



DALE HOUSE SCHOOL

NEWSLETTER 2 – FEBRUARY 2017



Dear Parent/Guardian

It is hard to believe that February half-term falls next week. We are now half-way through the Epiphany (Spring) term. Dale House School's 18th Academic year is moving on quickly and with great success. Soon Easter will be here and all the events and activities planned for the next half-term will be underway after our short holiday.

**Mrs S.M.G. Fletcher
Headmistress**

INSPECTION 2016

The children returned from the long Christmas holidays with very happy and positive attitudes and have been working very hard in their classes. Their reports, which went out this week were very good and list their main achievements, also indicating the next steps needed for further success next term. As Headmistress, it is always a pleasure to read the reports and to walk around the school seeing everybody working hard, enjoying lessons and playing so well together.

On Wednesday, we received the long awaited news about our Inspection from the I.S.I. (Independent Schools Inspectorate) who work to a strict new code of standards supported by Ofsted and the Department of Education. Our Inspection took place in the week of 7th-11th November 2016. As parents already know, we have been one of the first schools to be inspected under the new Inspection Programme. We were actually one of the 'pilot' schools chosen for our high reputation, built up over 18 years. As it was the first inspection of the totally new Inspection format now being rolled out to all schools from 2018, this is why it has taken so long for us to receive our final Report. We hope it will be published the second week in March but we have no control over this process. All parents will receive a copy before this and the Report will be placed on our website.

Parents will see that the format and content of the Report are very different from any previous School Inspection Reports. Parents please note:

- No overall grade is awarded to any school.
- The Early Years is not a separate Report or section.
- The Report is written in two parts:
 - I) The Education provided by the school.
 - (II) Compliance (requirements) to do with the following; the structures within the school, fire, water, hygiene, first aid, trips & visits, the building, legal requirements, Health & Safety.

The Inspection done over 4 days by the 4 ISI Inspectors was very thorough but, in parts, was a rigid tick box and paper exercise. The Staff are

delighted with the report and like all Primary schools, we are pushing forward with the Mastery Level and higher ordered thinking and work required at Year 6. We also continue to deal with the ever-changing demands of the 2014 Curriculum. This Curriculum reaches its full implementation in 2018/19 when the first Year 6 pupils who have followed it and who have been taught it from the age of 7 years, take their SATs examinations and Assessments in English, Maths and Science, in whatever form they may be. The Report underlines clearly that all our pupils at age 11 are more than 'high school ready' academically, socially, IT wise, confidence wise and emotionally, to go on to the next stage of their education. It too, also confirms that the educational experiences for all pupils provided throughout the school are excellent. Children have a very close and an intimate relationship with Staff and lots of one-to-one experiences throughout the school day that would not happen in a larger establishment. The Early Years Education provided is, once again, considered to be exceptional. An Inspector commented upon the exemplary behaviour of all our pupils and she could not understand why the school was not full! A reminder here that there are now only 5 places left in our Nursery Class for September 2017 and 3 in the Prep Class!

We would like to thank all parents, who returned questionnaires, for their positive and wonderful comments about the school and the Staff as well as the progress their children have made socially, emotionally and academically at Dale House School. As Head, it was wonderful to read the parental comments and know that 97% of parents are delighted with the school and their child's education.

EASTER HAMPER RAFFLE

Thank you to all our parents who have, over the last few weeks, donated chocolate items for our Chocolate Hampers. These will be made up and put on display in the Hall ready for the lucky winners in the Easter Raffle. Tickets will go out the first week after the holiday. The raffle will be drawn on Monday 27th March with hampers to be collected by Friday 31st March.

FODH FUND RAISING

Last year, the FODH decided to raise money to develop the outdoor play areas and also to provide more IT opportunities for the children by purchasing some more iPads, cameras, etc. Lots of new playground toys are now in use and it is hoped this year the playground will be painted with new paint. New cameras have been purchased as well as some new iPads but more are on their way. By supporting the schools Christmas events, Easter and summer events, you are helping to raise the money needed.

POETRY & NURSERY RHYME DAYS

The Poetry and Nursery Rhyme days that took place yesterday and today were great fun! Seeing the Junior School children so confident with their words and performances was a great pleasure for the Staff. The little ones looked great in their costumes and recited their favourite Nursery Rhymes so well. We encourage all our pupils to be confident speakers as it is a skill they very much need in the 21st Century!

The winners of our Poetry / Nursery Rhyme Day are:

Hassan Ali	Prep
Hassan Hashmi	Prep
Mufaro Tigere	Prep
Zeshaan Raja	Transition
Inaaya Akbar	Transition
Daniyal Bhatti	Transition
Jasmine Flavell	Year 2
Ritun Anand	Year 1
Barad Sheikholeslami	Year 1
Mariam Islam	Year 3
Abdul Bhatti	Year 3
Faisal Alatrachgi	Year 4
Anam Kamal	Year 4
Joshua Park	Year 4
Sarah Khan	Year 5
Diana Baranova	Year 6
Nyles Marsden	Year 6

These children received certificates and a book prize as they had learnt and performed poetry pieces of a very high standard.

WORLD BOOK DAY Thursday 2nd March 2017

Lower School pupils in Prep, Transition and Year 1/2 can bring in their favourite story book or poem to share with their class. Over half term, the Junior School classes will each have 30 spellings to learn from a set book and will take part in a Spelling Bee Competition. The books are:

Year 3: George's Marvellous Medicine

Year 4: You're a bad man Mr Gum

Year 5/6: Harry Potter and the Half Blood Prince

The Juniors could come dressed up as a character from the book or a bee.

MRS FLETCHER'S 60TH BIRTHDAY PARTY

Mrs Fletcher will be hosting a party to celebrate her 60th Birthday in April. This party, for Staff and all the children will take place on Tuesday 4th April 2017.

Years 1-6 PARENT & CHILD GAMES EVENING Thursday 9th March 2017 – Pie & Pea supper

A fun evening from 6.30-8.30pm for the whole family, please save the date in your diaries and come and support this wonderful evening. Tickets are £5 for adults and £3 for children.

ROBINWOOD RESIDENTIAL AND TRIPS

All the Junior children are really looking forward to going to the Robinwood Outdoor activity centre. They will do lots of walking, archery, climbing, etc and other outdoor and indoor activities, team sports and games. All payments for this Junior trip should be received in the school office by Friday 10th March. The parents evening for this trip is Monday 27th March. In Lower School, Lower Prep I/II will be going on an adventure to Shibden Hall near Halifax on Monday 20th March. They will be involved in a workshop all about the Crimean War and Florence Nightingale.

Friends of Dale House FORTHCOMING MEETINGS Monday 6th March at 6.30pm

The Parents' Association (FODH) have supported the school for 18 years now, helping to raise funds for our pupils. We would like to thank all parents, grandparents and helpers for all their hard work and excellent efforts so far. The next meeting will be on Monday 6th March at 6.30pm. We would like to see more parents from all classes and especially Prep, Transition/Y1 and Year 1/2. Please come along and support your school. You will be made very welcome.

SPECIAL ASSEMBLIES THIS TERM

The importance of Reading; Being safe; Mother's Day; Ash Wednesday; Lent; Holi (Hindu); Being Truthful; The Easter Story; Easter Events and Traditions; Passover(Jewish)

AFTER SCHOOL ACTIVITY CLUBS

The After School Activity Clubs will continue as normal after the February half term holiday. When all after school clubs finish, including the Homework Club, will parents please collect their children from the back yard at 4.20pm.

TEMPEST SCHOOL PHOTOGRAPHS Thursday 27th April 2017

Advance notice that 'Tempest' will be coming in to school to take individual portraits, group/sibling portraits and class photographs on Thursday 27th April 2017.

Please **send in a note** if you have more than one child in the school and would like a photograph of them taken together. **Tempest will not take pictures of children who do not attend Dale House School.**

PLEASE NOTE AMENDMENT TO DATES OF PARENTS EVENINGS

**As a number of Staff are away on courses, the Parents Evenings have now been changed to the following dates
Tuesday 23rd & Wednesday 24th May 2017**

Parent's Evenings will take place from 4pm to 6.30pm on the following dates:

Prep: Mrs Doel
Wednesday 24th May

Transition/Y1: Mrs Howard
Tuesday 23rd May

Year 1/2: Miss I Mears-Sykes
Wednesday 24th May

Year 3: Mr Mather
Tuesday 23rd & Wednesday 24th May

Year 4: Mrs Copley
Tuesday 23rd & Wednesday 24th May

Year 5/6: Miss Windows
Tuesday 23rd May

NOTE: There are NO Activity Clubs or Homework Club on these days and Late Room only operates until 6.00pm

PARENTAL SKILLS

As part of this term's Curriculum, the Prep and Nursery classes have invited some people to come into school to tell the pupils about their working day (Business man, Business woman, Nurse, Dentist, Office Worker, Builder, Care Worker, Solicitor, Shop Assistant, Health Visitor, etc).

If any parent would like to come into school to talk to the children about their job, please send a note to the School Office and we will then arrange a mutually convenient time for the visit. The children really enjoy these visits – thanking you in anticipation.

EASTER ART COMPETITION - £2 per entry

Decorate an egg

This year's Easter Art Competition entries must be in school by 9am on Monday 27th March. More details to follow. We had over 50 entries for our Autumn Art Competition – please encourage your child to take part.

TOYS ON FRIDAYS

Children may bring one **SMALL** toy into school on a Friday. Please ensure that toys are labelled and **will fit into satchels**.

NO dangerous or expensive items please. If your child does not want to share his/her toy, please do not let them bring it in to school.

HOLIDAY CLUBS

The Easter Holiday Club will run from Wednesday 5th April to Friday 21st April (closed Good Friday 14th

April and Easter Monday 17th April) between 8.00am and 5.00pm each day. Booking forms will be sent out in March.

**THE SPRING TERM FINALE
Tuesday 4th April 2017**

On the last day of each term lessons take place as normal and we have a special celebration to acknowledge all the hard work that the pupils have put in throughout the term and to mark their individual achievements. All children will attend these celebrations.

These end of Term Services take place at St John's Church, next door to the school. We enjoy seeing all the parents, grandparents and family friends there who come to see their child or grandchild singing, acting, reading and performing. Parents always remark on how much they enjoy the end of term. Children love to see their family members watching them in the congregation.

Service 1 Lower School – 1pm to 1.30pm:

Prep (Mrs Doel's class)

Transition/Y1 (Mrs Howard's class)

LPI/II (Miss Mears Syke's class)

The Church opens at 12.45pm for tea and coffee.

The Lower School service commences at 1pm and ends at 1.30pm. The Lower School closes at the end of the service and children are dismissed and handed over to parents or relatives at the Church. Those with older brothers/sisters are welcome to enjoy a tea/coffee (small donation please) before the next service begins.

Service 2 Upper School – 2pm – 2.30pm:

UP III (Mr Mather's class)

UPIV (Mrs Copley's class)

UP V/VI (Miss Windows' class)

The Upper School service commences at 2pm and ends at 2.30pm. The Upper School closes at the end of the service and children are dismissed and handed over to parents or relatives at the Church.

Nursery Children remain in school and must be picked up from school before 2.30pm.

School will close at 2.30pm on the day and there will be **NO Late Club or Homework Club**.

Please note that After School Activity Clubs finish on Friday 31st March.

FACEBOOK

Please visit our Facebook page to learn about forthcoming events in school. Please like our page and tell all your friends about it.

SUMMARY OF DATES FOR YOUR DIARY

Please see the attached sheet.

DALE HOUSE SCHOOL – DATES FOR YOUR DIARY SPRING TERM 2017

Monday 27 th February 2017	Whole School Opens After school activity clubs continue
Tuesday 28 th February 2017	Shrove Tuesday Lent begins
Wednesday 1 st March 2017	Ash Wednesday Juniors Times tables tests.
Thursday 2 nd March 2017	World Book Day
Monday 6 th March 2017	FODH meeting 6.30pm
Thursday 9 th March 2017	Junior Parent & Child Games Evening 6.30pm-8.00pm
Wednesday 15 th March 2017	Juniors Times tables tests.
Monday 20 th March 2017	Lower Prep I/II day trip to Shibden Hall near Halifax
Monday 27 th March 2017	Easter Chocolate Hamper raffle draw Easter Activities week in Lower School Easter Art entries to the Hall Robinwood Residential Parents Evening 6.30pm
Monday 27 th March- Thursday 30 th March 2017	Scholastic Book Fair in school. Please come in at 3.15pm – 6.00pm to purchase books for your child.
Wednesday 29 th March 2017	Juniors Times tables tests.
Friday 31 st March 2017	Easter Art Competition judging
Tuesday 4 th April 2017	End of Term Services : Lower School 1pm, Upper School 2pm Mrs Fletcher's Birthday Party School closes for Easter 2.30pm