be visiting Jorvik and The Dig (The Archaeological Resources Centre). In geography we will look at where the Vikings came from and their route to Great Britain, we will consider what is required to establish a settlement and the importance of natural resources in the local area. We will search for evidence of Viking settlements in the local area by researching place names.



Year 4 the children’s learning will be inspired by the topic “Rainforests”. We will continue our learning about a range of animals and their habitats. Focusing on South America and the UK, we will investigate the effects of deforestation and how we can work together to make a difference. We shall investigate how it affects the land as well as contributing towards global warming. In maths, we will look at fractions and decimals. Literacy will be linked to South America looking at stories from other cultures. We shall continue to do paired reading with Year 2 partners. In P.E we will be enjoying cricket, rounders and swimming.



This half term promises to be an extremely busy yet exiting and memorable time for **Year 5**. We will be exploring a topic of “Children in Victorian Britain” this half term. The children’s literacy work will focus on developing non-fictional writing skills by delving into the world of persuasive writing where they will have to use ALL their powers of persuasion. If you have any resources that could help us with our Victorian topic then please send them in. During our numeracy work, we will be focussing on statistics and measurement. During science, the children will be working scientifically to describe the life process of reproduction in some plants and animals as well as describing the differences in the life cycles of a mammal, an amphibian, an insect and a bird.

Extra Curricular Activities

Monday	3pm-4pm	Dance Club	Years 2, 3 and 4
Monday	3pm-4pm	Archery	Years 2, 3 and 4
Tuesday	3pm-4pm	Tag Rugby	Years 4 and 5
Wednesday	3pm-4pm	Rounders	Years 4 and 5
Wednesday	3pm-4pm	Bricks4Kidz	Years R and 1
Thursday	3pm-4pm	Cricket	Years 4 and 5



Holiday Club

Holiday club will be open to all age groups (2-5 years and 6-10 years) during Spring Bank half term and booking forms are available in the main entrance or by contacting the school office. Places will be limited, so please ensure your form is returned **no later than Friday 4th May**.

Outdoor Activities

As we head into the summer months, please make sure that children are sent with labelled sunhats and water bottles every day throughout the week. We would advise that sunscreen is applied before the children come to school and, if necessary, that they bring in sun cream in a labelled bottle for lunchtimes, etc. However, as we are sure you will appreciate, it would be extremely time consuming for teachers to apply protection for every child in their class. We would prefer it if you could teach your child how to apply their own and also talk to them about the importance of staying in the shade during hot weather. However, if your child stays with us all day in the Nursery, we will re-apply their sun cream at lunchtime. Please send Nursery children in summer shoes that are sturdy and can easily be fastened, preferably Velcro.

We will also be spending more time outside for PE and curriculum activities over the coming months and the Reception to Year 5 children will need both indoor and outdoor PE kit (including pumps/trainers). Please can you also ensure all clothing is clearly labelled as cardigans, sweatshirts and jackets are often left outside.

Parking

Once again we are experiencing numerous problems with parking, particularly around school drop-off and pick up times. Please can we ask you to park considerately, leaving the yellow zig-zag lines, neighbours' driveways and the bus routes at the junction to Pingle Rise clear.

There are two designated drop-off spaces in the school car park for parents to use when dropping off or collecting children from our Dragonflies extended provision. If the designated spaces are full please use the spaces at the top of the car park. However, the car park is **NOT ACCESSIBLE** between 8.30 am – 9.00 am and 2.45 pm – 3.30 pm. The only other people using the car park between 8.30 am and 3.30pm should be staff, parents with specific permission from the school and deliveries. No children should be in the car park unsupervised.

Smoking

Can I please remind you that we are a non-smoking school, smoking is not permitted within the school grounds.

Yours sincerely



J Wood
Head Teacher

Dates for your Diary

Tuesday 24 April	High 5 Netball Tournament
Wednesday 25 April	Year 3 Jorvik Centre and the Dig
Thursday 26 th April	Film Night KS1 & KS2
Tuesday 1 May	Years R & 1 Cross Country at Highburton First
Tuesday 8 May	KS2 Cycling Event at Scissett Middle School
Tuesday 15 May	KS1 Cycling Event at Scissett Middle School
Thursday 24 May	Reception Class Assembly
Tuesday 22 May	KS2 Tag Rugby Tournament at Scissett Middle School
Tuesday 5 June	KS2 Kwik Cricket
Tuesday 12 June	Swimming Gala
Tuesday 12 June	KS2 Rounders at Shelley College
Tuesday 19 June	Year 3 Get Active Day
Tuesday 26 June	Year 4 Get Active Day

School and Dragonflies closed May Day

School closes for ½ term

Dragonflies closed Bank Holiday

Dragonflies Holiday Club

School and Dragonflies closed

School re-opens

School closes

School and Dragonflies closed

Dragonflies Holiday Club

Dragonflies closed Bank Holiday

School and Dragonflies closed

School re-opens

Monday 7th May 2018

Friday 25th May 2018

Monday 28th May 2018

Tuesday 29th May-Friday 1st June

Monday 4th June 2018

Tuesday 5th June 2018

Friday 20th July 2018, 3pm

Monday 23rd & Tuesday 24th July 2018

Wednesday 25th July to Friday 1st September 2018

Monday 27th August 2018

Monday 3rd September 2018

Tuesday 4th September 2018

Pupil Occasional Holiday dates for 2018 – 2019

School will be closed to all children on the following dates: -

Monday 3rd September 2018

Monday 5th November 2018

Friday 30th November 2018

Monday 3rd June 2019

Monday 22nd July 2019