



Hello and welcome to the first newsletter of the year. It has been a busy start to the school term and this half term has flown by. All of the children are working hard and there is the usual bustling atmosphere in the classroom and on the playground. We hope you have enjoyed meeting your child's new class teacher and viewing their work and progress at Parents' Evening- it is always so lovely to see so many parents face to face.

We are so impressed with our fabulous Year 3's and I would like to say a big hello to all of the new families that have joined us this year and hope you are coping with getting used to new school routines. As always, please get in touch if you have any questions or concerns.

Please read on to find out what has been happening beyond the classroom this half term and I wish you all a lovely half term break.

Please remember you can view your child's year group newsletter for upcoming activities and events this term. These are sent at the beginning of each term but are also available on our website.  
<https://www.dobcroft-jun.sheffield.sch.uk/newsitems>

**Welcome to Dobcroft**

As well as our new pupils, we have new staff who have joined us this term. We are so fortunate to have such enthusiastic and amazing staff join our team and welcome them to our school community.

Ms Jackson Y3 teacher		Ms Pearson Y5 teacher		Ms Booth TA	
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Ms Stephenson- TA		Ms McCready- HLTA (cover)		Ms Cooper- HLTA (cover)		Mr Ross- Sport and class cover	
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Ms Bennett- TA		Ms Jabbar- TA		Ms Davies- TA		Ms Myers- TA	
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**Coming up:**

- 4/11- school re-opens
- 12 /11- Y5 Ancient Maya Day
- 15 /11- Children in Need
- 16 /11- X Country- Bradfield
- 22 /11- FODs Quiz @ DIS
- 23 /11- Orienteering- Shirebrook
- 26 /11- Y5CB assembly
- 27 /11- Flu vaccinations
- 30 /11- X Country Parkwood Springs
- 3 /12- 3JF showcase morning
- 4 /12- 3J showcase morning
- 5 /12- 3EF showcase morning
- 10 /12- Y5P showcase morning
- 11 /12- Y5TH showcase morning
- 10 /12- Y4 performance 6pm
- 11 /12- Y4 performance 1:45pm
- 12 /12 Y4 performance 6pm
- 13 /12- FODs Xmas gift stall
- 14 /12 X country- Concord
- 16 /12 Y3 Millhouses Church
- 20 /12- Dress down & break up



### Roman Day

The year 4 children had a brilliant Roman experience with Queen Cartimandua, leader of the Brigantes, on Tuesday 8<sup>th</sup> October. They learnt about the battle formations that secured the Roman victory over the Celts; aspects of everyday Roman life, such as games, clothing and Roman numerals and they saw a live- action catapult! Thank you to all parents and carers who helped their children get the most out of the day by dressing up; they looked fantastic in their costumes!



### Year 3 Information Evening

It was great to see so many people at our year 3 information evening back in September. Mr Frampton and Miss Jackson covered lots of practical information around teaching and learning at DJS including:

- Home/Online learning and homework expectations
- How we teach maths in school
- Times tables practise
- Reading at home advice and expectations
- Supporting children's learning through interventions
- Handwriting
- Wider curriculum learning
- School trips and outdoor learning opportunities
- Showcase mornings

In the meantime as always if you have any questions please get in touch with one of the Y3 teachers via [teachers@dobcroft-jun.sheffield.sch.uk](mailto:teachers@dobcroft-jun.sheffield.sch.uk) or via the DoJo messaging system.

### Pupils' Parliament

At DJS, our Pupils' Parliament is a really important way of giving our children a chance to have their voice heard in ways that can improve our school. Each year every class elects a pupil parliament representative and this year has been no different. Congratulations to the following pupils who have been elected by their classmates onto our pupil parliament this year:

- Year 3- Jocelyn , Gus, Sophie
- Year 4 – Mabel, Ada, Beatrice
- Year 5 Florence, Toby, Molly
- Year 6 Emily, Eve, Charlie



We have lots of exciting plans for the coming year and look forward to the contribution they are able to make for our school.

### Year 6 Sports Leaders

This term our Sports Leaders have been trained in initiating and leading a range of physical activities for children in KS2. Their training focused on encouraging teamwork, self-belief, respect and determination amongst their younger peers. As well as training, they have practiced creating inclusive environments where everyone is supported and encouraged regardless of ability. We are excited to see the impact they will have on the children and overall school environment.

### Attendance

Currently school is at 98.3%. We wanted to take this opportunity to thank families for working with us to ensure pupils are in school every day. Our figures are really positive and strong at this time of the year. Our target for the year is 98% and currently it is 98.3%, which is amazing.

## Governor News

My name is Geoff Mellor and I'm delighted to be the new Chair of Governors.

My two sons attended the school - Ben between 2007 and 2008 and Joseph between 2011 and 2015. I first became a Governor during Joseph's time at the school and, other than a short break, have remained involved ever since. I joined the Board in Spring 2015 as Finance Governor, overseeing the school's budget and spending. It's fair to say that, although balancing the budget was difficult then, it's got much trickier since then.



I took over as Chair from Dave Chapman in September 2016, but had to step away from the Board in late 2017 due to family reasons. I re-joined the Board in 2019 and agreed to become chair in September 2024 following Paul Shawley's decision to step down. Paul has been a really effective chair for a number of years and we all owe Paul thanks for his commitment, insight and friendship. He will be a hard act to follow.

I recently retired from full time employment after nearly 40 years in the pensions industry, managing large company and industry pension schemes. My background is very much in the financial sector, although my time looking after pension trustees has given me plenty of insight into wider governance. Now that I am retired, I intend to spend more time following my passion for sport. I'm looking forward to my time as chair and being involved with such a successful and inclusive school. I hope to meet as many of the parents and children as possible over the coming years. In the meantime if you ever wish to reach out to the governing board please email [chair@dobcroft-jun.sheffield.sch.uk](mailto:chair@dobcroft-jun.sheffield.sch.uk)



As always parking around the school site and on the streets around school continues to be a challenge. Unfortunately, many parents and carers are not parking safely and we have had reports of dangerous or illegal parking. Mrs Rowland and I recently attended a local area community forum which was focussed upon the issue and the advice to schools was that members of the local community should report incidents directly to the parking department of the council. The more reports they receive then there is a higher chance that the council may look into supporting schools with the matter. Any concerns can be raised at: [parkingenforcement@sheffield.gov.uk](mailto:parkingenforcement@sheffield.gov.uk)

## Peer Mediators

Well done to every single peer mediator applicant. We are so proud of you for putting yourself forward for this selfless, empathic role in school and you should be proud of yourselves too. With over 40+ applicants, it was incredibly hard to narrow it down. You all had wonderful qualities to be a peer mediator, so thank you.

Training has taken place this week and our next line of peer mediators are ready and raring to go. We are hoping to be up and running in the first few weeks of next term. The role they are about to take on is very important in our school playground: our students will be learning the art of diplomacy; understanding others' feelings; and perfecting the act of conflict resolution, encouraging problem solving in school. Together we can make a difference.



## Pupil Shout Out

Well done to Jessica in Y5 who has raised a massive £345 for the Children's Hospital Charity. Last winter Jessica ran a charity bake sale, made all of the cakes and cookies herself and promoted the event between her friends and neighbours.



## Parent Shout Outs

This term we had a vibrant parent-led assembly celebrating Diwali - led by members of the Popat family. The event featured stunning rangoli designs, traditional outfits, and lively drumming that filled the atmosphere. It was a wonderful way to embrace the rich cultural significance of the festival and we appreciate the support of parents to share their lives and beliefs with the children. If you wish to support school by delivering your own assembly, please do get in contact via the office. We have three areas that we would like to invite you to speak to the children about: religion and culture; hobbies and interests; and work and professions. These areas teach children about the diversity in our society, open their eyes to a range of interests and allow them to consider their future choices in the world of work.



Overall, we feel the school kitchen offer a good service and myself and many staff regularly have a school meal and can verify the quality and standard of the meals on offer.

However, following 2 concerns raised about the quality of school meals in the summer term we have met with managers from Taylor Shaw in September.

At the meeting it was agreed that the food on offer should reflect the advertised menu even if it was food that pupils were not keen on/unpopular e.g. custard.

We have also reminded pupils to ask for the meal they have ordered in the mornings as this will avoid food being unavailable for pupils on the last sitting (often children forget or decide to change their mind).

In terms of dissatisfaction with the quality of the food, portion size or cleanliness as always feedback forms are available every day for pupils to complete and we always follow them up on the same day. Please be mindful that if children do not choose all of the elements of the meal available then it won't be as nutritious and as filling – for example some children may choose the pizza but not the potatoes and vegetables and in this situation the meal could be falling short of nutrition and calories.

As always, children do have the option of bringing a packed lunch.

## Sporting Competitions & Lunchtime Clubs

Mr Ross has taken over the reins from Miss Powell regarding sporting competitions. He and Mr Huckstepp have outlined all of the events for the year as well as being open to ad hoc events and friendlies that crop up. They have also spoken to pupils about how we choose pupils for competitions, and how specifically it is pupils who attend lunchtime clubs once they are up and running.

The first half of term has seen plenty of sporting opportunities occur for our pupils, with children representing the school at the following sports: cross-country, orienteering, netball, girls football, and boys football. Many of our pupils have shown team spirit, determination, and support for one another throughout their activities, and there is ongoing support for all involved in representing "Team Dobcroft". We will continue to offer further opportunities next half term, with plenty of lunchtime sports clubs planned as shown below:

Monday - Y3/4 Netball (12.35pm)  
Tuesday - Y5/6 Girls Football (12pm), Y5/6 Boys Football (12.20pm-12.40pm) - alternate weeks  
Wednesday - Y3/4 Mixed Football (12.30pm)  
Thursday - Y5/6 Girls Football (12pm), Y5/6 Boys Football (12.20pm-12.40pm) - alternate weeks  
Friday - Y5/6 Netball (12pm), Y3/4 Mixed Basketball (12.30pm)

Many thanks to all of the parents and supporters who have attended the various sporting events so far. Have a restful week!

## SEND Parent Support Group

Supporting SEN and Disability



Are you a parent of a child with special educational needs?

Sometimes this can feel really lonely.

A parent at the school is looking to help by setting up an informal group for parents of children with special educational needs. The group will offer a social space for parents to meet monthly, share experiences, support one another and/or offload.

If you're interested, please contact Anna Gunn on 07540464690. Anna will set up a WhatsApp group and will arrange the first meet-up and establish a regular schedule from there.

## *Pupil Showcase Mornings*



*Thank you to all of the parents who have managed to pop in to their child's showcase morning. It has been so lovely to see such a bustling, positive atmosphere and children sharing the work they have done so far this term- please look out for the upcoming dates for your child's class.*

## Cycling & Scooting to School



It is wonderful to see so many children cycling or scooting in the mornings. Please remember to dismount at the gates as we have a rule of no scooting or cycling before school on the playgrounds as it is so busy with children of all ages and adults and we don't want any accidents.

## FODs Events

Events this term include:

- 22 November-Quiz at the infant school
- 13 December - Christmas Gift stall
- 28 June-save the date-Summer Fayre 2025

You may be aware of the proposed changes to Ecclesall Road as will the majority of the residents in proximity to the schools. The consultation and plans can be found using the link below.

<https://haveyoursay.sheffield.gov.uk/a625-road-safety>

# Autumn Craft Fair

Bents Green Methodist Church, Ringinglow  
Road, Sheffield. S11 7PU

**Saturday 9<sup>th</sup> November 2024**  
**10am – 4pm**

Large variety of crafts, including:  
Jewellery, wooden crafts, plant stall,  
quilting, everything 'apple', children's  
crafts, knitting, cards and many more!

**Refreshments with home made cakes**



THURSDAY 31ST OCTOBER 10AM-4PM

# Halloween

Wayyoga

## FOREST SKILLS Camp

**BASED IN THE FOREST SCHOOL AREA & THE HUB AT DOBCROFT INFANTS - FOR Y1-Y5 CHILDREN, A DAY OF HALLOWEEN THEMED FOREST SKILLS AND HALLOWEEN THEMED YOGA BY WAY YOGA. £30 FOR THE DAY - LIMITED PLACES SO BOOK QUICK!**

**Activities will include:**

- Cooking snacks on the fire
- Fire lighting
- Halloween Nature crafts
- Spider's web challenge
- Potions & wand making
- Halloween themed fun Yoga



**To book go to:**  
[fitkidsheffield.classforkids.io/camp/28](https://fitkidsheffield.classforkids.io/camp/28)

Phone: 07730-400895  
Email: [Wayyoga@ringinglow.com](mailto:Wayyoga@ringinglow.com)

 fitkids sheffield

# LEARN THE CLARINET & SAXOPHONE AT DOBCROFT!



Dear Dobcroft Parents,

Sheffield Music Hub Accredited teacher Laura Skeet has spaces for new pupils at Dobcroft starting after October Half Term.

Lesson fees are £7.00 for a weekly, shared 20-minute lesson or £13 per individual 20-minute lesson. (A limited number of bursaries are available through the Sheffield Music Hub.) Instruments are available to hire from the Sheffield Music Hub.

If your child is interested in learning either the clarinet, saxophone or J-sax (small saxophone) then please fill in the form below.

Thank you,  
Laura Skeet

.....(NAME) ..... (CLASS)

Is interested in learning the  clarinet  saxophone/J-sax

.....(Parent name)

.....(email address)

(Please return this form to the School Office by Friday 25th October or email Mrs Skeet directly: [laurabeavers\\_@hotmail.com](mailto:laurabeavers_@hotmail.com))