

Dear parents/carers,

Last Friday 1st December, The Family of Learning Trust officially welcomed two new schools: Shirley Manor in Wyke (Bradford) and Heptonstall (Calderdale).

You may have seen in previous newsletters that we have already begun working with these schools on cross-trust projects and as the months go on we will continue to work with both schools on joint projects with pupils to enhance the already broad curriculum we offer them and also professional development opportunities for staff as we share good practice and expertise across our schools.

This is a very exciting time for us all as the Trust begins to grow and we welcome more schools into our learning family.

It was wonderful to see so many of you at the Christmas Fayre on Monday. A big thank you to our parent volunteers who organised this year's fayre and to all the staff who stayed behind to make it such a success!

Mrs Fiona Pether



Staff Training

This week Miss Hussain led a staff meeting on Reading Fluency. From January teachers will be explicitly teaching one reading fluency lesson a week and more information on what this will look like will be shared with you in the new year on Seesaw, so you can work with your child at home to support the work we do in school.

Liz Myles from Read Write Inc was in school all day on Thursday providing valuable expertise and professional development for the adults who teach daily phonics to our younger pupils.

As you can see reading is high up on our priority list and we place great emphasis on ensuring our staff are delivering the highest quality reading curriculum to our pupils. If you would like more information on how you can support your child at home with their phonics or reading please contact your child's class teacher or Miss Hussain our Reading Lead or see the reading section on our school website.

Christmas at Dean Field

Christmas has arrived Dean Field! Also, the Elf who has been sent by Santa on a behaviour chart! The children and staff will be working hard over the next couple of weeks to get him back in Santa's nice list!



SAFEGUARDING

Parenting with mental health problems

Parenting comes with lots of challenges, which can be even more difficult if you're dealing with mental health problems.

Not all children who live with someone with mental health problems will experience abuse or be affected negatively. In fact, many parents are able to give children safe and loving care.

But sometimes it does affect their ability to cope with family life. So, it's important that parents and carers can find support when they need it.

What are mental health problems?

When we talk about mental health problems we mean conditions like:

- anxiety disorders
- bipolar disorder
- depression
- obsessive-compulsive disorder
- personality disorders
- post-traumatic stress disorder
- schizophrenia.

NSPCC

This is not a complete list. There are many types of mental health problems, and if yours isn't listed, we're still here to support you.

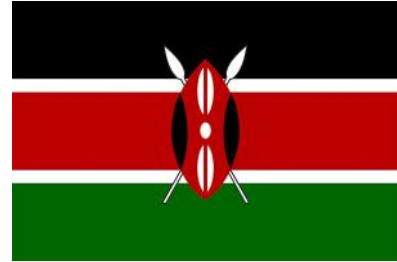
How can mental health problems affect parenting?

Sometimes these conditions can affect a parent's ability to provide the care that children need. Parents or carers may:

- have mood swings
- find it difficult to recognise their children's needs or struggle with keeping routines such as mealtimes, bedtimes and taking their children to school.

Smartest Class of the Week

This week Year 4, Kenya Class are smartest class of the week!



SUPPORTING CHILDREN'S MENTAL HEALTH

10 Conversation Starters for Parents

Talking about mental health to children is sometimes hard. To the point that we can put off raising the subject, not wanting to unearth problems or raise overwhelming subjects that we perceive our child is too young or not ready for. But rather than keeping children in the dark, this guide is designed to help you confidently talk about mental health, so they feel comfortable talking about their own worries and end any stigma before it begins.

NOS National Online Safety®
#WakeUpWednesday

1 LISTEN

This sounds obvious, but it is not something we are always great at. Active listening is where we listen without interrupting or making judgements and shows interest in what is being said. If your child feels listened to in the 'smallest of problems' they will become confident that you will listen when the 'biggest of problems' arise.

2 ASK TWICE

The campaign from time to change is great. <https://www.time-to-change.org.uk/support-ask-twice-campaign>. Be tenacious about your child's wellbeing. Children instinctively know when your questions and support come from a place of wanting to help and care.

Are you sure?

3 THERE IS NO SUCH THING AS A STUPID QUESTION

This advice also relates to the first point. If your child can ask you any questions about the smallest of things and you listen and answer without shaming or belittling, then they will have more confidence to ask the biggest of questions.

4 BE OPEN AND HONEST

Children appreciate honesty, particularly if you are having to share information or talk about a difficult subject. For example, you may be talking about death or loss; 'It's very sad that Nana has died' or 'I feel sad that Nana has died'. How you talk about a subject will differ depending on their age and developmental maturity. Talking about death to a younger child for example will be different to that of an older teen, as their experience and understanding of death is different.

5 KNOW WHEN TO SEEK HELP

Assess the severity of the mental health difficulty you are noticing. Is the difficulty making it hard for your child to function regularly throughout everyday life? How frequently is your child affected, how long does it last and how persistent is it? Are they having problems controlling the difficulty? Talk to your child about your concerns and that it is likely they will need further support beyond family and friends.

6 TALK ABOUT MENTAL HEALTH NATURALLY

Speak about mental health as part of everyday life, so that talking about our feelings and those of others is normalised. If the usual 'are you ok?' is not creating an opportunity for dialogue then say something like 'I know when something like that has happened to me I felt like this... is that how you are feeling or are you feeling something else?'

7 EMPATHISE

'It makes sense that you would feel this way, it is understandable'. Children often worry about things that we, as adults, might see as trivial or silly. However, for them at their age and stage it is a big concern and they need our kindness and care when they show their vulnerability and share their worries.

8 HELP YOUR CHILD FEEL SAFE

Teens particularly feel that by talking about their worries or concerns that this will make things worse. Reassure your child that you will discuss a plan of action together and what may or may not need to happen next. If they are a younger child, it is likely you will need to lead the conversation and explain next steps.

9 MIND YOUR LANGUAGE

Be mindful of the language you use at home to describe and talk about mental health. Stigma often arises from misconceptions and a choice of language which is harmful. Using the word 'mental', 'man-up' or other such words in a derogatory way won't encourage your child to talk about their mental health for fear of being belittled.

10 IT IS OK TO SAY 'I DON'T KNOW WHAT TO DO NEXT'

Adults do not have all the answers but often children think they do. It is ok to acknowledge that what your child is experiencing is not something you have come across before or know anything about, but that you will work it out together and seek help together.

Year 4 Bikeability

On Wednesday, all the children in year 4 participated in a level 1 Bikeability course. The children learnt how to prepare for a journey and understand how to check their bike ready for their journey. They learnt how to set off, slow down and stop their bike, along with learning how to pedal correctly.



Year 4 Ancient Egypt workshop

On Tuesday, year 4 went to Cliffe Castle to participate in an Ancient Egypt workshop. Their first task was to discuss why the River Nile was important. With this information, they created fact cards to attached to the map. The children drew a map of Egypt and labelled the physical and human features of geography. After that, the children learnt all about the mummification process. They discussed what mummification is and completed the full process with the guidance of Anubis, god of the dead. We looked at all the artefacts which included a real mummy.



Year 1 Manor Heath Park Trip

Year 1 have visited Manor Heath park this week and last in two halves to look at seasonal changes. The aim was to look at signs of Autumn but the group that went this week could definitely see more signs of Winter! The children were very sensible for their first trip of Year 1 and could also talk about human and physical features of Geography from their Paddington topic last half term. Great remembering!



EYFS Fire Service Visit

This week the EYFS unit have had a visit from the West Yorkshire Fire Service to enhance their knowledge and understanding of a firefighter's job role. What a fantastic experience!



EYFS Donations

Over the next half term EYFS staff will be working really hard enhancing the outdoor provision to make it even more exciting and engaging for our children.

Any donations of toys that can be used outdoors would be greatly appreciated. If anyone is getting rid of any large plastic boxes with lids on we would also be grateful of these to sort the toys in and to keep them clean and safe.

Ideas of things that we are looking for: plastic animal figures, dolls/prams, plastic dolls house, plastic car garage, any construction toys. If you have any items to donate please give them to a member of staff at the door.

If anyone can has any aged 3-5year old outdoor play-suits please donate to school; rainproof or quilted variety are fine.

Many thanks the EYFS team.



Thank you

A massive thank you to everyone for buying the crispy buns last week and supporting us developing the EYFS outdoor area. We raised a huge £108.25!



A huge thank you to Mamas + Papas, RK Electrical, Tesco Express, Morrisons, Millside Heating, Electric Bowl, Aaran Sheetmetal Ltd, Calderdale Lighthouse, Harveys of Halifax, Bradford Bulls and Mothershare for donating gifts, vouchers and prizes for the Christmas Raffle.

Thank you to everyone that attended the Christmas Fayre; it was really successful and we raised a huge **£930!!**



Forms

Going forward we will be using the Forms system on Teachers2Parents for our letters and events. If you are unsure how to access the system or consent to any trips, etc. then please come to the school office; we will be happy to show you.



Charity Food Bin

School have partnered up with Happy Days Charity to help the homeless in our community. If you would like to donate food items, toiletries, washing tablets, etc. please see the bin below with details of what is needed each week.

We will put the bin outside each morning by the ramp at the school entrance, or you can bring items into the office at any time during the school day.

Dean Field is proud to help the community in any way possible and show our children the value of kindness and giving to others.





Christmas Events



Event	Date
EY Christmas Nativity (Parents invited)	Wednesday 13 th December
Reindeer Run	Thursday 14 th December
Christmas Dinner Day	Thursday 14 th December
Christmas Jumper Day	Thursday 14 th December
Singing around the Christmas tree – Lower School (Parents invited)	Tuesday 19 th December 9am
Singing around the Christmas tree – Upper School (Parents invited)	Tuesday 19 th December 2:15pm
Santa Visit	Thursday 21 st December
Non-uniform-Christmas Activi- ties	Friday 22 nd December
School closes for Christmas	Friday 22nd December 1.10pm No after school clubs or Dean Field Den

JOIN THE FUN THIS WINTER AND ENJOY A HEALTHY HOLIDAY!

HEALTHY HOLIDAYS CALDERDALE WINTER PROGRAMME

2nd January – 5th January 2024

This Winter, during the school holidays in January 2024, children and young people across Calderdale aged 5-16 who are eligible for benefits-related free school meals are getting the chance to access free holiday club places through our Healthy Holidays Calderdale programme.

The scheme provides enriching activities, delicious nutritious meals, and a chance for young people to meet new friends in a safe and fun environment during the school holidays.

You can book your free place at a holiday club taking place near you this January by visiting: **www.calderdale.gov.uk/healthyholidays**

Please book your place directly through the provider. There may also be sessions available for fee-paying children who are not eligible for free school meals.

For more information on the programme and support in booking a place on the winter programme please contact:

Email: healthyholidays@calderdale.gov.uk

Facebook: @HealthyHolidaysCalderdale

Twitter: @HAFCalderdale

No internet? Visit a local Calderdale Library and they will support you in registering your children onto available activities.



SCHOOL LOTTERY

Don't forget to join our school lottery and be in with a chance of winning cash prizes up to £25,000, plus great bundles like the one shown here.

The school lottery helps support our school so we can buy extra resources and do extra curricular activities.



- Tickets cost just £1 a week
- Chance to win up to £25,000
- Play weekly, or just play the Super Draw!
- Win a huge festive cash bonus!

BUY TICKETS



GambleAware

See website for Terms & conditions. Enter by 23rd December 2023

DIARY DATES

DATE	EVENT
Tuesday 12th December	Year 3 Roman Day at Beech Hill
Tuesday 12th December	SEND Coffee Morning 9am
Wednesday 13th December	EYFS Nativity
Wednesday 13th December	Year 6 Matt's Gym Visit
Thursday 14th December	Christmas Dinner Day
Thursday 14th December	Christmas Jumper Day
Thursday 14th December	Reindeer Run

REMINDER: All school fees, dinner money, extended provision and Nursery need to be paid in advance.
We do not offer any credit and there are no exceptions.
Please pay fees on time.

REMINDER: We are a nut free school and we would appreciate that any lunchboxes do not include nut products to protect the children in school with nut allergies.



It's the
MOST beautiful
TIME OF THE
Year

Accelerated Reader – Reading Achievements this week



Brazil	76%
Poland	82%
Australia	91%
Ireland	83%
Kenya	88%

You could help increase your class percentage by doing some extra reading on myON! There are thousands of books for you to choose from! If you need a reminder of your login details, please speak to your teacher. Visit <https://www.myon.co.uk/login/> to start reading!

This Weeks Attendance

Group	% Attendance
Mexico	94.1%
China	90.7%
Australia	96.7%
Poland	87.6%
Kenya	93.2%
Brazil	97.8%
Ireland	93.6%
Total	93.3%

Congratulations to Brazil class who had the highest attendance in the school this week. Well done to Australia class for coming second. I am seriously concerned of classes who are below 96%. Meetings with parents of children who are of concern will occur.

If your child is absent from school please contact the school office on 01422 258258 before 9.00am.

It is important we are aware of the reason for your child/children's absence. It becomes a safeguarding concern if parents do not inform school when their child/children are absent. Please contact the school office on the first day of absence before 9am stating reasons for any absence. This will avoid absences being recorded as unauthorised.

If you have any concerns or questions surrounding your child/children's attendance please do not hesitate to contact me.

Many thanks,
Loraine Stansfield, Pastoral Manager

CELEBRATION ASSEMBLY

Mexico Reception	Kristopher BH	For amazing progress in phonics.
	Rosie H	For putting her all into her role in the Christmas performance prep.
China Year 1	Hollie-Rose K	For fantastic progress in letter and number formation.
	Posy B	For joining in with more and more in class and having a super positive week!
Australia Year 2	Freddie W	For his super effort during assessment week!
	Elijah P	For always contributing brilliant ideas during learning.
Poland Year 3	Penelope C	For an improvement in her reading.
	Harper B	For her resilience during assessment week.
Kenya Year 4	Charlie P	For being helpful towards his peers.
	Darcie C	For always being in a positive mood.
Brazil Year 5	Leo H	For enthusiasm during our visit to the gym.
	Sofie A	For perseverance during assessment week.
Ireland Year 6	Lily B	For being an always superstar!
	Leo O	For putting 100% effort in everyday.