

Newsletter- May 2025



This half term has certainly flown by and I hope you have all enjoyed the extra long weekends with bank holidays and, of course, the amazing sunshine. It has been a busy time as usual and there have been lots of behind the scenes activity relating to planning ahead for September. This can often be an anxious time for children, potentially worrying what September brings. There is a separate letter outlining transition in greater detail. As always, do get in touch if you have any questions. In the meantime, read on to see what we have all been up to and the highlights of the final term ahead.

Classes For September/Transition

The current year 4 classes are being mixed and this has already been communicated. We have no plans to mix the year 3 and 5 classes as we feel they are extremely settled and ready to embrace their next year of learning together. There is a separate letter outlining all of our transition arrangements with dates and key events between now and July.



Staff Update

We will sadly be saying goodbye to two of our amazing teachers this summer. Mrs Collis has secured a job in another school, closer to home, and Mrs Kemp has decided to have a change of career and spend more time with her young family. They are both amazing teachers and will be truly missed by the whole of the Dobcroft community. We are also saying goodbye to Mrs Burton next term too, who is one of our fantastic teaching assistants. She has been with us for several years and has been just incredible—often supporting some of our children who find school life a real struggle. We wish all of our staff leaving well and lots of luck 😊

Well Done- Year 6



A HUGE well done to Year 6 in their SATs last week. They all displayed amazing effort and resilience and made their teachers very proud.

They will be rewarded by taking part in many exciting activities which are coming up next half term including:

- Their Stratford residential - 24th-27th June
- Secondary ready days - 30th June and 1st July (in school)
- Our performances of Henry the Tudor Dude - 8th July at 6pm, 9th July at 2:00pm and 6pm
- Leavers assembly for parents - 17th July at 9:15am
- End of term disco party - 18th July 1:30-3:30pm

Year 5 at Thornbridge Outdoors

Our Year 5 pupils had a wonderful day at 'Thornbridge Outdoors' in the stunning Peak District—and what a day it was! This was a new visit and replaced our previous residential at Kingswood. Every Y5 pupil attended and took part in the full range of activities- just fabulous. From start to finish, the children were buzzing with energy, excitement, and curiosity as they tackled a wide range of outdoor challenges designed to build confidence, teamwork, and resilience. The sky ropes tested their balance and bravery high above the ground, whilst the cargo net pushed them to climb higher and reach further. For those not afraid of tight spaces, mole holing proved to be a favourite, as children crawled through a network of tunnels in the dark with only their sense of direction and determination to guide them. There was also the fantastic *Peak Challenge*, which required teamwork, strategy, and a great sense of adventure to complete.

Throughout the day, the children showed fantastic behaviour, enthusiasm, and support for one another. They truly were a credit to the school, demonstrating all of our school values.



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Coming Up Next term:
2/6 back to school
3/6 half of Y3 visit Botanical gardens
4/6 half of Y3 visit Botanical gardens
5/6 Y4 charity Fayre
6/6 Sports day
7/6 Orienteering Meersbrook PK
10/6, 8/7 Y3J- Broomcroft
Nursing home
12/6 Y4C Weston Pk museum
13/6 Y6KB- Abbeydale Industrial Hamlet
13/6- Reserve Sports day
17/6 4WL Weston Pk museum
20/6 Whole Class photos
20/6 Y6P & Y6W- Abbeydale Industrial Hamlet
21/6 Orienteering Graves PK
24th-27th/6 Y6 Stratford
28/6 Summer Fayre
2/7 Y6 transition Silverdale (pm)
7/7 Summer Music Concert
3:45pm-5pm
8th, 9th/7 Y6 performances
10/7 4H Weston Pk museum
11/7 Y3 charity fayre
16/7 Y3-5 transition morning
16/7 open evening
17/7 Y6 leavers assembly
18/7 break up for the summer

Here are just a few comments from our Year 5 explorers:

- "I really enjoyed 'Thornbridge' because I got to conquer my fear of heights in a fun way on the sky ropes."
- "I enjoyed it so much, I wish I could go again!"
- "Such a great place to go to because you can overcome your fears. You will also have lots of fun during the 'Peak Challenge!'"

A special thank you to Mrs Conroy for her organisation and planning 😊



Postcard Competition

Thank you and well done to all of our pupils who designed a postcard for our competition. The standard was very high- in particular in Y6 it was impossible to choose just one winner. Below are the names of our winners and some of our winning entries. These pupils will have their design turned into a professional postcard, which may come through your letter box in the future!

Jachym, Emma C, Joshua F, Elsie, Freya F, Alex C, Hamish, Chloe F, Hareem, Ayla, Alex M, Eliza C, Summer, Isabel B, William B, Hannah C, Ava H





Our DJS attendance target for 2024-25 is **98%**. Currently school is at 97.49%. We're so close to meeting our attendance target, and with your help, we can make that final push by ensuring every child is in school, on time, each day. We would also like to remind 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 states that schools are unable to authorise requests that are submitted retrospectively.

The Pupils' Parliament have met this half term and one of their roles was to agree how we should all behave in the dinner hall to make this time more enjoyable for everyone.

This is what they have agreed, which the pupil parliament reps have shared with their classes:

1. **We wait our turn** – Take turns to get your food, and don't rush.
2. **We are polite and respectful** – Say "please" and "thank you" when asking for or receiving food.
3. **We sit properly at the table** – Sit upright and stay seated while eating; we avoid feet on the seats!
4. **We eat our own food** – We only eat the food that we have been given.
5. **We use good table manners** – Chew with your mouth closed, and don't talk with food in your mouth.
6. **We speak quietly** – Use a soft voice so everyone can enjoy their meal peacefully.
7. **We only leave the table once we have finished eating** – no chewing while walking!
8. **We keep the dining area tidy** – Avoid dropping food and keep the area neat.
9. **We clean up after our self** – Clear your tray and place it in the right area when you're finished eating.
10. **Respect other people**– Listen to staff members and follow their instructions; be kind to other children.

Year 5 Charity Afternoon

The Year 5 charity fayre was a big success, with the children working in teams to organise fun stalls and raise money for a good cause.

"I enjoyed working as a team to create a stall - we did 1:1 footable challenges and it was lots of fun. I think we raised a lot of money." Finlay

"It was a fun way to raise money for a good cause." Rory

"I enjoyed the fayre and enjoyed raising money by playing football - it was lots of fun!" Nitin

Overall we raised £530 well done year 5!



Parent helpers

A huge thank you to all of the parents and carers who helped out during SATs week. Your help was crucial in allowing all of the children to access the test, especially those who have additional time or access arrangements. We hope you picked up your bag of chocolates from reception 😊. Staff and pupils really appreciated your support.

Assembly Learning This half term

Our recent school assemblies have been full of learning, creativity, and celebration!

-We marked Easter with a thoughtful and joyful celebration.

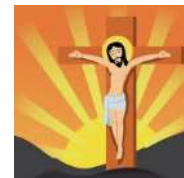
- This was followed by a meaningful Earth Day assembly where pupils reflected on protecting our planet.

-We were inspired by amazing authors with Mrs Collis

- Mrs Conroy who showed us the power of passion and perseverance with her assembly on super sports people.

-Mrs Waggott has shared some awesome artists and wowed us with their creativity, as well sharing the Sheffield logo competition (see below)

-A huge well done to Y3J and Y5P for their outstanding class assemblies - the children's performances were confident, engaging, and fun.



-Mrs Jones, a student teacher, led a wonderful assembly about Deaf Awareness Week, focusing on breaking down barriers to accessibility and celebrating the diversity of Deaf culture.

- Laurie in 3J went and searched for household items in the home and came up with this list!



- As part of our school value “together we are safe” children have learnt about chemicals in the home

- Finally, we have created a whole school pledge to combat racism and any other form of discrimination. Children have worked in assembly and with teachers and we have created a whole school pledge:

Pledge #1

We will celebrate and be positive about difference. We will ask people with kindness about differences. We will embrace difference and see it as a positive.

Pledge #2

We will treat everybody equally. This includes words and actions that we would expect for ourselves. It includes allowing everyone to join in, have an opinion no matter their skin colour, religion, language or culture.

Pledge #3

We will stand up to racism and intolerance. This means **being an upstander**. We will recognise racism or inequality and tell an adult in school about it as well as becoming braver at telling individual's their behaviour is wrong.

Smartphone Free Childhood Movement- Information Evening for Parent

Tuesday 10th June 2025 - 6pm - 7:30pm at Dobcroft Junior School



LET'S TALK ABOUT OUR KIDS AND THEIR TECH



After working as a GP for 5 years, and having three children during her training, **Dr Laura Spells** realised she had developed an interest in child and adolescent mental health. She stepped away from General Practice and instead now works as a Specialty Doctor in CAMHS (Child and Adolescent Mental Health).

An experienced speaker, Laura is a passionate leader in the Smartphone Free Childhood Campaign and is eager to help families thrive in the digital age.

HELPING FAMILIES TO THRIVE IN THE DIGITAL AGE

Parenting in the **digital age** has never been more complex, with issues surrounding screen time, social media use, and gaming. Many parents are concerned about their children's mental health, especially the impact of screens on it.

In this interactive talk, Dr Laura Spells unpacks some of the **complex issues** surrounding smartphone use and, in a **non-judgmental** manner, aims to help you find solutions that work for your family.

TOPICS

- The link between mental health and wellbeing and spending too much time online
- Strategies for delaying the smartphone
- Strategies for families to achieve a healthy balance with technology
- Question and discussion time

FODs

28th June- Summer Fayre
12pm-3pm

Please email FODs:
fods.info.mail@gmail.com
if you can offer even just an hour to help throughout the day
We will also need
-cakes on the day
-any plants for the plant stall (these can be dropped off at the junior school from June 2nd)
- items for the raffle (these can be dropped off at the junior or infant school from June 2nd)



Y4 Mount Cook Residential

The Year 4s had a fantastic time on their residential trip to Mount Cook, creating unforgettable memories and embracing every adventure with enthusiasm. They climbed, built dens, raced on land karts, flew down a zip wire, lit fires, fired arrows in archery, navigated through orienteering challenges, and tackled team tasks with determination and teamwork. The children were an absolute pleasure to take away—showing bravery, maturity, and (most of them) even sleeping soundly for two nights away from home! Below are a few snapshots of the fun and there are many more photos on DoJo.



Logo Competition

Sheffield is the latest city nationally to be declared a 'City of Languages', meaning Sheffield has made a commitment to promote language learning, celebrating multilingualism as an important cultural asset. We are encouraging all our budding artists to enter this competition, to design a new logo for Sheffield as a City of Languages. The deadline is Monday 30th June. To find out more and enter visit: <https://www.sheffieldcityoflanguages.org/logo-competition>



Let us know if you have entered so we can check results on 7th July.

Play in a Day

We were thrilled to welcome the amazing Leigh Farrant into school this half term to work with both Year 5 and Year 6 on a very special project — Play in a Day!

Each year group took on the challenge of performing a Shakespeare play in just one day. Working in teams, the children rehearsed tirelessly, learned their lines (many in tricky Shakespearean language!), made props, and were ready to perform by 2.30pm.

Leigh worked his magic with every group, bringing the plays to life with energy and enthusiasm. Even a last-minute fire drill couldn't stop the show from going on!



Freddie in Year 5 said, "I loved how enthusiastic Leigh was all day!" Evie added, "He made us feel like we were back in Shakespeare's time when we spoke his words." Henry summed it up perfectly: "It felt like a drama club which was really fun. Leigh was great at making us laugh in the funny bits and feel sad in the tragic scenes!" Muhammad added, "I liked it - it was very dramatic and funny! I loved the action scenes!"

A huge thank you to Leigh for his hard work, and a big well done to all our brilliant performers — you were fantastic!



Play hockey with Sheffield Hockey Club

We welcome new members
(girls and boys, age 7 to 16 yrs) to try hockey during
our summer season.

FREE TASTER SESSIONS



**Abbeydale Sports Club
Abbeydale Road South
Sheffield,
S17 3LJ**

Summer Training Times:

Y3, Y4, Y5 & Y6 — Monday, 5.30 – 6.30pm

Y7 & Y8 — Thursday, 5.30 – 7.00pm

Y9, Y10 & Y11 — Tuesday, 5.30—7.00pm

To enquire please contact jeremy_ferreira@outlook.com