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| Newsletter    July 2023 | | H:\A_LOGO\Jpeg small.jpg |
| What an action packed half term we have had! As always the summer term is great fun. We are all finishing off the exciting learning in the current year group, including end of term events- especially for the year 6’s, but at the same time carefully planning and preparing for September so that school is ready for pupils’ return. Read on to find out what different groups of children have been up to! In the meantime, I wish you all a restful, fun summer break and a final farewell to those parents who have come to an end of their Dobcroft journey.  *Mrs Sexton* | | **In this Issue:**  FODs  Routines  Staff update  Parent shout out  Governor update  Music enrichment  School Games day  Y6 crucial crew  Y2 transition  Y6 play  Hallam Cash for Kids  RNLI- water safety  Y6 residential visit  Y5 RE visit  Y4 science visit  Y3 geography visit  Staff shout out  Clean Air Competition  Premises update  **Coming up:**  4,5 Sept- school closed to pupils  6th September- back to school  Parent’s evening |
| **FODS**  A huge well done and thank you to the amazing FODs team for organising a spectacular summer fayre. We were lucky with the weather and so many families supported the event. At the last count we had raised almost £6000 to share between both schools. The junior school is using any FODs funds raised to have essential work carried out on the wildlife garden that we share with the infants. This will hugely support our science and outdoor learning curriculum in the coming months and years. As well as the summer fayre FODs ran a “special person” stall which also raised important funds for school. Please continue to get involved in events as much as possible and please contact school if you wish to know more. | |
| **September Routines & Polite Reminders**  ***Start and Finish Routines***   * Please remember that ***Y3 and Y5 pupils gather on the*** ***back playground*** in the morning * ***Y4 and Y6 pupils gather on the front playground***. * All **gates open at 845am** and staff are on duty outside to supervise from that time. * Teachers come out to collect their classes a few minutes before the bell at 855am in case you want to have a quick word. * At the end of the day all pupils should be collected from the front playground from their school adult, it is therefore essential that your child’s **“going home” arrangements** for each day are up to date with the school office.   ***School Carpark***   * The car park is not accessible (apart from blue badge holders) between 830am-9am and 315pm-345pm. This is for the safety of children at both schools.   ***Items to remember***   * PE kit to go on children’s cloakroom peg * Basic stationery if possible: pencil, ruler, glue stick, eraser- no overly large pencil cases please ☺ * PLEASE label items, especially uniform * Dark coloured footwear (eg black, brown, navy) | | |
| **Staff Update**  We are saying good bye to the following staff this summer: Mr Earl and Mrs Barker (classteachers). Mrs Barker has decided after many years of teaching to have a career change and Mr Earl has secured a job at Nether Greeen Juniors. We shall miss them both immensley. Several support staff are also leaving us including Mrs Hallaj, Ms Booth, Ms Stone, Miss Ingleson, Miss Jones - again they are going to various other roles or relocating outside of Sheffield. I would like to take the opportunity to say a huge thank you to all of the staff who have dedicated their time to the children in our school- we will miss you all.  ***Senior Leadership Changes***  In addition to staff leaving we have some internal staff changes. Mrs Doyle is dropping from 5 days to 4 days and will no longer work Monday. Mrs Doyle will therefore be deputy head Tues, Weds, Thurs and continue to be head teacher on Friday. In order to accommodate this reduction in leadership Mrs Kirk and Mr Harrison will become assistant headteachers (AHT) in September, whilst maintaining their teaching responsibilities in Cornerstone and Y6. This will be a fabulous opportunity for our leadership team to further grow and strengthen and lead the school.  In September we are saying hello to Miss Pratt (Y6 teacher) and Mr Frampton (Y3 teacher). Mr Frampton is covering Mrs Kemp’s 2nd maternity leave- she returned briefly this half term but has now left us again to have baby # 2- we wish Mrs Kemp all the best. We also have several support staff joining us: Mr Kemp, Mrs Liu, Mrs Raheem and Mrs Yates. Mrs Holden who works in the office in the morning will also be joining our TA team in September in the afternoons. I am sure you will all make our new staff welcome as they join our fabulous school community in September. | | |
| **Parent Shout Out**  I would like to take this opportunity to say a huge thank you and goodbye to Andy Thake. Andy has committed hours of his time supporting and coaching our cross country runners over the last 6 years. The success of our runners is certainly down to his commitment and expertise and I am sure you will all agree he will be missed. There are several other parents coninuing to support the runners including Matt Sanderson and I know the cross country culture in school will continue to thrive as our new year 3 children join us. | **Governor Update**  We are also saying goodbye to our safeguarding governor Michelle Kingan. Michelle has been a huge support to school over the last 4 years in her role and has shared and contributed a wealth of knowledge and expertise. There will be other vacancies on the governor board in the coming months so please watch this space for more information. | |
| **Music Enrichment Concert**  As part of our curriculum we regularly enrich the learning in the classroom with wider events and opportunities and this week was a super example of this for our pupils who learn a musical instrument. Mrs Dawson and Mrs Waggott organised the event and it was wonderful to have so many children performing at this year’s summer music concert. It even stayed sunny for the whole event! We were treated to such a huge range of instruments which were brilliantly played by all of our talented musicians. It was delightful to have our members of pupils' parliament introducing each act so eloquently as well! Well done to all of those who practised so well and performed so beautifully and thank you to all the parents and carers who came and watched. | | |
| **PE Enrichment- School Games Day**  We changed the structure of our school games day this year with the year 4 and year 6 children competing in the morning and the year 3s and year 5s involved in the afternoon. The children all participated in a rotation of games style activities including: long jump, water relay, obstacle relay, team building activities, long distance throw and football dribble and shoot – with each child collecting house points for their respective houses. This was followed by the competitive running events – a short distance sprint and a longer distance run. It really was a fantastic day and it was wonderful to see the children in our school demonstrate determination and resilience – working together as a team and supporting each other. During the afternoon, our Sports Leaders used their leadership skills to run the team events, encouraging and motivating the younger children in our school to do their best. It certainly was a competitive and fun day – even the sun was shining! Well done to all of the parents who were brave enough to enter the parent race! Congratulations to the Sheaf house team who were the overall winners of 2023! Thank you to Ms Powell, Mrs Conroy and Mr Huckstepp for organising such a brilliant day. | | |
| **Year 6 Crucial Crew**  As part of enriching our personal development curriculum Y6 visited Crucial Crew this term. It was arranged with the aim of raising awareness of safety issues to school children (aged 10-11).  Children took part in 20-minute interactive scenarios which covered a wide range of topics, each educating the children in a specific risk.  The scenarios included the children having ‘hands on’ experience in what to do if they discover a fire in the home and how to make an emergency call. They had to identify risks set up in the scenario and learn how to make their homes safer.  Other scenarios included:   * Water Safety * Road Safety * Knife Safety * Child Exploitation * Magistrates courtroom scenario   The children were fantastic at identifying the many risks shown in each scenario and were really mature when listening to how we can prevent such dangers in the wider world. | **Year 2 Transition**  We have had many events and meetings over the last two terms in order to welcome our year 2 pupils in September, ensuring as smooth a transition as possible. This half term Y2’s joined us for a full day experiencing a day in our school with their new teachers as well as getting used to routines such as lunchtime and playtime- unfortunatley it rained all day so children were inside most of the day but it was certainly wonderful to meet them.  We also held a parent tour so parents could visit in smaller groups meeting all of our teachers as well as visiting their child’s classroom and new teacher for next year. Thank you to all of the parents who attended and we look forward to meeting you in September again. | |
| **Shakespeare Rocks – Y6 Production**  A huge well done to all of our Year 6 children for working so hard together to produce their end-of-year production of Shakespeare Rocks – a hilarious but factually accurate take on the life and times of William Shakespeare. This was a fabulous opportunity to enrich our English and music curriculum. Children certainly showed off their singing and acting skills.  The children were amazing: those with acting roles skilfully took on the challenge of creating the show’s comical characters; those in the chorus raised the roof with their tuneful and enthusiastic singing; the stage crew made sure everything on stage was just right; and the smaller groups of dancers and singers shone. They really gave their audience an entertaining glimpse into the life and times of The Bard of Warwickshire and how he came ‘To Be’.  A huge thank you to all that worked with Y6 to put the show together and thank you to the Y6 parents for your support in learning lines, songs and providing costumes for your child. | | |
| **Hallam FM- Cash For Kids**  In support of families suffering from financial hardship due to the cost of living crisis, children raised funds for the Hallam Cash For Kids cause this term. Overall we raised £237. Thank you so much to everyone who donated as it is certainly tough times, including for members of our own school community. | **RNLI- Water safety**  As part of our personal development curriculum we teach children about water safety- certainly appropriate for this time of year. This year we were fortunate enough to organise for the RNLI to come in and give a talk in assembly. It was a great way for children to learn about the important work of the charity as well as the basic, important ways to keep themselves safe around water. | |
| **Year 6 Residential Visit**  **Read on to hear Mr Harrison’s wonderful Y6 residential reflections.**  *Our current Year 6 were the first to visit Stratford for our new residential destination. As a school, we wanted to provide something that would contrast with previous residential trips in that it would provide a cultural experience, but match the levels of fun that the children had experienced previously. Stratford did not disappoint!*  *Day One began with a trip to Cadbury World - exploring how the company produces chocolate, but also the history of the factory and the village that was built to change conditions for its workers. Of course, we were given much chocolate to take with us, which was rationed out during the week! A Scavenger Hunt helped us to settle into the Youth Hostel we stayed at - a venue which provided great accommodation and hearty meals!*  *Day Two was quite theatrical - we were visited by four local actors who led workshops focussed upon 'the Scottish play' - Macbeth, and also the life and times of the famous local - William Shakespeare! We hopped aboard our coaches for the afternoon and visited the Butterfly Farm, which also had a range of other exciting wildlife - including a crocodile. Day Two came to a close with an exciting quiz. The teachers were pipped to the winning post by some very knowledgeable Year 6s!*  *Day Three immersed us in the world of the Tudors - we had workshops in Stratford teaching us about the theatres, crime and punishment and what life was like in their times. The afternoon was a guided tour of the town - led by the famous local himself - William Shakespeare! Following this, the children were given an hour to shop by themselves - not a Stratford memento in sight! Cuddly toys, skateboards and bouncy balls were all purchased as a memory of the trip!*  *The final day was oh so very wet! The children were full of positivity though and enjoyed their trip to Warwick Castle - seeing the castle walls, the trebuchet and a recreation of the War of the Roses all through the torrent of rain! We escaped the rain and journeyed back to school, damp, but happy with many wonderful memories!*  *The children were fantastically behaved and we had a wonderful week with them. Thank you so much to the Dobcroft staff that volunteered their time to supervise the children - committing to a residential trip is no small undertaking and we appreciate the adults' time, energy and enthusiasm for these types of trips - thanks to them, we are able to create wonderful adventures such as these. Same again next year, Year 5?*  **A big thank you to Mr Harrison and the team for organising such a wonderful, memorable experience for our pupils.** | | |
| **Y5 visit to the Sikh gurdwara:**  Y5 were lucky enough to be able to visit the Sikh Gurdwara as part of their RE curriculum. They learnt so much including how the gurdwara is run (it’s open 24 hours a day!), how they welcome any religion into the temple and how Sikhism works. The guru treated pupils to a prayer. Every child wore a head covering and took off their shoes to enter the prayer room. It was a huge room with next to no furniture as everyone sits on the floor as equals in the Gurdwara. All the children were incredibly respectful and demonstrated our school values. | **Y4 Science Visit- Ecclesall Woods**  The Y4s visited Ecclesall Woods this half term as part of their science topic, 'Living things and their Habitats'. They used classification keys to identify the names of different trees, pooters to suck up bugs and identify them, they did leaf and bark rubbings as well as working out the age and height of different trees! Great fun and super learning was had by all. Eve said, "I liked finding the different bugs and putting them in the jars because there were lots of slugs, snails, worms and woodlouse and it was really fun to look at them. I also thought finding the age and the height of the tree was interesting". Mohammad said, "I liked it when we were estimating how tall the trees were and also collecting the bugs!".    Y4JF did the same thing but in the school grounds due to the torrential rain! | |
| **Y3 Geography Visit- local Area**  On Friday 14th July, the Y3 children went on a Geography trip in order to explore how the land use in Millhouses has changed over time. They visited Terminus Road and the children learnt all about how the tram terminus used to be there. The children also explored how the land use in Millhouses park has changed over time and spent some time looking at where the lido and paddling pools used to be and compared it to what it is like now. Well done year 3, even though the weather was not on their side, they showed resilience and did their absolute best on the trip! | ***A big thank you to all of the parents and carers who have volunteered their time this year to help out in school- whether that be school visits or in the classroom- it is truly appreciated. If you wish to volunteer in the future please get in touch with Mrs Kirk***  [**akirk@dobcroft-jun.sheffiled.sch.uk**](mailto:akirk@dobcroft-jun.sheffiled.sch.uk) | |
| **Action Air Day**  We recently ran a competition to give a name and a logo to our initiative to promote clean air in our community and beyond. The idea is to help the children develop even better habits for this cause as they grow up. There were many great ideas and logo designs but the winning name is, ‘Healthy Planet Week’ (simple and to the point) and that was made up by Lucia and Roza in Year 4. The winning Logo is symbolic and strong. It was created by Isla C - also in Year 4. Well done and thank you to all the children who entered and watch this space for initiatives in this area next year! | | |
| **Premises Update**  School and DASH are still in the process of resolving issues with Sheffield City Council regarding the awful mobile at the end of DASH on the back playground. The plan is for DASH to upgrade the building but we are still waiting for the go ahead from SCC before they can begin this work- fingers crossed work can begin early next year.  We have creatively converted one of our classrooms which became available when our large year group left last year and it is now an amazing computer suite and children have voted for it to be called ***“The Tech Zone”.*** It really is a great space, allowing teachers to teach computing effectively as every child has their own computer! | | |