

Sports News

Summer 1



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19 April Y5 Speedway: 13 children participated in this event where they learned how to negotiate the track especially as the bikes don't have brakes! No one fell off so they all did really well. They did a 2 lap time trial, a couple of pursuit races and then another time trial to see if they could beat their times. Every single one did just that and all 10 boys got under the magic time of 30 seconds. Well done to them all – 2 boys and 2 girls will now go to the finals on 1 July – good luck! Thank you to the many parents who stayed to watch and support their children – and especially Mrs Bell who couldn't resist having a go herself!

20 April London Mini Marathon : A number of children from both DJS and DIS participated in the London Mini Marathon on Saturday 20th April. It was a fabulous and well organised event, plus perfect running weather. They all got the chance to run past Buckingham Palace and experience crossing the official London Marathon Finishing Line!

We hope that both the schools can participate next year again. For each child that crossed the finish line the school received £10 to spend on PE/IT equipment. Congratulations to every single runner and thank you. Special thanks to Mrs Popat, who was the driving force behind it all and to the school office who helped with the admin to make sure entries were made on behalf of the school.

21 April Yorkshire and Humberside Schools Orienteering Championships: A number of children from Y3-6 took part in this event which was open to both Primary and Secondary schools. As individuals we had several medal winners – silver medals for Mabel in Y3, Mattie, Molly and Livie in Y4 and Eleanor won gold from Y5. Overall Dobcroft were crowned Champion Primary School team! Wow! Many thanks to Mrs Scrimshaw and Mrs Rothman for making sure we had a full team.

22 April Y4 Network Games

Congratulations to our fantastic Dashers, Dazzlers and Dynamite who participated in the Network Games on Monday afternoon and won! They ran, jumped, threw, bounced and stacked like experts! Really well done to each and every one and thank you so much to Mrs Oliver and Mr Bywater for being our helpers - they were kept very busy!

25 April Y5 League Football Tournament

Well done to the footballers who travelled to Bradway Primary last Thursday. Each team played 3 matches. The Blues had a tough time in their first 2 matches but drew their last game against Totley All Saints with a sensational solo effort from the halfway line from Mohammad. Very well deserved result. The Greens won their first 2 matches comfortably but unfortunately came up against a strong and organised Bradway team so they lost their final game and were runners up. All the players worked hard, tried to play their very best football and showed excellent sportsmanship.

30 April Schools Orienteering Competition

Well done to all our amazing Orienteers at the schools competition yesterday. It was the best day of the year so far, weather-wise, and there was lots of action and happy faces. Dobcroft came 1st in 4 out of 5 categories! Wow! Unfortunately, this year there was no further competition so no opportunity to take part in the South Yorkshire Games. Maybe it will return in the future.

7 May Y3/4 Hockey v Ecclesall

23 children, divided into 3 teams, played against Ecclesall. There was quite a variety of experience and skills with some of our children playing outside school, but the majority had just played a bit in class or at our lunchtime sessions. Everyone worked really hard, did their best and seemed to come out unscathed! Dobcroft came out on top in terms of results - just! I hope that some will play again next year and beyond.

9 May Y6 Basketball v Ecclesall

Well done to all the basketballers who played games against each other and Ecclesall. This was such a popular fixture that names had to be drawn out of a hat! They all worked so hard, and there were some great skills on show. Thank you to all the parents and other relatives who came to support the children. I know they really appreciate it.

14 May Y5 and 6 Football v Ecclesall

Well done to our girls and boys footballers for playing against Ecclesall. Both teams played 40 minutes in total, with rolling subs. The boys won overall and the girls unfortunately lost 1-2 in the final quarter of the game. Everyone worked really hard, tried to play to a position and be a great team mate. Thank you to the many parents and relatives who were there to cheer and support - even during the downpour!

17 May Y5 Boys and Girls Cricket Tournament

Well done to the girls and boys cricket teams who played a tournament today at Millhouses CC. Both teams won their first matches comfortably. The girls then won their 2nd match, by just 8 runs but the boys unfortunately lost out to a couple of big hitters in the opposing side. Everyone did really well, especially with their bowling and fielding and it was great to see lots of different players taking wickets. We found out a few days afterwards that both of the top teams are going forward to the City Finals. The girls will be on 25 June at Bawtry Road and the boys 27 June at Abbeydale SC. Thank you Mrs Topliss for helping me escort the children back to school afterwards.

21 May Y3-6 Gala at Ponds Forge

26 children across the year groups represented Dobcroft at the annual competitive Swimming Gala. As last year, schools had the option to take 2 teams if there was space, so Dobcroft, as well as 3 other schools jumped at this opportunity. There were 20 teams overall – 10 in the A division and 10 in the B. We had one team in each. Thank you to our fabulous parents who helped to timekeep and made sure that the right children got to the right races. There was some fantastic swimming on display from all the teams and a really brilliant atmosphere with all the children getting so much support. Both of our teams won bronze medals in their divisions and should be very proud of themselves.

23 May Y6 Boys League Football Final

As they won their qualifying tournament, 10 boys in the Y6 Boys Football team competed in the Winners League Tournament held at Bramall Lane. What a way to finish their Primary School Football! Maybe they were inspired by their surroundings, but they should be so proud as everything was the best it has ever been - their sportsmanship, discipline, passing, ball control, trust in each other, using Jack (the goalkeeper) to keep possession or switch the play, working hard for each other and as a team. They played some brilliant football and it was fabulous to watch. They also didn't panic, as they went 0-1 down in their first match only for Chris to score the equaliser with literally the last kick of the game - he nearly took the roof of the net off! They won their 2nd match easily and went into the winner's pool for the 2nd half of the tournament. Here, we drew with Bradway, beat Ecclesall and only lost to eventual winners Lydgate 0-1. They were crowned as runners up – number 2 team in the whole of Sheffield! Amazing! Thank you to the parents and other relatives who were there to support the boys - I know they enjoyed it as well. Well done to all the goal scorers: Chris and Jacob one each, Luke 2 and Leo 3. I wish them all well for the future.

6 June Athletics Qualifying Round at Woodbourn Road

Congratulations to the Y5/6 Athletics team who took part in the preliminary round at Woodbourn Road yesterday afternoon. Competition was fierce to get into the team and everyone had worked very hard even before the event. Every single one of them should be really proud of themselves for their performances. Particular mentions for the Y5's who made the team and who all qualified in their events for the finals: Rafi, Oliver T, Oliver D, James F and Eleanor, and to the Y6's who were all in the top 3 Thomas P, Sam H, Chris, Mimi, Essie, Saihaj and Jessie. Of the 22 children who attended, 17 made it to the City Finals later in June, which is amazing!

18 June Y3/4 Mixed Cricket v Ecclesall

Huge congratulations to our fabulous cricketers who played against Ecclesall at Dobcroft. We played 2 matches at the same time, as we do at lunchtimes. The 2 Dobcroft teams each won both of their games and all the children (both schools) played with such great spirit and sportsmanship. There were also excellent bowling, batting and fielding skills on display. Thank you to the parents and relatives who watched the matches and were really supportive as we went over time to get the 2nd match in! The visiting teacher took the time to tell me how kind,

polite and sporting the Y4 boys were. That made me feel really happy and they should be very proud of themselves.

20 June Y5 Mixed Basketball

Well done to all the basketballers who played some games against each other and Ecclesall after school on our back yard. They all worked so hard, and there were some great skills on show. Thank you to all the parents and other relatives who came to support the children, I know they really appreciate it. There was such huge interest in this fixture that I had to draw names out of a hat as we couldn't really manage more than 3 teams.

23 June British Orienteering Championships at Warwick University

Huge congratulations to Mattie in 4H who came 1st in the British Schools Orienteering for M10!

25 June Y5 Girls City Cricket Finals at Bawtry Road

As the girls won their qualifying tournament, they were invited to the City Finals. They played at the University Ground, Bawtry Road. They played 6 matches and won all 6, although it was very tight against Dore, the girls pulled through. Therefore, the girls were crowned as City Champions! Well done to them all and thank you Ms Maples for being there with them. They were 8 very happy girls!

27 June Y5 Boys City Cricket Finals at Abbeydale Sports Club

The Y5 boys City Cricket Finals were held at Abbeydale Sports Club. The boys were very motivated and I was pleased to hear that they beat the team that had beaten them at the qualifying tournament. That was a great boost for their confidence. Unfortunately, they came up against some strong, well-disciplined teams and won just one more match to finish 5th out of 7 teams. Hopefully they learned a lot and will come back stronger! Thank you to Ms Vintin for looking after them and encouraging them all.

27 June City Athletics Finals at Woodbourn Road

Massive congratulations to the Y5/6 Athletics team who became City Champions for the 4th year in a row! There were fantastic performances all around and the Y5's up against Y6's were amazing. We had 3 girls who qualified for the finals but were, unfortunately, not available, so huge thanks to Freya, Marnie and Connie for stepping up and performing brilliantly to help the team.

6th places Connie long jump, Eleanor 800m, Marnie 150m

5th places Thomas 800m, Oliver T long jump

4th places Oliver D 800m, Sam cricket ball throw, Emma 600m walk, Freya TW 800m

3rd places Chris long jump, Mimi 80m, Boys and Girls Relay teams

2nd places James FI and Jessie 600m walk

1st place and double City Champion Essie in 150m and long jump

They were all outstanding. Thank you to the many parents who stayed to watch and support, as always it was much appreciated. I hope some of them will at least think about taking the next step and join an athletics club (I know some already go).

1 July Y5 Cycle Speedway Finals at Graves

4 children, 2 boys and 2 girls, represented Dobcroft after the qualifying round a couple of months ago. They had to compete against the top 2 children from other schools. Well done Emily, Alicia, Benji and Harry and thank you parents as I had to be elsewhere at the cricket!

1 July Y6 Boys Yorkshire Cricket Competition in Leeds

Well done to our Y6 boys cricket team who competed at a Yorkshire Schools tournament in Leeds yesterday. The boys were Sheffield City Champions in 2023, which is how they got an invitation to this event. Summer was absent on the long awaited day and it was cold and drizzly! Many of the boys have also moved on from Dynamos cricket to playing with a hard ball (actual cricket ball) so they struggled a bit with their bowling distances, in particular. There were 16 teams present, from all across Yorkshire, comprising some very impressive players. Unfortunately, Dobcroft lost their 3 matches but actually scored more runs than lower teams in the other groups, whilst 2 of the teams in their group scored more than anyone else - that's just the way it goes. Everyone did something really well: George nearly got a hat trick (yes, you can have those in cricket); Chris had a caught and bowled and batted really well; James and Sam B batted very well; Oscar, Henry, Sam A and Rowan bowled well, Ben and Jacob were great fielders, took some amazing catches and ran players out. Thank you to the parents for organising your day so that you could be there to support the boys. They really appreciated having you there.

2 July Y6 Pentathlon v Ecclesall at Dobcroft

This event finally happened after being postponed from last October due to poor weather. There were 24 Y6's, split into 4 teams of 6 and everyone did all 5 events - running long jump, standing triple jump, vortex throw (like an American football with a small tail!), an agility challenge and then a relay where everyone had to run a complete lap of the track. The boys teams came 1st and 3rd and the girls teams

came 1st and =2nd. Overall Dobcroft scored 63 points and Ecclesall 49. Really well done to everyone, it was a great afternoon of athletics.

5 July Y4-6 Football Tournament at Leisure United

Westbourne Football tournament Friday 5 July: This was a 5-a-side tournament with a maximum of 8 children in each squad and 2 girls had to be playing at all times. 2 teams of Y4s played in the morning, plus 1 Y5 team and 1 Y6 team played in the afternoon: all teams played 4 matches in a row, which doesn't sound too bad but it was a very hot day, plus the ball was constantly in play so it was non-stop action! There were no throw ins, corners or goal kicks making it really fast and no breaks. There were some difficult moments with other teams but I was so proud of their determination, fantastic sportsmanship, effort, resilience and the way they supported each other as team mates. Well done and well played to all players. Thank you to Amelie, Georgia, Livie and Isla who had to play every minute of every game as there always had to be 2 girls playing. Special mentions to all the goalkeepers Patrick, George, Livie, Ben, Harry, Mustafa, Seth, Sam B, Huzayfa, Joshua and Jacob – I hope I haven't missed anyone! Thank you parents for all your support.

4 July Y5 Mixed Cricket v Ecclesall

Well done to our Y5 girls and boys who played some mixed Cricket v Ecclesall at Dobcroft. Honours were even as both school won 2 matches each! The visiting teacher was very impressed with Eliza, Georgie and Jessica in particular. All 4 matches were played in a great spirit and it was lovely to be a part of it. Congratulations to all the players. Sorry there aren't any action shots - I was trying to umpire and score as well!

9 July Y6 Mixed Cricket v Ecclesall: Unfortunately this was cancelled due to rain and we could not find an appropriate date for rescheduling.

12 July Y3 Wimbledon Tennis Festival at Graves

Well done to our fab Wimbledon Tennis players this morning! 10 children from each class went to Graves Tennis Centre to try out some tennis skills and activities. We did a group warm up, 3 sets of activities, a group game at the end and watched Niamh doing a rally. Everyone earned a certificate which also entitles them to a free session once the code is scanned. They worked really hard and Coach Paul was very complimentary about their behaviour and effort so they should be very proud of themselves. Thank you to all of them for embracing the Wimbledon white clothing theme.

Lunchtime Netball Inter House competition

The number of children, Y5's in particular, who come to Friday netball really exploded as we approached the end of the year and there are regularly enough children for 5 teams, which is absolutely brilliant – including an increasing number of boys 🏐

In our recent Inter House tournament the results were:

4th Don

3rd Rivelin

2nd Porter

1st Sheaf

Well done to all the players!

Dates for the Diary

20 November Y6 Tag Rugby at Mylnhurst

6 December U9 Westbourne Hockey and Tag Rugby Festivals - timing and venue tbc

7 December U11 Westbourne Hockey and Tag Rugby Festivals – timing and venue tbc

29 January Y4/5/6 Netball at SGHS

Thank you and farewell

After being awarded the B football team captaincy in Y4 - at that time I was the only girl in the whole school who played! - I wanted to be a PE teacher, and from the age of 13 could just not imagine doing anything else, even after an horrendous teaching practice placement when I was 21! I love all sorts of sport and have been actively involved in hockey, athletics, fencing, trampolining, tennis, squash, badminton, basketball, golf, bowls, sailing and swimming at different levels.

I returned to the UK in the summer of 2016 after 30 years working abroad in Zimbabwe (3 years), Malawi (18 years) and Qatar (9 years). I was lucky enough to start working at Dobcroft in February 2017 and at Sheffield School Swimming in 2018.

Whilst In Malawi, I married and had 3 wonderful sons. It was also a turning point professionally. I was very lucky to be working at Saint Andrews international High School in Blantyre which had fantastic facilities, including a 10 lane outdoor swimming pool! I started Liyani Swimming Club in 1992 and in 2000 I was a founding member and first President of the Malawi Aquatic Union and we had our first National Swimming Championships that year. In 2002 I attended the Manchester Commonwealth Games as Head Swimming Coach with 5 swimmers, and in 2004 I went to the Athens Olympic Games with 2 swimmers as part of the Solidarity Programme. In my eyes, the Olympics is the pinnacle of sporting achievement and I still have 'pinch me' moments when I can hardly believe I was there at the historic home of the Modern Olympiad.

I have told you a little about my background because I would like to say 2 things your children:

- 1 Find something you love and do it to the best of your ability. Always.
- 2 Say yes, take a risk, because ordinary people can have opportunities to do, or be, something extraordinary. If I can go to an Olympic Games maybe they can too!

It's been amazing to work at Dobcroft over the last 7 and a half years where the children have been so hardworking and enthusiastic, and with you, the staff, parents and guardians/carers, right there to support and encourage them. Thank you.

I wish everyone all the best for the future and who knows, I might see you when I'm teaching swimming, officiating at a gala, turning up to watch a competition or out and about with my new dog therapy business!

Ms Powell

