

Newsletter

February 2025



Well it doesn't seem two minutes since the first day back in the heavy snow! Thank you to everyone for being so patient and understanding with flexible timings to the start of the school day. It really means we can ensure enough staff are here to open safely and ultimately avoid closing school. I would like to say a personal thank you to all of our staff who worked hard to get in that week, many of whom don't live in the local area- and of course to our amazing Mr Kozalinski who kept going making sure our site was clear. As always regardless of the weather children have been working hard and getting stuck into all types of fun and activities in and out of the classroom. Read on to find out more!

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. Teachers also post a class story at least once a week showcasing some of the exciting learning that has taken place.

<https://www.dobcroft-jun.sheffield.sch.uk/newsitems>

Year 6 Crucial Crew

On Monday 20th January, Y6 visited Crucial Crew. It was a jam-packed day full of different educational experiences, aimed at helping to keep themselves (and others) safe both now and in the future. They learnt a lot about UK law, particularly regarding arson, theft, hate crime and knife crime and even took part in a mock magistrate's court trial! They became junior Crime Scene Investigators whilst learning about Child Criminal Exploitation, learnt what to do if a fire broke out in their home, how to be safe near open water and how to stay safe whilst travelling on buses and whilst crossing the road. It was certainly a fun but educational day enjoyed by all!

"I really enjoyed the water safety scenario – they showed us photos about how to be safe which I thought was really useful." Raya

"I am glad I now know what to do if a fire breaks out when I am at home in my bedroom!" Martha

Year 3 and Year 2- Safer Internet Learning

On 12th February, the year 2 pupils visited DJS to celebrate safer internet day with the year 3s. The Y2s paired up with a Y3 and they participated in fun activities that highlighted how to keep safe online, especially in avoiding scams. Their teamwork led to some brilliant work and the children had a really good understanding of how to keep safe online. Not only was it a really productive morning, it was lovely to see the Y3s support and guide the Y2 children.



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Coming Up Next term:

24/2- school reopens
24/2- Y5 Space Dome
27/2- Y3/4 disco
1/3- XC champs Graves Park
4/3- Book Fair
6/3- World Book Day
7/3 Y4 Magna
15/3 XC relays loc tbc
March- various- Y5 bikeability
22/3 orienteering @ Bolehills
25/3 Y3JF- Broomcroft nursing home
25 & 26 March- Parents evenings
28/3 Break up

Our Assembly Learning this term

Children have been learning about so many important events and themes in our assemblies this term:



Holocaust Memorial Day:

We had a solemn assembly for Holocaust Memorial Day, providing an opportunity for us to learn about the history of the Holocaust, honouring the memory of those who suffered and died. It emphasised the values of kindness, tolerance, and respect for others, teaching the importance of standing against hatred and prejudice.

Online Safety:

Pre-empting Internet Safety Day, we had our termly assembly to keep ourselves focused upon the importance of protecting their privacy, being mindful of what they share online, and understanding the risks of cyberbullying. Further resources are available on our website:

<https://www.dobcroft-jun.sheffield.sch.uk/page/online-safety/59158>



Mental Health Week:

During Mental Health Week, we had a range of assemblies focused on promoting emotional well-being. We discussed what mental health is and why it's important, then focussed on coping strategies, recognizing feelings, and building resilience.

School Values

Over the last 3 months children have been learning about protected characteristics and looking more deeply at disability and race. In particular we have been learning about the importance of being an ally as well as recognising different protected characteristics and the importance of treating everyone equally.

If any parents or carers would like to deliver an assembly to our pupils please email Mr Harrison pharrison@dobcroft-jun.sheffield.sch.uk

Pupil Shout Out 🗣️

In Sheffield, we have more than 7,000 young carers providing substantial unpaid care for a relative who has disabilities, long-term physical illnesses, mental health difficulties or substance misuse issues. Sheffield believes passionately that it is the right of every young carer to be recognised for their role and to have the same opportunities as other children and young people of a similar age. Over the past few years, we have been trying to get to know the young carers in our school community to ensure we are supporting them in everything they do.



To help recognise and celebrate the young carers in our city, 3 young carers were selected by Sheffield Cares to be celebrated for their caring role - one primary, one secondary and one young adult. Out of all of the young carers at Primary School in Sheffield, a Dobcroft child was presented this prestigious award on February 13th at Sheffield City Hall in front of over 2000 people. That amazing young carer is Benji in Y6KB - well done Benji we are so proud of you!

Welcome Back!

It is so lovely to have our amazing Mrs Beasley back teaching in Y5CB. The class have transitioned so smoothly and it is like she has never been away!



Sheffield City Council Message

SCC are proposing to introduce an advisory part-time 20mph speed limit on Whirlowdale Crescent. This involves installing amber flashing warning signs that will operate during the start and finish of the school day. The purpose of this is to make the neighbourhood safer, particularly for our children. It will be introduced in the spring/summer 2025. If you have any questions please email transport@sheffield.gov.uk



Attendance Updates

DJS's attendance target for 2024-25 is 98%. Currently, school is at 97.54%, which is within touching distance of our target and 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 at this time and we know that such strong attendance is not simple or easy to achieve - particularly through Winter - so a huge thank you.



Y5TH and Y3JF Assembly

We have again had two fabulous assemblies this half term from Y5TH and Y3JF. Children spoke confidently and clearly and showcased so many of their individual talents as well as their learning since September- a huge well done. Most importantly the children really enjoyed performing and sharing with their families.

FODs

Thank you to all of the parents and carers who helped at the special person stall today- as always it was hugely popular and children enjoyed browsing and purchasing their gift for their special person.

Upcoming Fods Events

Y3 and 4 Disco- 27th February 530-7pm

Y5 and 6 Disco- 6th March 530-7pm

Lots of helpers needed, please email fods.info.mail@gmail.com if you can offer to stay and help. Save the date- summer fayre 28th June

We are currently raising money to replace and revamp our canopy area on the front playground and our FODs funds are essential for us to achieve this new space and would like to thank them for all they do and their hard work.

Year 6 Charity Fayre

Y6 hosted a fantastic charity fayre. There were a whole array of fun-filled activities taking place such as tombola's, lucky dips, guess the name of the teddy bear, laser tag, archery and penalty shoot outs to name a few. The children had organised



everything themselves – their stalls and the prizes - demonstrating brilliant organisational skills. Every year group thoroughly enjoyed it and most importantly, we raised a lot of money towards our two chosen charities – Save the Children and St Luke's.

Young Voices

Friday 10th of January saw our annual performance with the phenomenon that is Young Voices!

110 of our Y5 and Y6 children had been rehearsing at lunchtimes every week through the autumn term, as well as working really hard at home, to learn a staggering array of different songs, dances and sign language in order to be ready for the concerts.

This year we performed as part of a choir of nearly 9000 young people, alongside an amazing line-up that included the amazing talents of Tommy Blaize (from Strictly Come Dancing), 14 year old Souparnika Nair (from Britain's Got Talent), rapper MC Grammar, plus an incredible professional live band, and the fabulous Urban Strides street dancers.

It was a fun packed evening of singing and dancing, including medleys of songs from Hairspray and Bob Marley, songs in different languages, songs from across the decades and our annual favourite, the Pop Medley.

It was a very long and intense yet exciting day, and we were all so proud of the children for playing their part so phenomenally.



Active Travel

We've had a fantastic start to our Living Streets active travel initiative! Our Active Travel rate as a school is 91% with a walk rate of 60%. Our Park & Stride rate has jumped from 21% to 27%! Most impressively, car use has dropped from 19% to just 9%, a massive 53% decrease. These are incredible results. A big thank you to the parents/carers and children for making this big step in choosing an alternative active way of travelling to school. The children now have the opportunity to continue earning more badges each month for their active choices so let's keep the momentum going!

Morning Routines

We have decided to trial children coming straight to class in the morning when the gates open at 8:45. Children have been informed about this change this week. This allows a calmer start to the day, whereby children make their way to class as they arrive, rather than lining up with their teachers. The gates will still open at 8:45 and staff will still be on duty to greet and supervise and classteachers will be in the classrooms from 8:45 ready to greet children.