



# DALE HOUSE SCHOOL

## NEWSLETTER 1 – SEPTEMBER 2017



DEAR PARENT/GUARDIAN

Welcome to our Michaelmas Term (Autumn) 2017/18. We hope that you have enjoyed your holidays and the summer. 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 week all pupils began their first full week of their new school timetables, which are displayed on the parent's notice-board outside 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.

We extend a warm welcome to our new members of staff in their first week. Miss C Lawson who joins us as Lower Prep 1/2 class teacher and Miss S West our New Upper Prep Y3/4 teacher. Mrs Plowman, Transition Class Leader, returns from maternity leave and we also say goodbye to Mrs Jeffery who has decided to take up a part-time teaching position nearer to her home in the York area. We thank her for all her hard work and dedication over the last five years. Finally, Miss Fenton has been made Kitchen Supervisor this term. Mrs Wilson, whose husband sadly died at the beginning of the year after a long illness, has decided to take a break from work.

Due to the poor summer weather and wet playground surfaces, we have been unable to do work to the playground as we wanted to. We hope to be able to do it during the October break.

Mrs S.M.G. Fletcher  
Headmistress

**FRIENDS OF DALE HOUSE  
COFFEE EVENING  
Tuesday 10<sup>th</sup> October 2017**

The FODH have supported the school for 18 years now, helping to raise funds for the benefit of our pupils. We will be holding a coffee evening on Tuesday 10<sup>th</sup> October at 6.30pm. Refreshments will be available free of charge. All parents welcome. We look forward to getting to know you and hearing your ideas for fundraising.

**BEING HEALTHY DAY  
Friday 13<sup>th</sup> October 2017**

Lower school pupils from Prep, Transition/LP1 and LP1/2 classes will be involved in a 'Being Healthy' day on Friday 13<sup>th</sup> October, from 9.00am to 3.15pm. This will include diet, exercise, health and personal hygiene.

**ART COMPETITION FOR ALL PUPILS  
Week Commencing 16<sup>th</sup> 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 Trees' using any sorts of materials or fabrics, plastic, paper, real leaves, twigs, buttons, seeds, felt-tips, crayons, paint etc. Originality will be key and prizes will be awarded to the most interesting and original pieces. 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 16<sup>th</sup> October.

**PARENTS EVENINGS  
Tuesday 17<sup>th</sup> & Wednesday 18<sup>th</sup> October 2017**

Parents Evenings will take place on Tuesday 17<sup>th</sup> and Wednesday 18<sup>th</sup> October 2017, 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.**

**JUNIOR ENTERPRISE DAY  
Thursday 19<sup>th</sup> October 2017**

An Enterprise Day will be held on Thursday 19<sup>th</sup> October 2017 and will involve the Junior School pupils. An enriching programme of problem solving, design and maths activities will take place to help develop the problem solving skills for all our Junior School children.

**'NON UNIFORM DAY'  
Donations for the Christmas Fair Event  
Friday 20<sup>th</sup> 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 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.

**USED CLOTHING COLLECTION**  
**Friday 20<sup>th</sup> October 2017 at 9.00am**

To help us raise funds for the school and also the Fire Fighters Charity, which helps injured fire fighters every year by providing pioneering treatment and support services, we will be holding a recycling collection on Friday 20<sup>th</sup> October at 9.00am. Items must be brought in on that morning, as we do not have the facilities to store bags before the collection takes place. Bags will be issued approximately two weeks before the event, giving you time to fill them with **used clothing, shoes, handbags and belts**. Please ask all your friends and families to collect too!

**CHRISTMAS FAIR DONATIONS PLEASE**  
**Bring on the non-uniform day: Friday 20<sup>th</sup> October**

**PLEASE NOTE: THE CHRISTMAS FAIR THIS YEAR WILL AGAIN BE ON FRIDAY AFTERNOON, 24<sup>th</sup> NOVEMBER 2017, FROM 2.45PM 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

**All Juniors:** 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.

**Lower School pupils:** Bottles for the Bottle Tombola – anything in a bottle – e.g. Pop, juice, shampoo, bubble bath, wine, spirits (whisky/vodka/rum etc) disinfectant, vinegar, sauces etc.

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

**Years 3-6 LEGO EVENING**  
**Wednesday 1<sup>st</sup> November 2017 at 3.30pm**

Our 2017 Lego Evening event will be on the evening of Wednesday 1<sup>st</sup> November, from 3.30pm to 5.15pm in the School Hall. Children from Y3 - Y6 are invited to come along and join in a variety of fun activities throughout the evening. Tickets will be on sale very soon at a cost of £5 which will include the evening's activities, a snack and a drink!

**PARENTS OF YEAR 2 PUPILS**  
**INFORMATION EVENING ABOUT THE**  
**JUNIOR SCHOOL (Miss Lawson's Class)**  
**Tuesday 7<sup>th</sup> November 2017 at 6.30pm**

There will be a Parents' Evening on Tuesday 7<sup>th</sup> November, from 6.30pm to 7.30pm. This is for the parents of children currently in Year 2 (Miss Lawson's class) who will be entering the Junior School in September 2018. **We ask that all Year 2 parents attend this important event.**

**SPECIAL ASSEMBLIES THIS TERM**

Our special Assemblies programme this term includes: Human problems and suffering – floods in Pakistan and India, fighting in Burma and Bangladesh, hurricane damage in The Caribbean and Florida, war torn countries and refugees, 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.

**AFTER SCHOOL ACTIVITY CLUBS**

School Activity Clubs will begin this term on Monday 18<sup>th</sup> September. At the end of each Club (i.e. Maths, Paper modelling, Sports, Wool Crafts, Sign Language, Drama, etc), pupils will be dismissed into the school yard at 4.20pm. Would parents wishing to collect children from Clubs please wait in the back school yard. At 4.30pm any child remaining will be registered into the Late Club. The current charge for this is £5.25 per hour or part hour. Please note that pupils under 5 years of age are not allowed to join after school activity clubs for Health & Safety reasons.

Activity Clubs will finish this term on **Friday 1<sup>st</sup> December** as the Hall is used for Christmas plays and activities etc.

**CHRISTMAS CALENDARS 2018**

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

**LOWER SCHOOL NATIVITY PLAY**  
**Thursday 30<sup>th</sup> November and Friday 1<sup>st</sup>**  
**December 2017 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 9<sup>th</sup> November 2017. Tickets will be available nearer the date – unfortunately children under 2 years of age cannot attend the performances. Tickets £3.00 each.

### **JUNIOR SCHOOL CHRISTMAS CONCERT**

**Tuesday 12<sup>th</sup> December 6.30pm to 8.00pm**  
**Wednesday 13<sup>th</sup> 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 12<sup>th</sup> December and Wednesday 13<sup>th</sup> 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.

### **JUNIORS & PARENTS GAMES NIGHT**

**March 2018 – 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.

### **DALE HOUSE SCHOOL EXAMS 2018**

Exams will take place in school as follows:

**Years 2 to 6 School Exams: 14<sup>th</sup> to 17<sup>th</sup> May 2018.**

**Other Junior Exams – 21<sup>st</sup> to 23<sup>rd</sup> May 2018.**

**PLEASE ENSURE YOUR CHILD IS IN SCHOOL**

### **JUNIOR SCHOOL RESIDENTIAL TRIP**

**Summer Term**

**Monday 25<sup>th</sup> to Wednesday 27<sup>th</sup> June 2018**

All Junior School pupils (Years 3/4 and 5/6) will be involved in a 3 day Residential Trip to North Yorkshire.

The centre is set in huge grounds near moorland and woods, and the children will be involved in lots of fun, physical team games. They will also be learning new skills such as problem solving, bouldering, climbing and canoeing, etc.

**There will be a Parent's Information Evening for all Junior School parents (sorry no children), on Tuesday 23<sup>rd</sup> January 2018, from 6.45pm to 8pm in the School Hall.**

### **'WINTER STORY TIME' EVENING**

**(LOWER SCHOOL)**

**Thursday 15<sup>th</sup> February 2018**

**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!

### **WARNING YEAR 6 LEAVERS JULY 2018**

**(Mrs Copley's Class)**

The parents of all Year 6 leavers in July 2018 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 2017, 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](http://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.

### **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 18<sup>th</sup> December 2017 to Friday 5<sup>th</sup> January 2018, from 8.00am to 5.00pm daily, with the following exceptions:**

**Monday 25<sup>th</sup> December (Christmas Day) to Friday 29<sup>th</sup> December 2017 (including 2 days bank holiday) and Monday 1<sup>st</sup> January (Bank Holiday) - 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.**