



DALE HOUSE SCHOOL

NEWSLETTER 1 – SEPTEMBER 2016



DEAR PARENT/GUARDIAN

Welcome to our Michaelmas Term (Autumn) 2016/17. Hello to all our parents, and a very special welcome to all our new parents and pupils. All the new children have settled in well and the returning children are enjoying their new form groups, teachers and time-tables. This year staff have planned a variety of interesting and exciting events which started with a Puzzle Day on Wednesday 14th September which was enjoyed by both children and Staff.

This week all pupils began their first full week of their new school timetables, which are displayed on the parent's notice-board in each classroom.

As pupils move from Nursery and Prep into the Transition/Y1 class, Year 1/2 class, Year 3/4 class and Year 5/6 class (children stay in these classes for two academic years), parents will notice that children are being taught by their Form Teachers and teachers who specialise in or have a flair for certain subjects, e.g. Mrs Willis – Music; Mrs Copley – Music, PE & RE; Mrs Fletcher – English, Drama, History & Special Needs; Mrs Walton – French, Spanish & Pupil Support Lessons and Miss Windows – Spanish.

We give a warm welcome to our new members of staff in their first week. Miss Mears-Sykes who joins us as Lower Prep 1/2 class teacher alongside Mrs Jeffery and Mr Mather our New Upper Prep Y3 teacher. Mrs Plowman, Transition Class Leader, is now the proud mum of a lovely little boy and she and her husband send their thanks to everyone for their gifts and best wishes. We also say goodbye to Mrs Jeffery who takes up her maternity leave at the end of this week.

Mrs S.M.G. Fletcher
Headmistress

FRIENDS OF DALE HOUSE

NEXT MEETING – Tuesday 11th October 2016
at 6.30pm (approx 1 hour)

The 'Friends of Dale House' Parents Association have supported the school for 17 years now, helping to raise funds for the benefit of our pupils.

We would like to thank all parents, grandparents and helpers for all their hard work and excellent efforts.

We need more parents from all year groups to come to the meetings and give their support, ideas and opinions. The next meeting will be on Tuesday 11th October. Please come to the main reception door by 6.30pm and you will be made very welcome. Tea, juice, coffee and biscuits will be available free of charge. We look forward to seeing you there!

ART COMPETITION FOR ALL PUPILS Week Commencing 17th October (£2 entry fee)

Please encourage your child to take part in our great Autumn Art Competition. All pupils are to make a picture entitled 'Autumn Animals' e.g. dormice, hares, rabbits, owls, squirrels, hedgehogs or a Halloween picture using any sorts of materials or fabrics, plastic, paper, real leaves, twigs, seeds, felt-tips, crayons, paint etc. The £2 entry fees goes towards prizes.

Please let your children make their own creations – no help from mums, dads, brothers, sisters, grandmas, granddads, etc!!! Please bring the work into school on Monday 17th October.

Years 1-6 SUPERHEROES EVENING Thursday 3rd November 2016 at 3.30pm

Our 2016 Superheroes Evening event will be on the afternoon of Thursday 3rd November, from 3.30pm to 5.15pm in the School Hall.

Children from years Transition - Y6 are invited to come along and join in a variety of fun activities throughout the evening, dressed as their favourite Superhero. Tickets will be on sale very soon at a cost of £5 which will include the evening's activities, a snack and a drink!

Children will bring their superhero outfits in to school in clearly labelled bags and change into them at 3.30pm.

CHRISTMAS FAIR – DONATIONS PLEASE Bring on the non-uniform day: Friday 21st October

PLEASE NOTE: THE CHRISTMAS FAIR THIS YEAR WILL AGAIN BE ON FRIDAY AFTERNOON, 18th NOVEMBER 2016, FROM 2.30PM TO 4.30PM.

Can parents please start collecting as many of the following items as they can for the Christmas Fair! (Please keep these at home for now): If you also wish to send in a raffle prize, please do

Classes LP1/2 and Transition/Y1: Clean jam jars/ coffee jars/ etc, filled with small items such as gifts, trinkets, treats, sweets, pretty hair clips, ribbons, etc. for the Jam Jar Bazaar.

All Classes: Soft toys in a good, clean condition for the Soft Toy Tombola.

Prep and Nursery Classes: Christmas food items to go into a Christmas Hamper – Christmas sweets, chocolates, biscuits, etc.

PARENTS EVENINGS

Tuesday 18th & Wednesday 19th October 2016

Parents Evenings will take place on Tuesday 18th and Wednesday 19th October 2016, from 4.00pm to 6.30pm. Full details to follow. **Please note that there will be no Activity Clubs or Homework Club on these nights. The Late Room will be open to 6.00pm as usual. Pupils are NOT allowed to attend Parents' Evenings.**

PARENTS OF YEAR 2 PUPILS INFORMATION EVENING ABOUT THE JUNIOR SCHOOL (Mrs Jeffery's/ Miss I Mears- Sykes Class)

Tuesday 8th November 2016 at 6.30pm

There will be a Parents' Evening on Tuesday 8th November, from 6.30pm to 7.30pm. This is for the parents of children currently in Year 2 (Mrs Jeffery's class) who will be entering the Junior School in September 2017. **We ask that all Year 2 parents attend this important event.**

SPECIAL ASSEMBLIES THIS TERM

Our special Assemblies programme this term includes: What is special about our school?; Growing and changing; Choices we make; Right and wrong; Writer Roald Dahl's Centenary; Independence; Keeping safe; Road safety; Children in Need; Charity; The importance of being kind and helpful; Seasons 'Autumn'; Telling the Truth; Being New; New Year New Term; New Challenges; Swimming & Water Safety; Guy Fawkes/Bonfire Night; Diwali; Eid; Harvest Festival; Hanukkah; Remembrance Sunday; Christmas Advent; The Nativity Story.

PUZZLE DAY

Puzzle Day was held on Wednesday 14th September and involved the whole school. A visiting Puzzle Team planned and delivered an exciting day for both pupils and staff.

An enriching programme of maths activities helped to develop the problem solving skills for all our children. It was a very enjoyable experience for the whole school.

CHRISTMAS CARDS

Christmas cards and gifts – This term your children will be busy creating a seasonal picture, which will be made into unique Christmas cards and gifts for you to buy. The children really enjoy this activity and each pack purchased helps raise funds for the school and its events.

Your child's design will be on display at the October Parents Evenings, where you will be able to place your order for your personalised cards, gift tags, etc.

NURSERY EMPLOYMENT VOUCHERS FOR CHILD CARE

Nursery Employment Vouchers for childcare can only be used to pay school fees for the Nursery & Prep classes. (They can however, also be used to pay for Holiday Club and Late Club fees up to the age of 11 years).

DALE HOUSE SCHOOL EXAMS 2017

Exams will take place in school as follows:

Years 2 to 6 School Exams: 8th to 18th May 2017.

Other Junior Exams – 15th to 18th May 2017.

PLEASE ENSURE YOUR CHILD IS IN SCHOOL

JUNIOR SCHOOL RESIDENTIAL TRIP TO ROBINWOOD

Monday 3rd to Wednesday 5th July 2017

All Junior School pupils (Years 3/4 and 5/6) will be involved in a 3 day Residential Trip to Robinwood, from Monday 3rd July to Wednesday 5th July 2017.

Robinwood School House is set in huge grounds near moorland and woods, and the children will be involved in lots of fun team games, History, Geography and Science activities. They will be exploring the landscape and learning about the industrial past of Lancashire. They will also be learning new skills such as bouldering, climbing and caving, etc. **There will be a Parent's Information Evening for all Junior School parents (sorry no children), on Tuesday 23rd January 2017, from 6.30pm to 8pm in the School Hall.**

WARNING YEAR 6 LEAVERS JULY 2017 (Miss Windows Class)

The parents of all Year 6 leavers in July 2017 should have by now put together school application forms for High Schools in the Local Education Authority. **Please check submission date deadlines for each school carefully. The deadline for most schools appears to be the beginning of October 2016, but we advise submissions be made asap. Application forms will not be accepted in November! Further information and application forms can be found on:**

www.kirklees.gov.uk/community/education-learning/admissions

Or on individual school websites.

Many High Schools are now holding Open Days and Evenings. Please visit schools and have a look around. See press articles and individual school websites for details.

Year 5 High School Choices – On Parents' Evenings in October, the parents of Year 5 pupils can make an appointment with Mrs Fletcher to discuss the next stage of Education and High School choices.

'NON UNIFORM DAY'

Donations for the Christmas Fair Event Friday 21st October (Last day of the half term)

We are asking the whole school to support our Friends of Dale House fundraising team by taking part in a non-uniform day on the last day of half term, when all children (and staff) can come into school in their casual clothes for the day.

We need lots of goodies for the Christmas Fair stalls, so instead of bringing in money, we would like you to bring in donations for the Jam Jar Bazaar and Bottle Tombola stalls. This proved to be a great success last year. More details will follow soon.

'WINTER STORY TIME' EVENING (LOWER SCHOOL)

**Wednesday 15th February 2017 – 3.30pm to
5.00pm**

Lower School pupils will dress in their Pyjama's, dressing-gowns and slippers, and enjoy stories, games and hot chocolate – what could be more fun! Save the date - Details to follow nearer the time! Tickets £3.50 each.

JUNIORS & PARENTS GAMES NIGHT

Thursday 9th March 2017 – 6.30pm to 8.00pm

Junior School Pupils and Parents games night was a great success last year. Very busy and enjoyed by all. Please save the date – details to follow nearer the time.

LOWER SCHOOL NATIVITY PLAY

**Wednesday 23rd and Thursday 24th November
2016 at 2.15pm each day**

Costume lists will be given out to Lower School pupils (Nursery, Prep, Transition/Y1 and Year 1/2) at Half Term in October. Parents are to provide their child's own costume please. Please send costumes into school by Thursday 10th November 2016. Tickets will be available nearer the date – unfortunately children under 2 years of age cannot attend the performances. Tickets £2.00 each.

JUNIOR SCHOOL CHRISTMAS PLAY

**Tuesday 6th December 6.30pm to 8.00pm
Wednesday 7th December 6.30pm to 8.00pm**

All Dale House Junior School pupils will take part in our Christmas Play which will be held in the school Hall on Tuesday 6th December and Wednesday 9th December from 6.30pm to 8.00pm.

All parents, children, friends and grandparents are invited to come along and enjoy this lovely school event. Refreshments will be available. Tickets will be on sale nearer the time (£3 each). Unfortunately children under 2 years of age cannot attend the performances.

CHRISTMAS HOLIDAY CLUB

Christmas is fast approaching and we are busy planning all the Holiday Club events and activities (suggestions always welcome!).

Dale House Holiday Clubs provide quality day care for your child at reasonable cost. The children wear their ordinary day clothes and have lots of fun with all the activities. Please book early to avoid disappointment!

A booking form will be sent out to all parents after the October Half Term holiday. Please fill in the form and return it to school with the required payment.

Bookings are accepted on a first come first served basis and will not be accepted without payment.

Bookings must be made in advance on the official form so that we can accurately plan staffing requirements. Please remember that if you request additional days at short notice, your request may be refused.

The Christmas Holiday Club will run from Monday 12th December 2016 to Friday 30th January 2017, from 8.00am to 5.00pm daily, with the following exceptions:

**Friday 23rd December (day before Christmas Eve)
– Open from 8.00am to 3.00pm**

**Monday 26th December (Boxing Day) and
Tuesday 27th December (Bank holiday) – Closed
All Day**

**Monday 2nd January (Bank Holiday) and Tuesday
3rd January (Inset Day) – Closed All Day**

(Please note that Holiday Clubs do not run in the three Half Term holidays, when the school and Nursery are closed, nor in the first two weeks of August during the summer break.)

Pupils who leave school at the end of a term cannot use the Holiday Club which follows unless by special arrangement and subject to insurance cover.

SUMMARY OF DATES FOR YOUR DIARY

Please see the attached sheet.