

Newsletter

December 2024



What an amazing term we have had! The children have been working super hard as well as enjoying activities in and out of the classroom, not least our Christmas festivities. It has been lovely to see so many parents engaging with school and taking up opportunities such as showcase mornings, attending class assemblies, as well as volunteering for roles in school or delivering assemblies. Thank you so much, it really is a huge help and children love having you as guests in school. Read on to find out more and in the meantime, I wish you all a lovely holiday.

Mrs Sexton

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>

Year 5 Ancient Maya Day

This term, Y5 had an exciting introduction to their first history unit of the year, Ancient Maya. The day was led by archaeologist Dr Diane who gave an interesting overview of the Ancient Maya period as well as bringing her own artefacts into class for the children to explore and to have their own archaeologist experience. The children also had the opportunity to find out what form their Ancient Maya spirit companion was as well as completing their first ever Y5 history lesson! It was a very interesting day that got all the children excited to find out more about the Ancient Maya.

"It was interesting to look at what the ancient Maya did and what they used, we also learnt about their Gods." - Mattie Y5P

"It was a great opportunity to learn about the past by looking at ancient artefacts." - Frances Y5P

Children in Need

We had a wonderful time supporting Children in Need this year and raising **£262** for the charity. We had an assembly exploring what it means to be a child in need and what projects are supported in our local area - this helped us understand that the charity supports children in Sheffield. We hope that our donations make a big difference to those who need it!



Work Showcase mornings for next half term:

14 January- 6KB

15 January- 6P

16 January- 6W

23 January 5CB

We hope you can join your children sharing their work.

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Coming Up Next term:

4/1- Orienteering- Whirlow

Brook Hall

6/1- school reopens

10/1 Young Voices

16/1- 3JF assembly

20/1- Y6 Crucial Crew

21/1 Y3EF- Broomcroft

Nursing home

18/1- XC- Brunswick

30/1- Y5&6 Disco

1 /2 - XC Graves PK,

1 /2-orienteeing Norfolk PK

7/2- Y6 charity afternoon

14/2- Y5TH assembly

14/2 dress down day

14/2 FODs special person stall

14/2 break up for half term

Governor News

Thank you to all of the parents who showed an interest in joining our governing board. Oliver Christie and Zahina Uddin will be joining the board in January and we are very much looking forward to working with them. Jade Rose has been on the governing board for the last 2 years and has sadly stepped down and I would like to take the opportunity to thank her for all of her support and work in that time on behalf of the school and the governing board.

Exciting Assemblies this term

Diabetes

Many thanks to Claire from Sheffield Children's Hospital who came in to talk to us about Diabetes. Claire shared what it was like to be a person with diabetes and how people can manage it so that they can live their lives just as others do. She was really complementary about the children's listening and enjoyed spending time answering their detailed questions at the end of assembly.



ADHD and Dyslexia

We had a wonderful and inspiring assembly all about ADHD and dyslexia. We are so grateful to Anna, one of our Y3 parents, for giving up her time to come in and share such insightful information with us all. It was full of amazing examples and insights and was all about embracing and celebrating difference, which is one of our core values at DJS. The pupils all thoroughly enjoyed it: thank you so much!

New York City Marathon

Our very own Mr Harrison sharing of his half term adventure running 26.2 miles around the streets of New York as part of the New York City Marathon. What an experience! Perhaps some of our cross-country runners will be following in his footsteps in the future!



Remembrance Assembly

Our remembrance assembly this year was made extra special with a visit from Commander Jack Nicholson from the Royal Navy. The pupils thoroughly enjoyed hearing about the Ministry of Defence and about all of the varied roles in the armed forces including the ways that those roles support and protect our country and beyond. We also took time to discuss the significance of 11th November and reflected on the sacrifices made to protect others.

We would like to say a huge thank you to Commander Jack for such an insightful and interesting assembly. The pupils loved the interactive aspects of the assembly and they were incredibly inquisitive and interested in hearing about the related careers.

Attendance Updates

Our DJS attendance target for 2024-25 is 98%. Currently, school is at 97.75% so we are very close to our target - thank you to all families for working hard to get pupils into school particularly on those tricky mornings: please keep up the efforts as it is making a huge difference.



A reminder to all families wishing to apply for term time leave – you must submit the request at least 20 school days prior to the first day of requested absence. The Department for Education state that schools are unable to authorise requests that are submitted retrospectively.

Y5CB Assembly

It was a privilege to watch 5CB's class assembly this week. They showcased some of their learning since September and many of their individual talents. Just some of the highlights included individual musicians, team working in science and some excellent creative writing. Thank you to all of the parents who attended and well done Y5CB 😊



Robin Hood Pantomime



We had a fantastic afternoon courtesy of Splats Entertainments who brought their Christmas Pantomime to visit Dobcroft as a wonderful start to the festive season. There was lots of audience participation, puppetry, singing, dancing and jokes. We had a great afternoon- thank you so much to Leigh Farrant (one of our Y4/5 parents) and the team.

"It was hilarious and there were some very funny scenes." - Aryan Y6P

"It was very entertaining!" Jessica - Y6P

If any parents and carers would like to offer their time to share career, faith or a specialism / hobby with our pupils, it would be gratefully received. Please contact Mr Harrison via enquiries@dobcroft-jun.sheffield.sch.uk

Active Travel

We are thrilled to share that our first month following the Living Streets Active Travel Initiative has been a tremendous success! Since November, our school community has completed an incredible 5,851 active journeys to school, and we have already awarded 338 Active Travel badges to students



who have made an active travel choice at least once a week for four weeks. **We are currently ranked 3rd in our local authority area for combined activity and engagement, and 16th on the national leader board—an achievement we're incredibly proud of!**

This success wouldn't have been possible without your continued support in encouraging and enabling the children to make healthy, sustainable travel choices. We can't wait to award even more badges in the months ahead and continue this fantastic journey together. Thank you for helping us make active travel a priority!

Pupil's Parliament



Our Pupil Parliament have been working hard in school this term. We have chosen a design for our new school hats (watch this space) and are in the process of choosing charities to support for our Charity Days in the Spring and Summer terms. The children have brought many ideas to the table and have been encouraged to be problem solvers to find solutions and to make our ideas happen. One ongoing problem we are in the process of solving is to improve our canopy area on the front yard.

Read All About It!

In November, we were lucky enough to be joined by Sue from **Ecclesall Library**. She reminded the children how easy it was to use the Sheffield library service to borrow books for free and also enticed us by showing us lots of new books that had just arrived in stock! The children were very excited to see the range of books available to them.



Reading records - thank you for your ongoing support with reading records. Expectations have changed this year and children should have their reading records in school every day and we are asking that all records are signed at least three times a week by an adult at home to ensure children are reading and being heard read regularly. This home/school partnership is very important, so thank you for embracing it!

Skipathon 2024

In November, the whole school took part in the #SheffieldSchoolsSkipathon week, joining over 40 schools and 12,000 children across Sheffield in this active and hugely successful fitness initiative. The children braved the freezing temperatures and snow and enjoyed learning new skipping skills and playing skipping games with their friends throughout the week.



Year 4 Show

The Y4 children have worked exceptionally hard this half term to produce their Christmas Performance, 'Santa needs a Holiday'. The show has been full of awesome singing and acting as well as dancing from around the world. Audience feedback has been tremendous and we are so so proud of all the children for their amazing effort. Well done Y4.

"I loved singing in French and Spanish and I didn't even know the French song existed!"- Thomas Y4C

"I enjoyed learning about how other countries celebrate Christmas in a really fun way."- Matilda Y4C



Year 3 Stone Age day: It was wonderful to see so many children dressed up for Stone Age day! Thank you to the parents who helped their children get super costumes. Throughout the day, the classrooms were dark, to help children imagine they were sheltering in a dark cave. They learnt the skill of flint knapping to create their own hand axes from soap and dug for artefacts in sandpits. The children found arrowheads, small jugs and bones. Many children really enjoyed cave painting because they hid under their tables and drew pictures of Stone Age scenes. We finished off the day with a scavenger hunt to gather resources, imagining we were Stone Age people gathering food. Thank you to all the parents and staff who supported us on this day. We had such a great time!



Year 3- Broomcroft Nursing Home

Y3EF had such a wonderful time visiting Broomcroft Care Home on 11th December. The children were fantastic at chatting with the residents and really enjoyed getting to know them. Some children sang songs, while others read stories or just had a nice chat. This experience not only brought happiness to the residents, but also allowed our children to really demonstrate our school value of 'together we embrace



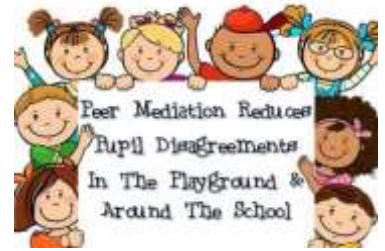
difference'. It was a great experience for everyone, and the children are already excited to go back in January.

"I liked how nice the people were and it was really good to meet older people and see how well they were getting on." – Max Y3EF

"I enjoyed telling them stories and they were very polite and respectful."- Zara Y3EF

Peer Mediators

Over the last few weeks, our Peer Mediators have been making our school an even better place to be, with their mediation skills and knowledge. They have put all their efforts into the job in hand and are making such a positive difference to their peers at lunchtimes. Well done to each and every one of you- you should be really proud of yourselves. Your hard work and dedication is making such a huge difference.



FODs

Thank you to Pete, Martin, Seirian, Catherine, Liza and Jo who helped with the mammoth wrapping task at the gift stall last Friday. We will let you know in the New Year how much was raised- in the meantime enjoy your gift if you are the lucky recipient!

Y3 Visit Christmas Tree Festival

As has become tradition in the lead up to Christmas, our Year 3's visited Millhouses Methodist Church. Before our visit, each class made decorations for one of the many trees they have on display. They all looked amazing! After learning about Christian beliefs, children took part in two different activities. They coloured individual mosaic pieces that linked together to make one big piece, and then went on a search to find

religious figures hidden amongst the trees. The children demonstrated our school values brilliantly, both around the venue and walking to and from school. A big thank you to parents that were able to come along as volunteers too.

"It was really fun to go and see a different church and I especially enjoyed doing the stain glass window activity."- Rose Y3J



Dobcroft Does Christmas

Wishing all of school community a lovely Christmas break and much health and happiness for 2025.

Mrs Sexton

