

Community Partnership Projects: Together, We Embrace Difference

Dear Parents and Carers,

We are excited to share with you a new initiative at Dobcroft Junior School that reflects and supports our school value "Together, We Embrace Difference." Through a series of community-based partnership projects, our pupils will explore, understand and celebrate the diverse community that we are part of here at Dobcroft. These projects aim to deepen our pupils' appreciation of the protected characteristics and of different perspectives, backgrounds and cultures. Most importantly, these experiences will help our children to build lasting connections and lifelong habits of active participation within their community, reinforcing the importance of unity and inclusivity in all they do. The below overview provides a brief synopsis of all projects, so that you can chat to your child about projects that they may be involved in or hear about. Also, please do let the named teachers (or Sheree Doyle) know if you are able to offer your help or support in any way, particularly if you have experience or knowledge connected to a particular project or theme.

We would be hugely grateful if our parents / carers could take a look at the diary dates below so that we can all provide pupils with as much wider community support as possible.

Warm wishes,
 Sheree Doyle – Deputy Head Teacher

Who	Overview of project and aims	Dates for your diary so far		
		Y3F visits	Y3J visits	Y3T visits
Year 3	Partnership project with Broomcroft Care Home Teacher lead: Mr Frampton Our focus will be on the protected characteristic of age, emphasising that growing older is a natural part of life. The project aim is to help our children appreciate that people of different ages hold valuable experiences through ongoing visits to the care home and through lesson content. In order to foster confidence in the interactions, we have designed key learning to run alongside the visits, in order for pupils to get the most out of their visits.	21st October 18th November 16th December	27th January 24th February 24th March	28th April 19th May 30th June
		Please get in touch with your child's class teacher if you are able to help with any of the above afternoon trips.		
Year 4	Partnership project with S6 Foodbank Teacher lead: Mrs Waggott In Year 4, pupils will be working closely with S6 food bank to support families in need within our community and children will gain a deeper understanding of the importance of supporting those who are facing hardship. This project will involve a combination of visits from S6 food bank volunteers, learning about the realities of food insecurity and supporting the charity via hosting three food collections over the academic year.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> October – whole school assembly from S6 Foodbank November food collection – Theme is 'breakfast' – please look out for additional information (donations into school by 7th November) March and June food collections – info and specific dates TBC 		
Year 5	Partnership project with St Luke's Teacher lead: Mrs Beasley Year 5 pupils will embark on an exciting fundraising and learning journey, with a focus on the protected characteristic of disability in terms of progressive and substantial conditions. Pupils will find out from St Luke's volunteers what the charity offers as well as the opportunity to visit their day centre and learn more about how they positively impact lives every day. Pupils will also be getting creative and entrepreneurial with a 'Bizkids Project' seed fund, working hard to grow their funds over the year with some key diary events including a ' Christmas Market ' in the playground and an ' afternoon café in class ' later in the year. We will donate via our 'big cheque' at the end of the year.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> 18th September – Whole school assembly from St Luke's 7th October - afternoon Y5P visit to St Luke's Ecclesall Road South Day Centre 16th October - morning Y5CB visit to St Luke's Ecclesall Road South Day Centre 20th November - morning Y5L visit to St Luke's Ecclesall Road South Day Centre 4th December 3:30pm – 4:30pm after school 'St Luke's Christmas Market' hosted by Year 5 pupils Please get in touch with your child's class teacher if you are able to help with any of the above trips		
Year 6	Partnership project with 'Assist Sheffield' Teacher lead: Miss Pratt Year 6 pupils will be learning lots over the year around asylum seeking and refugee status. With a focus on the protected characteristic of race, children will get to know all about what Assist Sheffield does, how they support their clients and about their commitment to tackling racism. We will have visits from Assist Sheffield, who will provide pupils with lived experiences of asylum seeking as well as what we can do to help others and embrace difference. In between visits we will be immersing in work linked to the project, including electing a working party of "Embracing Difference" representatives who will ensure DJS is doing all we can.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> October – Assist representative visits DJS Autumn – Y6 'Embracing Difference' Representatives elected January – Assist revisit us with a focus on lived experiences and support Ongoing – linked curriculum / project work in class June – Refugee week to round off the project We would love to hear from any parents or carers who have work experience related to immigration, asylum or refugee status, connected legal work or support / advocacy services, or who have personal / family experiences they would be happy to share with the students. Your insights could really help enrich the project and give children a better understanding of these important topics. If you would like to get involved, please get in touch with Miss Pratt.		