

What an action packed term we have had so far! As always we love the start of the year, welcoming our super year 3's to our school as well as seeing the older children step up to their responsibilities as they move through the school. Pupils are really settled and working so hard and the atmosphere in school is lovely. We had a visitor in school last week who was reviewing our history curriculum and as always, she was so complimentary about our pupils and their relationships with their peers and adults. A huge welcome to all of the new families who have joined the juniors and we hope you are feeling part of our school community. Read on to see the exciting things we have been up to so far this year.

Mrs Sexton

School Priorities 2023-2024

We are always working incredibly hard behind the scenes to constantly improve the educational provision for all of our children. This could be reacting to new research and guidance or working with other schools on projects. This year our main foci are:

Researching and implementing an outdoor education programme across the curriculum

Further developing our Thrive programme and especially how we support all our pupils to become emotionally resilient in the classroom

Developing how we assess pupils in subjects such as history, geography and science

Continuing to support pupils to catch up and become amazing writers at the greater depth standard since the COVID pandemic.

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Coming up:

29/11 Year 3- Castleton
Information- 350pm
1/12- Year 3 Stone Age Day
1/12- deadline for Xmas dinner orders
8/12- FODS special gift stall
12/12 & 14/12- Year 4 evening performance- 6pm
13/12- Xmas Dinner
19/12- Year 4 Roman Day
Tbc- Christmas Parties



Pupil's Parliament

It is really important to us that the children get a say in how our school community can be improved. Our Pupil Parliament gives the children an opportunity for their voices and opinions to be heard. Past projects have included the installation of the flexible field and the trim trail to make our playground environment more interesting and exciting for the children. This year Mr Wassell has stepped in to fill Miss Fields' 'big shoes' in running our Pupil Parliament. Each class held an election for a representative to become their pupil parliament rep and the following children have been elected:

Year 3: Erin, Jessica P, Eliza Year 4: Bea, Livie, Daisy Year 5: Joshua, James F, Benji Year 6: Finn

D, Heidi and Rudi

They have held their first meeting and the children were tasked with thinking of exciting reward activities they could add to our Dojo shop. Plenty more initiatives will follow - watch this space...

Olympic Swimmer visit

On the 27th September, James Kinton, who represented Great Britain for over six years, reaching Olympic, World and European level visited us to deliver a water safety assembly and share some fun facts about his Olympic journey. The assembly was a great success, the children really enjoyed hearing his stories, wearing his Olympic medals and learning lots of informative ways to stay safe around water.



Year 5- Ancient Maya Day

On Thursday 23rd November, Y5 enjoyed a visit from Dr Diane Davies, **the UK's only Ancient Maya archaeologist!** She shared pictures, videos and stories from her excavation visits to Guatemala. She told us all about the achievements of the Ancient Maya civilisation - there were a lot! After her presentation, each class had a workshop where they were able to look at and handle artefacts that Dr Davies had collected during her archaeological career.



Children were particularly captivated by the jade mask found in a Maya King's tomb and the different objects and weapons made from obsidian. Children had a chance to think like historians, using their inference skills to work out what the object was, its purpose and who might have used it. We have loved having Dr Davies visit and can't wait until she's back at DJS next year.

Parent Shout Outs & Assemblies

Thank you to all of our wonderful parents who have delivered an assembly to our children this half term. The children have been really lucky to have 3 parent assemblies on different themes. First, Hrishi (Y4) and his family shared a lovely assembly all about celebrating Diwali. The children enjoyed learning about the traditions and dressing up in Diwali outfits. Later in the half term, Keeley Brooke shared a wonderful, practical insight into how medicines are developed in her role as a bio scientist. The children were fascinated by the different stages and we all (including teachers) learnt so much. Finally, Vicky Christie came in to talk about her profession as a midwife. It was great for children to learn how the job as a midwife and lecturer linked so closely to our school values. In all of the assemblies, the children have asked some fabulous questions and showed great engagement!

Governor Update

We have welcomed three new governors this term- Mr Wassell as a staff governor, Andrew Davies as a safeguarding governor and Matthew Hawker as a co-opted governor from another educational setting. As always if you have any questions regarding governors please get in touch

chair@dobcroft-jun.sheffield.sch.uk



Year 5 Kingswood residential

Earlier this month, our Year 5s embarked on our residential visit to Kingswood – an outdoor and adventurous activities centre. The children had a fabulous time tackling a wide range of challenges: some which developed their problem-solving skills; some which developed their bravery and ability to push themselves outside their comfort zones; some which developed their communications skills; and all of which built their teamwork skills. We were all really proud of how the children



adjusted to this new environment and quickly settled into three nights away from home. They showed courage, determination and resilience and definitely embraced our school values of Together We Do Our Best. Well done Year 5!

Young Carer's Project



At DJS we're continuing to recognise how important it is to support all of our families and understand that family life is not always easy. As you may recall from previous correspondence and assemblies in school, we have started our journey to spread awareness in order to try and identify all our Young Carers, children who take on responsibility for caring for someone at home. We are committed to ensuring that all pupils who are young carers are identified, and supported effectively. Thank you everyone for all your efforts.

Activ Travel & a Healthy Planet

During the week beginning 2nd October we promoted active travel choices both to, from and outside of school. The children were all given a 'zapper' card where they recorded their active travel choices with the objective of filling it to receive dojo rewards. The children embraced the challenge and lots of active travel choices were made resulting in fit and healthy children and a little less congestion around school at collection times. Thank you to all of the children who are doing their bit to make our surrounding area cleaner and safer.

In addition to this, we also held a competition to promote recycling both in school and at home where the children were asked to design an image that highlights the importance of recycling. The winning entry has been stuck on recycle bins around school.

Children In Need 2023

Once again our school community have made a difference! Our Children in Need fund raised £270.50. Thank you to all those who made a contribution.



Staff Update

We are sadly saying goodbye to Mr Bryan in December- he is a wonderful teaching assistant and he has decided to explore other vocations- we will certainly miss him and wish him well. We are also sadly saying goodbye to Mrs Scammell in December as she has decided to go back to her roots in secondary education as a languages teacher- she will be truly missed and we wish her well. Ms Harrison will be teaching Y3SH full time for the remainder of the year.

Year 4 visit Magna



On Thursday 9th November Y4 visited Magna Science Adventure Centre to become further immersed in their States of Matter science topic. The children accessed a fantastic workshop, run by Magna, where they used their knowledge of solids, liquids and gases to mix old fashioned paint and create an amazing explosion! They also visited the different areas of the centre and got hands on with the elements! By the end of the day, the year group was fully inspired by the wonders of science. Thank you to the parent volunteers who came with us.



Premises:

We are having some work done on the drainage in the carparks in the coming weeks which will hopefully alleviate the flooding when there is heavy rain.

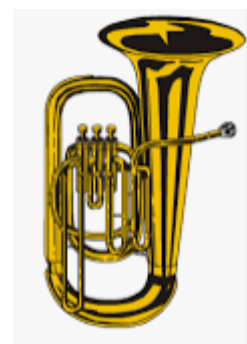
We have recently worked with the infant school on clearing the wildlife garden- the hidden space between the two playgrounds. It has unearthed a wonderful secluded space which we are looking forward to using and developing even further to support many areas of the curriculum. We used funds raised at the summer fayre to help fund the work- thank you FODs!

Brass Instrument Demonstration & Music lessons

We are very pleased that we can offer a wide range of music lessons from peripatetic teachers at Dobcroft Junior School. Learning a musical instrument is great for developing social skills, it trains many different parts of the brain, and is an activity that can be enjoyed throughout your whole life. Currently, we offer clarinet, drums, flute, guitar, piano, recorder, saxophone, violin and soon we have a brass teacher joining us.

Chris Barron is a brass teacher with the Sheffield Music Hub who is offering trumpet, cornet, tenor horn, trombone, euphonium, baritone and tuba. He gave a very exciting and impressive demonstration in a whole school assembly. You can enquire about lessons via the music hub website.

<https://www.sheffieldmusichub.org/>



Skipathon Week

We were delighted to take part in the #SheffieldSchoolsSkipathonweek 2023 which yet again was a highly successful and fun initiative with over 16,000 children across Sheffield being part of this. The objective of the skipathon week was to act as a springboard to stimulate skipping activities within our school and to promote fun and active sessions throughout the school day. It was wonderful to see everyone taking part and we hope that the enthusiasm for skipping continues throughout the school year. The children have loved the daily skipping activities and learning a variety of new skipping skills - well done everyone!



FODS events this year

Please make a note in your calendar to help support school with these events this year.

8th December –special gift stall

Any volunteers really appreciated

1st February – Y5/6 School Disco 5:30pm – 7pm

Any volunteers really appreciated

8th February – Special person stall (connected to Valentine's Day)

Any volunteers really appreciated

7th March – Y3/4 School Disco 5:30pm – 7pm

Any volunteers really appreciated

29th June – Summer Fayre

Lots and lots of volunteers really appreciated- just an hour each will really enable the fayre to be a huge success!!

School Calendar- 2024-2025

We have received several requests for INSET dates for next year. We have now set the dates with infant school and full calendar is below.

INSET DATES 2024-2025 (SCHOOL CLOSED TO PUPILS)

2nd September 2024

3rd September 2024

21st July 2025

22nd July 2025

23rd July 2025

SHEFFIELD CITY COUNCIL

SCHOOL CALENDAR FOR THE 2024/25 ACADEMIC YEAR For community and voluntary controlled primary, secondary and special schools

September (21 Days)							October (19 Days)							November (20 Days)						
M	T	W	T	F	S	S	M	T	W	T	F	S	S	M	T	W	T	F	S	S
						1		1	2	3	4	5	6					1	2	3
2	3	4	5	6	7	8	7	8	9	10	11	12	13	4	5	6	7	8	9	10
9	10	11	12	13	14	15	14	15	16	17	18	19	20	11	12	13	14	15	16	17
16	17	18	19	20	21	22	21	22	23	24	25	26	27	18	19	20	21	22	23	24
23	24	25	26	27	28	29	28	29	30	31				25	26	27	28	29	30	
30																				
December (15 Days)							January (20 days)							February (15 days)						
M	T	W	T	F	S	S	M	T	W	T	F	S	S	M	T	W	T	F	S	S
						1													1	2
2	3	4	5	6	7	8			1	2	3	4	5	3	4	5	6	7	8	9
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16	17	18	19	20	21	22	13	14	15	16	17	18	19	17	18	19	20	21	22	23
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30	31						27	28	29	30	31									
March (20 Days)							April (11 Days)							May (16 Days)						
M	T	W	T	F	S	S	M	T	W	T	F	S	S	M	T	W	T	F	S	S
						1			1	2	3	4	5					1	2	3
3	4	5	6	7	8	9	7	8	9	10	11	12	13	5	6	7	8	9	10	11
10	11	12	13	14	15	16	14	15	16	17	18	19	20	12	13	14	15	16	17	18
17	18	19	20	21	22	23	21	22	23	24	25	26	27	19	20	21	22	23	24	25
24	25	26	27	28	29	30	28	29	30					26	27	28	29	30	31	
31																				
June (21 Days)							July (17 Days)							August						
M	T	W	T	F	S	S	M	T	W	T	F	S	S	M	T	W	T	F	S	S
						1		1	2	3	4	5	6					1	2	3
2	3	4	5	6	7	8	7	8	9	10	11	12	13	4	5	6	7	8	9	10
9	10	11	12	13	14	15	14	15	16	17	18	19	20	11	12	13	14	15	16	17
16	17	18	19	20	21	22	21	22	23	24	25	26	27	18	19	20	21	22	23	24
23	24	25	26	27	28	29	28	29	30	31				25	26	27	28	29	30	31
30																				



Denotes Bank Holidays



Denotes INSET days



Denotes School Holidays

