

Dear Parents and Carers,

We are excited to announce that Dobcroft Junior School is embarking on a new project with Sheffield Young Carers - a voluntary support service in Sheffield - to increase our support for our pupils who are helping to look after, or are worried about, a family member who has a disability, long term physical illness, mental health difficulties or substance misuse issues. This could be a parent, a grandparent, a sibling or somebody else who lives at home.

As a school we are committed to supporting all of our pupils and helping them to achieve their potential. Caring for someone at home is something to be proud of, but we know it can sometimes be hard, so children may need some extra support.

To be able to do this, all of our school staff have undertaken some training with Sheffield Young Carers. This training helped us to understand a bit more about children who support others at home, and what we can do to help them be happy at school.

Over the next year, we will be raising awareness in many ways (and some of this has already begun):

- *We have hosted an exciting visit from Rab Ferguson, author of the award-winning book, the Late Crew, about a young carer*
- *We will raise awareness via ClassDojo, display boards in school and on our website*
- We will be delivering assemblies to raise awareness about young carers, the issues they may face and the impact that caring can have on their lives and education
- Following the assemblies, we will be asking children to complete a short, simple questionnaire which will help us to identify where any support may be needed or wanted.
- Following this, we will develop individual support for any identified young carers to ensure they can attend and achieve their best at school. We are also happy to offer information about financial support and other services that could help families affected by illness or disability.

There are at least 7000 young carers in Sheffield who may need additional support to help them through some difficult issues and periods in their lives.

We hope that you will join us in welcoming this work into our school. Louise Fear will be our Young Carers Lead, and will be the identified point of contact for pupils, families and staff. So if you have any questions about this work, please speak to Mrs Fear.

Kind Regards,

Louise Fear (Young Carers Lead) and Sheree Doyle – Deputy Head

