



DALE HOUSE SCHOOL

NEWSLETTER JANUARY 2017



Dear Parent/Guardian

Happy New Year 2017! Welcome back. A special welcome to our new children and their families who joined the school this term. We hope that the children will settle well and we look forward to working together in the future. I hope you all had a lovely Christmas and New Year, especially with the mild weather over the holidays! From the weather forecast it looks like very cold weather will be with us next week.

I thank all parents for their support in all matters relating to the school. Dale House is a vibrant, exciting, safe and happy school where all children do very well because of your help and support for the Staff. If any parent is seeking a place for a child in the next two years, I advise you to apply now to reserve a place. Our advertising campaign starts in February.

Mrs S.M.G. Fletcher
Headmistress

STAFF NEWS 2017

Staff have returned to work looking forward to the new term's events. It's going to be an exciting term!!

This term we celebrate the long service of many of our staff. In particular, **18 years** – Mrs Howard; **14 years** – Mrs Doel and Miss Watson; **12 years** – Mrs Mallinson and Mrs Copley.

Mrs Willis returns to do music in school and has been looking forward to working with her old piano pupils and some new ones. I hope they have done their practice!

As an excellent school, we have links with a number of University Teacher Training courses and this term we welcome one student from York St. John's University, training to be a Primary School teacher. In Upper Prep 4 we welcome Mrs L Hunt.

Unfortunately we also have sad news as we start the New Year. Following a long illness, Mr Wilson, the husband of Mrs Wilson, our Kitchen Supervisor, passed away peacefully in the first days of January surrounded by his family. I am sure you will join us in sending our best wishes to her and her two children at this sad and difficult time.

MUSIC EXAMS 2017

All pupils who study piano and singing will be entered for exams in March or June/July this year. Will all parents whose children study piano with Mrs Willis send in their piano fees of £170.00 by **Friday 13th January 2017**.

Letters will be sent out to individual parents about the exams, the preparations required and the costs involved. Please encourage your child to practise the piano during the week between lessons.

If you wish for your child to start piano (or dance) please inform your child's form teacher.

FORM TEACHERS – PASTORAL CARE

Your child's Form Teacher is in charge of their Welfare and Academic progress.

Will parents please address any letters or returns for absences, reports, letters, trip slips, etc, to the Form Teacher and hand them in to them in the classroom personally or through satchel post.

EARLY MORNING BOOSTER CLASSES / LEARNING SUPPORT CLASSES

Booster classes in both English and Mathematics begin next week. These take place in the morning at 8.30am on Tuesdays and Thursdays. Learning support classes start this week. We ask that parents give a donation if their child is in either of these classes.

NURSERY RHYME & POETRY WEEK PERFORMANCES 16th and 17th February 2017

It is essential that children learn to use their 'memory' and 'recall' skills as early as possible, as well as their speaking and listening skills. For this reason all children are involved in the Nursery Rhyme & Poetry week, which will take place the week beginning Monday 13th February 2017. Children will perform their pieces on Thursday 16th and Friday 17th February.

For Prep pupils (Mrs Doel's class) please choose a Nursery Rhyme which they can 'say' and a costume to go with it, e.g. 'Mary Mary Quite Contrary' or 'The Grand Old Duke of York' etc. Please start helping your child to learn and perform the Nursery Rhyme now.

The Transition class (Mrs Howard) will be given a poem to learn. Can parents please provide a costume to go with the poem. Year 1 & Year 2 class pupils (Miss Mears-Sykes) will be doing different poems. Please discuss the poem with your child's form teacher and start to help your child practise the poem now. (Years 1 and 2 do not need costumes).

The Juniors will be given a poem to learn and recite out loud on 'Poetry Day'.

We are sure that the children from all classes will do well with their Nursery Rhymes and Poetry pieces and the standard again will be very high. **Please ask your child to practice their poem every day.**

WORLD BOOK DAY ~ Thursday 2nd March 2017

On World Book Day our staff and Junior School children will talk to the rest of the school about their favourite books and the importance of being a good reader. Lower School pupils will bring in their favourite book to share with the rest of their class in the morning and will be involved in a number of activities throughout the day.

Friends of Dale House – Next Meeting Monday 6th March at 6.30pm

Please support our fundraising events. All fundraising done in school is to benefit your child. Money raised is used to purchase items. Over the next year, we hope to raise enough money to paint playground games and markings.

The Parents' Association (FODH) have supported the school for 17 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. **Please come along and you will be made very welcome.**

VALENTINE & EASTER EVENTS COMING UP

Please support our fundraising events. All fundraising done in school is to benefit your child. Money raised is used to purchase items. Over the next year, we hope to raise enough money to paint playground games and markers for football, basketball and a running track.

Name the Valentine Bear - £1 a go

Towards the end of January, pupils will have the opportunity to name and win the Valentine Bear which will be in the Hall and at the bottom of the stairs outside the Prep classroom. Have a go!!!

Chocolate Hampers for the Easter Raffle

On Monday 6th February we will be asking parents to send in a chocolate item from each child to create the Chocolate Hampers for our Easter Raffle prizes.

EASTER ART COMPETITION - £2 per entry

Decorate an egg Easter Competition

This year's Easter Art Competition entries must be in school by 9am on Monday 27th March. Full details will be sent out nearer the time. We had over 40 entries for our Autumn Art Competition – please encourage your child to take part. Further details will follow on how to decorate an egg for Easter.

Friends of Dale House

JUNIOR PUPIL'S & PARENT'S GAMES EVENING & SUPPER ~ Thursday 9th March 2017

A great night was had by all the pupils and parents who attended last year's games evening. A fun evening from **6.30-8.30pm** for the whole family, please save the date in your diaries. More details to follow nearer the time. Tickets will be £5 for this event which includes a meal/drink.

EARLY ROOM – 8am to 8.25am

Any child arriving in school between 8.00am and 8.25am must be brought into school via the main door and taken to the Early Club for supervision. **Please do not leave your child in a classroom.**

If you arrive at or after 8.25am, do not go to the main school door. Please enter the school by the correct entrance door and take your child to their classroom as Early Club is closed and all children will have gone to their classrooms.

AFTER SCHOOL ACTIVITY CLUBS

Please note that children must be over 5 years of age to participate in After School Activity Clubs.

When all after school clubs finish, including the Homework Club, will parents please collect their children from the back yard at 4.20pm.

SCHOLASTICS BOOK FAIR ~ Monday 27th March 2017 – Thursday 30th March 2017

A reminder that we will be holding the Scholastic Book Fair in school from Monday 27th March 2017 to Thursday 30th March 2017, from 3.15pm to 4pm daily in the Hall.

SECOND HAND UNIFORM SALE IN SCHOOL ~ Friday 27th January 2017 at 3.00pm in the Hall

A reminder that we will be holding a second-hand uniform sale in school on Friday 27th January 2017, at 3pm in the Hall. Please send in donations of good clean items of uniform to help raise funds for the school. Please come along and 'pick up a bargain'.

SPECIAL ASSEMBLIES THIS TERM

A New Year – New Beginnings; New Year wishes and resolutions; Coping with changes; Setting goals for Implementing; Telling the truth; Making good choices/Freedom, Justice, Equality and Democracy; Chinese New Year; Being safe on the internet; Being Kind and Helpful; Being a Good Friend; Being Polite; Good Manners; Epiphany; Spring; Valentine's Day; Mothers Day; Ash Wednesday; Lent; Holi; Being Truthful; The Easter Story; Easter Events and Traditions; Passover.

CAR PARKING & TRAFFIC FLOW AROUND SCHOOL – IMPORTANT INFORMATION

Please could all parents remember that they **must not park across the gateway entrance** on Ruby Street when dropping off or picking up pupils at the beginning or end of the school day. This entrance must remain clear at all times.

At busy times will drivers please enter Ruby Street at the top of the street and travel downhill to exit Ruby Street via Amber Street or Bradford Road at the bottom. **Please tell any relatives/friends who drop off or pick pupils up.**

Please make sure that young children do not leave the school yard or walk up and down Ruby Street outside the school gates without adult supervision.

When staff have handed over the children at 3.20pm they are under Parental Supervision and the school will not take any responsibility for accidents that occur whilst parents/carers are in charge of their children.

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. **Please note that Tempest will not take pictures of children who do not attend the school.**

SCHOOL REPORTS

Reports are being collated at the moment and they will be sent out on Wednesday 15th February 2017.

Please note new Assessment criteria for the New Curriculum (2014/2015), means that Assessment thresholds and grades have changed for 2017. It is much harder to be 'average' now than in previous years.

Can parents please return the report, with a written comment and signature, before the school breaks for half term on Friday 17th February. Please also return the white Dale House folders for use next time.

The report will then be photocopied for our records and returned to you to keep. Thank you.

HOMEWORK YEARS 2 TO 6

This term, extra homework may be set during the week, and midweek revision will be set for all Year 2 pupils and Junior School pupils. SAT's exams will take place for Year 6 during the week 8th to 12th May. Other school exams take place between 8th and 18th May. These will involve the Junior School and Year 2 pupils.

PARENTS EVENINGS ~ Tuesday 16th May and Wednesday 17th May 2016

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

Prep Class: Mrs Doel –Wednesday 17th May

Transition/Y1 Class: Mrs Howard – Tuesday 16th May

Lower Prep 1/2 Class: Miss I Mears-Sykes –Wednesday 17th May

Upper Prep 3: Mr Mather – Tuesday 16th & Wednesday 17th May

Upper Prep 3/4: Mrs Copley – Tuesday 16th & Wednesday 17th May

Upper Prep 5/6: Miss Windows – Tuesday 16th May

NOTE: There are NO Activity Clubs or Homework Club on these days. Late Room closes at 5.30pm

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, Estate Agent, Chef and Vet).

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.

BAD WEATHER

So far the weather has been reasonable, but it can be very unpredictable at this time of year. Staff will do their best to keep the school open at all times. If it is snowing, will parents please collect their children by 3.30pm and not leave children in the Late Room. If the weather is very poor, will parents please use their discretion as to whether or not they set out to school with their children. If the decision is made for the school not to open on any morning, Mrs Fletcher will text parents and have an announcement put out on **Radio Leeds** and the school's own website (www.dhschool.co.uk). Ruby Street is very dangerous in ice and snow because of the steep slope. Parents are advised to enter Ruby Street at the top and leave the school via Amber Street and Pearl Street, or to park on the main road and walk pupils to the school.

INTERNET SAFETY

Many pupils received i-pads and mobile phones etc for Christmas. We would ask all parents to be vigilant about their child's use of i-phones, i-pads and computers etc at home. Is your child using the internet? Do you know who they are contacting? A child has to be over 13 years of age to have a Facebook page. Has your child posted personal information online, on Facebook, or on YouTube, etc? Do you have security in place to protect your child online? Many Games children play on line with others whom they do not know, can lead your child into unsafe relationships. No child in our school should be playing games that have a 13+, 15 or 18 rating, nor be exposed to them if an adult in the home is playing them e.g. Grand Theft Auto, World of Warcraft and Call of Duty. The content of these games e.g. violence, sex, rape, bad language and murder etc. is totally inappropriate for primary school children.

Staff are often shocked by some pupil's revelations about their use of games, mobile phones and the internet in class discussion. Staff have a duty to report any safeguarding matters to parents and the local Education Authority.

At school we do a lot of work with children about E-Safety and hope that this is being reinforced and supported at home by parents.

Please do not allow your child to bring a mobile phone, i-pad, etc, to school.

IMPORTANT NOTICE – INFORMATION RECORDS

Contact Details - Please inform the school immediately of any change of contact details (address, telephone number, email address, etc) and particularly mobile phone numbers so that our emergency contact details are kept up to date.

Medical Conditions – Medical Plans are kept in school for any child who has a known medical condition. These are updated when necessary and annually as a matter of routine. If you have not informed the school of your child's medical needs, please write a letter explaining any changes to medication or condition (e.g. does your child still need the inhaler we keep in school?) and send it in to school as soon as possible.

ABSENCES FROM SCHOOL

If your child is absent from school, please ring the school office before 9.00am to let us know. If we don't hear from you we are obliged to try and contact you to ascertain the reason for absence. On your child's return to school, please send in a letter or email of explanation for the absence for our files. Thank you. Children must attend every day and be involved in all activities planned for their class.

HOLIDAY CLUBS

In the Holiday Clubs this year we are going to run some events especially for the Juniors, e.g. Musical Theatre; Cookery School; Snooker; Table Tennis; etc. Dale House Holiday Clubs are good fun for all ages and a great success. Please book early to avoid disappointment. Nursery grant children can still have some free sessions.

The Easter Holiday Club will run from Wednesday 5th April to Friday 21st April 2017 (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 early March.

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.

THE SPRING TERM FINALE ~ Tuesday 4th April 2017

On the last day of each term, lessons take place as normal and we have assessment tests as well as special celebrations in class to acknowledge all the hard work that the pupils have put in throughout the term and to mark their individual achievements.

Later in the afternoon children finish the term in End of Term Services which 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)

Lower Prep I/II (Miss Mear's class)

The Church opens at 12.45pm for tea and coffee (please make a donation for your drink as it is provided by the Church)

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 cup of tea/coffee or squash (small donation please) before the next service begins.

- **Service 2 Upper School – 2pm – 2.30pm:**

Upper Prep III (Mr Mather's class)

Upper Prep IV (Mrs Copley's class)

Upper Prep 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 by 2.45pm.

School will close at 2.45pm on the day and there will be **NO Late Club or Homework Club**.

Please note that After School Activity Clubs finish on Friday 24th March.

SUMMARY OF DATES FOR YOUR DIARY – EPIPHANY TERM (SPRING) 2017

Tuesday 3 rd January 2017	School Closed for Staff Inset Training
Wednesday 4 th January 2017	Whole School Opens – First Day of Spring Term 2017
Wednesday 11 th January 2017	Juniors Times tables test
Friday 6 th January 2017	Juniors first trip to the Sports Centre
Friday 6 th January 2017	Private Dance Lessons Begin
Monday 9 th January 2017	All After School Activity Clubs Begin
Monday 9 th January 2017	Private Piano Lessons Begin
Wednesday 11 th January 2017	Uniform Check
Wednesday 11 th January 2017	Juniors Times tables test
Friday 13 th January 2017	Young Voices Sheffield for Junior School pupils. Pupils return to school 10.45pm
Friday 27 th January 2017	Second-hand Uniform Sale – 3.00pm in the Hall
Saturday 28 th January 2017	Chinese New Year – Year of the Chicken
Wednesday 8 th February 2017	Juniors Times tables test
Friday 10 th February 2017	Y2-6 Poetry Day preparation. Make sure your child knows their poem/nursery rhyme.
Monday 13 th February 2017	Chocolate Hamper items collection begins for Easter Raffle prizes.
Wednesday 15 th February 2017	Reports sent home
Wednesday 15 th February 2017	Lower School winter story evening 3.30-5.00
Thursday 16 th February 2017	Juniors Poetry competition performances
Friday 17 th February 2017	Lower School Poetry/Nursery Rhymes performances.
Friday 17 th February 2017	School closes for half term
FEBRUARY HALF TERM (No Holiday Club) Monday 19th to Friday 23rd February inclusive	
Monday 27 th February 2017	Whole School opens
Tuesday 28 th February 2017	Shrove Tuesday. Lent begins.
Wednesday 1 st March 2017	Ash Wednesday.
Wednesday 1 st March 2017	Juniors Times tables test
Thursday 2 nd March 2017	World Book Day - Year 3 to 6 pupils to discuss favourite book characters
Monday 6 th March 2017	FODH School meeting. 6.30pm. All welcome.
Thursday 9 th March 2017	Juniors Parent/Child Games Night 6.30pm-8.00pm
Monday 13 th March 2017	Holi Festivity
Wednesday 15 th March 2017	Juniors Times tables test
Friday 17 th March 2017	St Patrick's Day
Monday 20 th March 2017	Easter Art – decorate an egg Competition entries to the Hall
Friday 24 th March 2017	Juniors last sports centre
Sunday 26 th March 2017	Mothering Sunday (Mother's Day) / British Summertime begins
Monday 27 th March 2017	Easter Activity week begins
Monday 27 th March 2017	Robin wood parents meeting – all junior parents. 6.30pm
Wednesday 29 th March 2017	Juniors Times tables test
Friday 31 st March 2017	Easter Art - decorate an egg Competition judging

Tuesday 4 th April 2017	End of Term Services at St John's Church Lower School 1pm, Upper School 2pm
EASTER HOLIDAYS Wednesday 5th April to Friday 21st April inclusive	
Wednesday 5 th April 2017	Easter Holiday Club Opens.
Friday 14 th April 2017	Good Friday (Holiday Club closed)
Sunday 16 th April 2017	Easter Sunday
Monday 17 th April 2017	Easter Monday (Holiday Club closed)
Tuesday 18 th April 2017	Holiday Club re-opens until Friday 21 st April inclusive.
Monday 24 th April 2017	School Closed for Staff Inset Training
Tuesday 25th April 2017	Whole School Open (Summer Uniform)