

Newsletter

March 2025



What an action packed half term we have had!

Children across all year groups have had the opportunity to do so many enriching activities beyond their classroom learning- either as a class or a whole school.

It has also been wonderful to welcome so many visitors to school- parents and other professionals- who have all contributed to these important opportunities. I would like to take the opportunity to wish you all a lovely holiday and Eid Al Fitr for all of our families who are celebrating this weekend, marking the end of Ramadan. Many children have been showing such dedication and fasting during the day and this will be such an important time to recognise their commitment.

"This is my 3rd year of fasting and this year fasting has been quite easy because the fasting days have been shorter. I am really looking forwards to eating lots of food during Eid- especially my Grandma's food!"- Ibraheem- Year 6

"Eid is on Sunday or Monday (we don't know yet) and I am really looking forward to going on holiday with my family. We will definitely be celebrating and I am hoping to do some exciting activities with my dad- maybe fishing!"- Faris- Year 6

We would like to remind you that every term there is a sports newsletter that celebrates all of the amazing sporting competitions that children take part in.

As always 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>

Medicine in School

A polite reminder that any pupil requiring medication during school hours must bring their medicine to the school office along with a completed 'administering medicine' form.

For the safety of all pupils, children are not permitted to keep medication (whether prescribed or over-the-counter) in their bags or administer it themselves. Additionally, all medicines must be collected by an adult, as we are not allowed to send them home with children. Thank you for your cooperation in helping us maintain a safe school environment.

Governor Update

Mr Geoff Mellor sadly resigned from our governing board in January. We would like to take the opportunity to thank him for all of his hard work and dedication to the school over the last 10 years. We now have a new chair of governors- Professor Katherine L Oglesby. Katherine has lived in Sheffield for over forty years and is a retired Deputy Vice-Chancellor, having worked in six universities and for three higher education funding councils. Katherine was awarded an OBE for services to higher education.



Two of her main professional interests were teacher education and quality assurance. Katherine is married, with two children, and enjoys the theatre, the arts generally, and gardening. We are delighted to have her on our board and we are already benefitting from her strong leadership and experience of chairing governing boards.

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- ### Coming Up Next term:
- 14/4- school reopens
 - 17/4 Year 5 Charity Fair
 - 18/4- school closed (bank holiday)
 - 21/4- school closed- bank holiday
 - 22 & 23 April- Y5 Thornbridge day visits
 - 22/4 3JF- Nursing home visit
 - 26/4 orienteering- Chapeltown
 - 30/4- 2/5 year 4 Mount Cook
 - 5/5 school closed- bank holiday
 - 8/5 class assembly Y3J
 - 12-15th May- Year 6 SATs tests
 - 20/5 Y3JF- nursing home visit
 - 23/5 Y5P class assembly
 - 23/5 dress down day and break up for half term

Our Assembly Learning this term & Personal Development

This term, we've had a range of insightful assemblies with many visitors and parents to enhance what we can offer in school.

Angela Oliver and Richard Thyne, Dobcroft parents and barristers, visited to discuss the importance of law and justice, inspiring pupils to think about fairness and responsibility.



Mrs Kemp held a COVID-19 Remembrance Day assembly to reflect on the impact of the pandemic and honour those affected.

A road safety visitor shared essential tips on staying safe near traffic, reinforcing the importance of awareness.



We also had **Nadeem Abbas, a Dobcroft patient and pharmacist**, speak about health and medicine, teaching students how pharmacists help our communities.

John Pearn, a Dobcroft parent and an NHS Doctor, visited last week to speak to the children about limb difference, and how we can be more inclusive of people who have limb difference.

These assemblies have enriched our learning and encouraged thoughtful discussions from the children - if you wish to share your career, faith or hobby, please do get in touch to continue our exciting parent-led assemblies next term.

Year 5- Space Dome

At the beginning of this half-term, Year 5 had the fantastic opportunity to go inside a Space Dome to introduce them to their new science topic, Space. Their experience started with an educational video (projected on the dome's ceiling) that showed the children around our solar system, some fun facts and whether life may exist somewhere else in space. Afterwards, each Year 5 class had the chance to ask any space questions that they had to a space expert who talked through some tricky and interesting science.

"I felt like I was actually in space"
"I thought it was cool that the video talked about possible life on other planets"
"The expert was really good, he knew lots of space facts".

Y5TH and Y3JF Assembly

It was a joy to see Mr Frampton's class perform their first class assembly to parents this term and to meet so many parents and carers. Y5TH also did themselves proud showcasing their learning too- thank you to all of the parents and family members who came to support.

Year 6 Pop Maths Quiz

Earlier this term 6 mathematical super stars represented our school at the annual Sheffield Pop Maths Quiz. The team competed really well and finished 3rd. They worked brilliantly as a team, encouraging each other and listening to each other - they were a credit to the school.



Attendance Updates

Our attendance target for the 2024-25 school year is 98%. Currently school is at 97.51%. We wanted to take this opportunity to thank all our families for their ongoing support in ensuring that pupils attend school regularly.



As a reminder, we follow the NHS Is My Child Too Ill for School guidance when responding to pupil absences. This guidance encourages children to attend school if they have a cold.

Regular attendance is essential for your child's learning and development. Thank you for your continued cooperation in helping us achieve our attendance goals.

Parent helpers - sewing in Y5

Year 5 have really enjoyed our latest DT topic. We have designed and made Worry Angels, based on one of our class reading books. The project has built on the sewing skills from Year 3 and we have been really fortunate to welcome many parents and grand-parents into each class to lend a helping hand. We are very grateful to all those that were able to offer their time. The children really enjoyed having parents in the class. William said it was really nice to spend time with our parents when we were in school while Livie added that she didn't know how many sewing skills her dad had and was really impressed with him! Thank you to all those who were able to volunteer.



Westbourne Science Club for Y5

This half term, we were invited to send four Year 5 pupils to participate in special after-school science workshops at Westbourne school. The workshops sounds really fun: making the tallest tower from spaghetti and marsh-mallows; building the longest bridge from paper; and being a pen detective using chromatography to identify which pen was used to write a secret message. The children loved these sessions, especially the first one where they got to team up with children from other schools. Patrick said, "building the tallest tower was the most fun and we won for the tallest tower after 5 minutes but we added to it and then it fell down!". Louis learned that concertinaed paper gives the strongest shape and can make a really effective bridge. They recommended the club for next year's children.



Y4 Magna Visit

On Friday 7th March, the Y4 children went to Magna Science Park. They all took part in a science workshop based on their latest topic Sound, and spent the rest of the day exploring the different areas of Magna. It was a fantastic trip with lots of learning involved. Thank you to all the adults to volunteered to help us.

FODs

Thank you to all of the parents and carers and staff who helped out at the popular discos. We had two discos this term- one for Y3 and 4 and one for y5 and 6- the children loved the range of activities (of course the sweets and nail painting) on offer and helped raise lots of funds for school.



Afternoon Break Times

You may be aware that we are trialling doing a more structured afternoon break for all classes- we are on week 4. Children still have fresh air, exercise and time to socialise, but it is now with their class teachers in a dedicated space, doing a fun activity which all children can choose/suggest- **we have not removed afternoon breaks!** A very small number of parents have commented that communication to parents and carers about this change would have been helpful.

As a school we felt that teachers talking in depth to pupils about this change was sufficient and we apologise for this oversight. The key messages from school are that this change is a result of tracking pupil behaviour over a longer period of time (it isn't just a knee jerk decision) and it is in response to a

whole host of behaviours ranging from lower level fall outs, physical aggression and at times children feeling isolated - it is not the result of just a few pupil's behaviour choices.

The changes we have made have been thoroughly considered and communicated to pupils and so far we have a sense that the change is positive. Teachers are spending a lot less time unpicking behaviour issues in the classroom (which was impacting upon teaching and learning) and more positive playtimes hopefully means a happier child going home.

As with all changes, things take time to get used to and may not be to the liking of all pupils and parents, however we will be evaluating the changes early next term and sharing this with pupils. We really hope parents can be supportive of school as we are making the changes for the safety and wellbeing of pupils across school.

World Book Day

World Book Day this year included lots of exciting activities. The children were able to come into school in their comfy clothes to enjoy the theme of 'Read Your Way'. A former pupil, Benjamin Wylde, came in for an assembly to talk about how he became a published author, inspiring our pupils with his journey and sharing elements of his book 'The Witch Boy'. Sophie (Y5TH) said: 'I would love to read his book some more: I like how he used to come to Dobcroft. It is inspirational that he is now an author'. Patrick (Y5TH) also added: 'It was good to learn that a good way to write is to use people you know for the characters'. Alongside this, we took part in a book hunt, finding lots of hidden book covers around school and we had the book fair in the hall. Many students purchased one of the fabulous books on show with their book token, which in turn, raised money to spend on new books for school. We raised over a whopping £1000! Thank you DJS- how fantastic! What a wonderful time everyone had. From babies through to early teens, reading brings profound and wide-ranging benefits that can have a lifelong, positive impact on children's lives. At Dobcroft, we love to read!



Y5 Bikeability

This half term, the year five pupils have had the opportunity to take part in Bikeability. This has been a wonderful experience for the children as they have been able to develop their confidence and skills whilst riding a bike. For some children it was the first time they had ever ridden a bike- a truly brilliant moment for them. Level one took place on the playground and the children that progressed to level two were able to ride their bikes on the roads local to school. The Bikeability instructors were extremely impressed by the children's confidence, determination and listening skills. Well done year five, hopefully some of you may be able to get out on your bike during the Easter break!

"Bikeability was really fun because I liked going on the roads in a small group and challenging myself to complete the tasks given to me." Ruby W

"It was really fun because we got to go on the road and I liked doing something different in school." Alfie



Y3- Broomcroft nursing home

I had the pleasure of visiting Broomcroft Nursing home with Miss Fee's class in early March. It was their last visit to the home. It was so touching to see your young children chatting and conversing with adults of a different generation. All of the pupils showed exemplary behaviour, respect and kindness and I could see that the visits have really helped the children to become more confident overtime. Mr Frampton's class are just beginning their visits this half term too and I am certain they will gain much from the experience.

GB Athlete Visit

On Tuesday, 13th March, we had the privilege of welcoming the incredible athlete Sean Gaffney to our school for a morning filled with energy, inspiration, and achievement. The children took part in exciting sponsored fitness circuits, pushing themselves to new limits, before attending a truly motivational assembly where Sean shared his remarkable journey and accomplishments.

The event was a tremendous success, and we are thrilled to announce that, as a school, we raised an incredible £4,317! This is a fantastic achievement, and we extend our heartfelt thanks to everyone who supported and contributed. The money will make a huge difference to sport and fitness at Dobcroft Junior School.

The children had a fantastic time, and we hope that Sean's story has left them feeling inspired and encouraged to follow their dreams.

Year 4 Electricity Workshop

All the Y4 classes have enjoyed a morning of learning about electricity with Cory's dad from AMRC. They have learnt about lots of different famous engineers and used wires, batteries, bulbs, switches and motors to create lots of different circuits.

Jessica - "I liked how we talked and then did an activity."

Freddie - "It was really interesting and I learnt some new facts about engineering and electricity."



Y3- illustrator visit

Andy Evans and Lucy Fleming, creators of "Erig the Earwig," visited the Year 3 children to share their storytelling and illustration expertise. The children were given tips on how to write engaging stories, and also created their own bug characters and wrote stories about them. The children really enjoyed the visit, and it sparked creativity and encouraged the children to explore their imaginations through writing and art.



Y4- Play In A Day

On Wednesday 26th March, Leigh Farrant from Splats (and father of children at Dobcroft) worked with the year 4 children to create a Play in a Day. All day, the children practiced and created props and costumes. Their hard work cumulated in a performance of A Midsummer Night's Dream to parents, family and a very excited year 3 audience. The hall was filled with giggles and applause as the children wowed us with their acting skills. Thanks Leigh! *The 'Make a Play' Days are discounted due to the family connection and we extend our thanks to Splats Entertainment for this. We invite you to visit their website if you are looking for theatre, circus or performance for schools or community groups: <https://splatsentertainment.com/>*



"It's really fun and I think other year groups would like it too. You can make your own props and add your own touches." **Erin**

"I enjoyed playing my character, Bottom, and making the masks" **Aris**

Watch out for more 'Plays in a Day' from Year 5 and Year 6:

Year 5: Tuesday 15th April – Romeo and Juliet

Year 6: Wednesday 21st May – Macbeth

Voluntary contributions can be made for Year 4, 5 and 6 children on ParentPay now.