



DALE HOUSE SCHOOL

NEWSLETTER DECEMBER 2016



Dear Parent,

Now we are reaching the end of the Michaelmas term (Autumn) 2016 and looking to begin a new year in 2017. How quickly this year seems to have gone by and here we are once again at Christmas! Thank you for all your help and support over this Michaelmas term. Just as Staff and I were feeling that everything was settling down very nicely for the new Academic Year, a School Inspection Team of 4 Inspectors arrived at 8am in the middle week of November! The Team from the ISI (Independent Schools Inspectorate) work to a strict standards framework supported by Ofsted and the Department of Education. The full Inspection report will be published at the end of January 2017. The report will also be placed on our website www.dhschool.co.uk A big thank you to all parents and pupils who filled in the survey for the Inspection Team and who spoke to the Inspectors. All went very well and everything ran smoothly. The children, as usual, were fantastic and had a 'bring it on' attitude. Many children didn't let the Inspectors say very much as they were too busy asking them questions and talking! The Staff were all very happy when the Team left, so that we could get on with our teaching, school plays and Christmas Fair.

Thank you to all parents who have sent in gifts and Christmas cards for staff. It is nice to know that parents appreciate the staff's hard work and dedication.

Thank you also to all the parents who helped at our school events and charity events. Monies are still coming in for Christmas events which we will report on at a later date.

This term, as usual, has been a busy one for Dale House School. It was lovely to see almost all the parents and children at the Christmas Fair and also the schools two Nativity Play performances.

We have had some very successful charity events. Over £300 was raised for Children in Need on Thursday 17th November through the cake stall and donations. Well done everyone!

Staff News

Miss H Grimshaw is now in the third year of her Early Years Degree through Teesside University, and has successfully completed her second year. She is enjoying being in her new home with her little girl, who is now over a year old. She hopes to complete the degree next year.

Mrs Plowman and Mrs Jeffery are both enjoying their maternity leave. They will be back at school in the New Year.

Miss Mears-Sykes and Mr Mather, our new teachers, have both enjoyed teaching this term.

Epiphany (Spring) Term

The Epiphany Term begins on **Wednesday 4th January 2017**. Will parents please note that there will be no Holiday Clubs in the February, May or October Half Term holidays 2017.

School Plays and Church Services

The children, once again, have excelled themselves in our 2016 Christmas play(s) 'Mrs Dale's Toy Shop' and 'A Christmas Cracker'. A big 'thank you' to all parents, grandparents and friends who have supported this year's productions. A special thank you to all the helpers – those who made (or bought) and sent in mince-pies, helped with the raffle, teas, collection of tickets, and those who will be greeting at Church, etc. Thank you to all our parents who sent in goodies for the Christmas Hampers and to Ms Rawson for making up the hampers which look fantastic. So far the Christmas Fair has raised over £500, but monies are still coming in to school for this event, so, again, thank you to everyone who was involved in any way, from collecting door tickets to running a stall. Everyone really enjoyed themselves! We hope to use the monies raised to purchase new playground toys and have the surface of the playground painted with tracks and games in 2017/2018.

School Party Day and Christmas Dinner

Thank you to all parents who will kindly send in Christmas treats for the children to share next week. The pupils are really looking forward to their Christmas dinner on Tuesday 6th December and all the party games on Thursday 8th December. Your child can wear their party clothes to school all day but remember that they have to eat and play out in them too!

Christmas Holiday Club

New rules state that those children aged 3 and 4 on Nursery Grants can now use our holiday club for some free sessions.

The Holiday Club will be open from Monday 12th December to Friday 30th December inclusive, with the exception of two days when it will be closed – Monday 26th and Tuesday 27th December. The school is closed on Monday 2nd and Tuesday 3rd January. Don't forget to send in your holiday club booking form and payment by Monday 5th December please.

Christmas Cards

Please let children write their own Christmas cards and greetings. Post boxes are now in school for parents and children to send each other Christmas cards, as well as the staff.

The Christmas cards, which the children designed themselves, have again been a great success! Thank you to all parents who purchased the packs, raising funds for school.

Illness

Two schools in the area have already been closed down for deep cleaning due to a sickness bug. We do not want this to happen at Dale House. In order to reduce the risk of infection to others and keep absences to a minimum, please do not send children in to school when they are feeling unwell or are ill. If a child has been sick or has diarrhoea you must leave a full 24 hours without any symptoms before bringing them back in to school. If a child is not well enough to play outside each day then they are not well enough to be in school. Please send in an absence note for any illness on your child's return to school.

Bad Weather - Emergency School Closure

Now the cold weather is here to stay, we have very effective procedures in place should Dale House have to close due to bad weather. Since opening in 1999, the school has only had to close four times due to bad weather. We hope this does not happen again in January/February. An email message will be sent by the Bursar to all parents for whom the school has an email address and a text message will be also sent. There will also be an emergency closure notice on the school's website (www.dhschool.co.uk) which will be updated each day. When school is open, if the weather is poor, will parents please collect their children as soon as possible at 3.15 and not leave children in the Late Club.

Friends of Dale House School (FODH)

Thank you to the FODH and all our parents who help and support the school in any way – it is greatly appreciated. The FODH is a group of parents and friends who work with the school and organise events to raise money for the school to spend on extra equipment for the children. **We would love to see more parents coming along to the FODH meetings.** If you are unable to attend but can help at events, please let us know via the school office or your child's form teacher. **The next FODH meeting is scheduled for Tuesday 7th March 2017 at 6.30pm in the school.**

FODH – Juniors Parent/Child Games & Supper Evening Thursday 9th March 2017, from 6.30 to 8.00pm (£5 each including supper).

As it was so popular and well attended last year by all the Junior children, the next major FODH event is a Games and Supper Night on Thursday 9th March 2017 at 6.30pm in the School Hall. All the Junior School pupils are invited with their parents/grandparents/families. Come and play board games/card games/etc. Everyone who attends enjoys these fund raising evenings, so please be sure to put the date in your diary. Full details will be sent out nearer the time.

Easter Fair Afternoon

31st March 2017 Lower School 2.00-3.00pm.

More details will follow nearer the time.

Homework over the Christmas Holidays

Many children are kept indoors and are not allowed to run around and climb, etc. This is not good for their physical development and independence. A lot of recent research into child development is telling parents to be aware of the dangers of their children living in a 'virtual' world and that more traditional games and pastimes are much better for their development on every level. At Dale House we are very proud of our academic standards and personal goals for all our children. Please encourage your child to do their written homework, set especially for them. Please also encourage your child to play outside and get plenty of exercise (it's fun walking, playing sports, bike riding, etc), as well as a variety of tasks, e.g. reading, drawing, painting, cooking, model making and playing board games. Over the holidays please also let your child read lots of different books to help them extend their vocabulary and understanding. Please also teach them to tell the time, help them learn their times tables and help them to handle money to £1 (older children bigger numbers). Some of our children seem only to play games on their computers, mobile phones, tablets, and/or i-pads etc, which does not encourage their verbal interaction, concentration, social or physical skills.

Waiting Lists Begin January 2017 – Nursery and Prep Classes

A reminder to parents who are intending to put a child's name down for entry to Dale House School, or who know of someone who is seeking a place here. Please put in the request before the end of January to ensure there is a place available. Many parents are registering when their child is one year old just to make sure they get a place in the Nursery.

Uniform Check

It is a condition of entry to the school that children attend in full official school uniform obtainable only from Rawcliffes. No other clothing is permitted. There will be a uniform check on Wednesday 11th January. Will all parents ensure that pupils are in the correct uniform and **each item of clothing** has a name label in it. Will parents please also check PE kits before returning to school. Please remember to check pump sizes too, as many children return to school and cannot get into them! All children need a thick waterproof navy blue coat for playing out. The school coat with a badge on is sold at Rawcliffes and keeps pupils nice and warm at playtime. Navy blue gloves and scarves are kept in school, again to use when playing out. The school fleece is navy blue with a school badge, again from Rawcliffes. No other design or colour will be accepted, nor cheap imitations. We want our children to look smart all the time.

Private Lessons

Private piano/singing lessons and private Dance lessons start again in the new term. Please send in payment for these lessons on 4th January. Piano/singing lessons are £170.00 for 10 lessons and Dance lessons are £60.00 for 10 lessons. If you wish your child to take part in these lessons, please let your child's form teacher know and arrangements can be made for the January term 2017.

After School Activity Clubs

After School Activity Clubs begin the second week of term, commencing Monday 9th January 2017, from 3.30pm to 4.20pm.

Second Hand Uniform Stall in the School Hall – Friday 27th January 2017

Wanted – Uniform in good condition. We will be holding a stall in school at 3.00pm on Friday 27th January 2017. Please send in any uniform you wish to be sold in a plastic bag. Clothes left after the sale will be disposed of or used at the next sale. All money raised goes to the school playground fund.

World Book Day – Thursday 2nd March 2017

Pupils in Years 3 to 6 will be discussing their favourite characters from the stories they enjoy. They will be doing a presentation on the same day to all the pupils in Lower School.

Junior School Residential Trip to Robinwood.

Our Junior School Residential Trip starts on Monday 3rd July through to Wednesday 5th July 2017. All Junior School pupils will be going on the three day adventure. The cost of the trip, which includes transport, 24 hour care, all meals and two night's stay is £225. There will be further information sent out nearer the time. Please send in any final payments for the trip before Friday 10th March 2017.

Holiday Club/Late Room/Late Collection and Ofsted Regulations

Please collect your child from Late Room by 6.00pm and from the Holiday Club by 5pm. **If the weather is poor, please collect your child early and do not leave them in the Late Room. Thank you.** Will parents please be aware that if your child is not picked up by these times, staff will do everything they can to contact you. After 1 hour, if no-one has arrived, by law we have to inform the Police and Social Services Duty Officer who will come (with the police) to collect your child and take them into temporary care until a parent can be found. For their own protection, and your child's, Dale House staff are not allowed to take a child home to look after overnight or carry your child in their own car.

School Policies

A reminder to parents that full copies of School Policies are kept in the school reception area and parents are most welcome to come and read them in school. The main policies and News letters can also be found on our website www.dhschool.co.uk. Any parent who has a concern or problem must not hesitate to see their child's form teacher, or make an appointment to see Mrs Fletcher to discuss the matter.

Message from the Bursar

When sending in a cheque for payment, will parents please write on the back of the cheque what the payment is for, i.e., July Late Club, Christmas Cards, etc.

When paying for an item that amounts to less than £5.00, please send in cash in an envelope with details on the front of what the payment is for and your child's name. Thank you.

IMPORTANT NOTICE

Changes of Information 2017

Will parents please remember to inform the school office if any personal information relating to their child changes, i.e. address, mobile or home phone numbers, medical details, etc.

Please could parents who are separated also inform the office of change of status, e.g. divorced, and give the name of new partners and any change of address, etc. for our records.

At times school staff have been placed in difficult situations because they have been unaware of a parent's change of circumstances.

Please note that staff will only discuss a child with his or her parents (those who registered the child at the school) and will only discuss a child in front of a new partner if both parents have given consent for staff to do so.

DATES FOR YOUR DIARY – PLEASE SEE THE BACK PAGE FOR CALENDAR DATES AND NOTE THESE IN YOUR DIARY.

Mrs S.M.G. Fletcher
Headmistress

*WISHING YOU A HAPPY CHRISTMAS 2016
AND AN EXCITING AND PROSPEROUS
NEW YEAR 2017
FROM ALL THE STAFF AND CHILDREN AT
DALE HOUSE SCHOOL*

DATES FOR YOUR DIARY 2016 / 2017

Tuesday 6 th December 2016	School Christmas Dinner.
Thursday 8 th December 2016	Christmas Party Day – Wear your party outfit to school.
Friday 9 th December 2016	End of Term Services – Lower School 1pm & Upper School 2pm – All welcome. *each child must have an adult in the Service. Thank you.
Friday 9 th December 2016	School and Nursery closes at 2.30pm – No Late Club.
Monday 12 th December 2016	Holiday Club Opens.
Friday 30 th December 2016	Holiday Club Closes at 5.00pm.
Monday 2 nd January 2017	School Closed
Tuesday 3 rd January 2017	School Closed to pupils
Tuesday 3 rd January 2017	Staff Inset Training.
Wednesday 4 th January 2017	Whole School Opens – First Day of Epiphany (Spring) Term 2017.
Monday 9 th January 2017	All After School Activity Clubs and Piano Lessons begin.
Wednesday 11 th January 2017	Uniform Check.
Friday 27 th January 2017	Second Hand Uniform Sale – 3.00pm in the Hall.
Wednesday 15 th February 2017	School Reports out to parents.
Thursday 16 th February 2017	School Reports slips to be returned to school with comment & signature
Friday 17 th February 2017	School Closes at 6.00pm for Half Term (No Holiday Club).
Monday 27 th February 2017	Whole School Opens.
Thursday 2 nd March 2017	World Book Day – Year 3 to 6 pupils to discuss favourite book characters.
Tuesday 7 th March 2017	FODH Meeting at 6.30pm – Lower school Parents we need you to attend these meetings to help us.
Thursday 9 th March 2017	Juniors Parent/Child Games Evening 6.30-8pm. £5. Please come with your child and enjoy an evening out with supper. All Junior pupils really enjoyed this last year.
Monday 20 th March 2017	Easter Art Competition entries to be displayed in the Hall.
Sunday 26 th March 2017	Mothering Sunday.
Friday 31 st March 2017	Lower School Easter Fair
Tuesday 4 th April 2017	End of Term Easter Services. Lower School 1pm, Upper School 2pm. All welcome. *each child must have an adult in the Service. Thank you.
Tuesday 4 th April 2017	School and Nursery closes at 2.30pm – No Late Club.
Wednesday 5 th April 2017	Staff Inset Training. Holiday club opens.
Friday 14 th April 2017	Holiday Club Closed – Good Friday.
Monday 17 th April 2017	Holiday Club Closed – Easter Monday.
Tuesday 18 th April 2017	Easter Holiday Club opens again until Friday 21 st April inclusive.
Monday 24 th April 2017	Staff Inset day (NO pupils in)
Tuesday 25 th April 2017	First day of Summer (Trinity) Term. Whole school open. Summer uniform please.