

Dear Parents/Carers,

Reception, Mexico Class, have really impressed me this week with how 'smart' they have been at all times when I have seen them in school. This includes moving through the school to assemblies and lunch and coming inside from breaktimes.

Smartest Class of the Week



As we come to the end of this long term, we have many things to look back on and be incredibly proud of.

We will finish the term off in the most amazing way with 'Dean Field's Got Talent'. Academic success is hugely important to us at Dean Field but allowing children to showcase their individual skills and talents is also so important. A big thank you to the staff who have mentored the acts taking part and the judges and Miss Lees and Miss Clay for organising.

Thank you for your continued support, and to those who attended parents' evening, it was lovely to see you all.

I wish all our Dean Field families a restful Easter.

Mrs Fiona Pether

Staff Training

This week was World Autism Acceptance Week and the teachers and teaching assistants had training from an ASD specialist teacher, Claire Hill. Claire shared some of her specialist knowledge around how we can support our pupils with or awaiting a diagnosis of ASD.



Leaving children home alone in the holidays:

It can be difficult for parents to manage the holidays, and between work, appointments and other family commitments, every parent is likely to leave their child home alone at some point. But we're urging parents and carers to think carefully about leaving children home alone or unsupervised as the holidays start.

While there's no legal age a child can be left home alone, as every child matures differently, it is against the law to leave a child alone if it puts them at risk. If your child doesn't feel comfortable, they shouldn't be left home alone.

As children get older, it's common for them to want more freedom and learn to be independent. This is an important part of growing up, but there can be a lot to think about for parents.

Are they ready to be left alone?

Think about if your child can deal with risks, will they behave responsibly, will they be safe. And perhaps most importantly, how does your child feel about this idea?

If your child is going out alone:

Make sure you know where they want to go, what they want to do, who they will be with and how far will they travel. This will help you to make the right decision.

Will they be safe and sound?

If they're staying at home, make sure they have a parent or carer's number, another trusted adult's number and have a trusted adult in mind that they could go to in person, in an emergency.

If they're going out alone make sure they know their full name, address, and have two trusted adults' phone numbers.

Children under the age of 12 are rarely mature enough to cope in an emergency and should not be left at home alone for a long period of time, while children under the age of 16 should not be left alone overnight.

Discuss all the different scenarios they might face and how to stay safe. Ask them what they'd do and how they feel about them.

Set clear boundaries:

This will help you and your child know how they should behave when you're not around. It's a good idea to agree on some house or outside rules that suit their maturity before you leave them alone. Give your child a chance to build their independence by building your trust.

Parent/Carer Feedback 2023

My children are thriving at this school and love going, so to me that says it all.

The school has gone from strength to strength.

All three of my children have attended this school, never really had any problems at all and all three children have been very happy at this school. I would highly recommend this school to other parents.



Good quality education, **good** school environment and culture, **good** emphasis on personal and social as well as academic development.

Dean Field

Community Primary School

Dean Field has high expectations of the pupils, in my experience the teachers keep parents informed of issues and are supportive.

I'm happy with this school for my child. I've not had any problems, he is always happy and works hard and was happy with what got said at parents evening I think my child will continue to do well and get great results from his education.

My children are happy and doing well at this school. The school is run very well and there is a real community feel where the kids all know each other which is lovely.

Dean Field is a fantastic school which has positively contributed to my child's educational journey. Staff are consistently supportive with any issues raised, the quality of teaching and education is exceptional, this school is inclusive to all pupils ensuring they feel safe, happy and always valued. The activities, events and celebrations they incorporate are well organised and enriching allowing pupils to thrive socially and educationally. From the receptionists to the headteacher. Staff are encouraging, inspiring and understanding which is the true hallmark of a great school these qualities are seen not just within the school but also the local community with schemes they have created for pupils to get involved.

Helping children and young people with MANAGING DEVICE STRESS AND ANXIETY

WHAT ARE THE RISKS?

The internet and advances in the capability of digital devices have afforded us arguably the fastest period of technological and social evolution in living memory: creating opportunities for us to interact with people anywhere in the world, 24 hours a day. It's also, however, blurred safety boundaries and added new stresses for young people, who are often less aware of the hidden hazards. With almost half of 10–15-year-olds experiencing bullying online and algorithms pushing content in front of our children every day, it's important to know how to address some of these challenges.

LIVING ONLINE

The internet is awash with sophisticated algorithms that learn from our online behaviour and try to predict our wants and needs. That's very helpful in some respects, but it can make the online world difficult for children and young people to negotiate. Content can be brought to them at any time – it may not always be appropriate, and children may not have the ability or the support to deal with it.

PUSHY NOTIFICATIONS

Content is also directed at us through notifications from our apps: letting us know we have a new message or social post to read, for example. While that's useful in some circumstances, it conditions us to keep going back online (and is designed to do so) and can be a near-constant demand on your child's attention. As such alerts become more common, are we experiencing an 'attack of the pings'?

BLURRED BOUNDARIES

There are now so many ways we can communicate online in real time (like instant messaging apps) or with a delay (such as on social media) that it's possible to be constantly in conversation. Young people often prefer quickline exchanges of text – but using fewer words can cause distressing miscommunications through the lack of non-verbal cues like facial expressions or tone of voice.

DIGITAL DEPENDENCY

As devices allow access to immediate external help in challenging situations, it's a concern that children may not be developing the inner confidence to work things out for themselves. Likewise, group membership is hugely important to young people – both in digital and 'real' life – and being excluded from online conversations can cause damaging feelings of loneliness and isolation.

DISGUISED DISTRESS

Children often haven't yet developed the emotional resources to deal with many of the setbacks of everyday life, so identifying when it's specifically something online that's worried them can be tricky. A certain level of stress is a normal response to a problem: it spurs us into action to keep ourselves safe. If the stress is excessive, though, it can feel overwhelming and potentially lead to anxiety or depression.

ANTI-SOCIAL SOCIALS

Social media can bring people together in hugely positive ways. Sadly, it does also have a darker side, including 'flame war' arguments which can escalate quickly and have hurtful consequences. With so many people looking on, 'group shaming' situations are also common – while there are continual opportunities for young people to compare themselves negatively with other social media users.

Advice for Parents & Carers

LEARN THE BASICS

It's impossible to keep up with every online change or every new app. The best option is to make yourself aware of the fundamentals of how the internet operates, so you can help your child to grasp how – and why – content reaches them. Devices and the digital world can be confusing, so learning to understand them better will give you the confidence to talk to your child about them.

PUSH DISTRACTIONS AWAY

Notifications to our phones and tablets can be helpful, but they sometimes make one wonder who's really in charge: the person or the device? Checking our phone as soon as it goes off is an easy habit to fall into – especially for young people. Try switching off non-essential alerts on your devices and encourage your child to do the same: you should both feel less triggered and more in control.

KEEP CHECKING IN

Healthy emotional regulation balances three systems: threat, drive and grounding. Down the various rabbit holes of the internet, however, that balance can easily slip away – so it's important to help your child manage their emotions when they're online. Check in with them regularly when they're on their device, and remember that 'distraction' and 'relaxation' aren't always the same thing.

TALK IT OUT

If a child mentions a comment that's been directed at them in a text chat or on social media, it may sound minor but can actually have a much bigger effect than we realise. In our evolved brains, any perceived threat can get internalised while our body reacts as if we were in physical danger – raising stress levels. It's always worth encouraging your child to get any concerns out in the open.

LOOK FOR THE SIGNS

This is tricky – and may depend on the child's age – but any sudden change in behaviour is worth looking out for. If your child seems to be checking their phone or tablet more, doesn't want to be parted from them, or appears unusually secretive, anxious or withdrawn, it could be a sign that something is amiss in relation to their device – and, possibly, that they're in need of extra support.

BE KIND: UNWIND

Be kind to yourselves as parents and carers. Remember that we're all in the same boat, trying to safely guide our children through this complex, fast-moving digital environment. Getting into the habit of having natural, relaxed conversations with your child about their online life (and yours) can level the playing field and make it far easier for them to open up to you about any concerns.

Meet Our Expert

Dr Sarah Hordwood is an experienced counselling psychologist who specialises in promoting safe and ethical online communications. She consults with and offers bespoke training to businesses and organisations, supporting positive and effective online communications – often by considering some of the more hidden aspects of the various mediums.



Source: <http://www.childrenscommission.gov.uk/report/online-big-axe-big-and-small/>
<https://www.gov.uk/people/population-and-community-media-justices> Child in the know: <https://www.gov.uk/government/consultations/child-in-the-know>

National Online Safety
#WakeUpWednesday



@nationalonlinesafety



/NationalOnlineSafety



@nationalonlinesafety



@national_online_safety

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Nursery Library Trips

Over the past few weeks the nursery children have been on a visit to the Calderdale Central Library. They were all very excited to be travelling on the school minibus and visit a new place.

During their visit they talked about the role of a librarian and all the different things you can do in the library. They explored a wide range of different books and enjoyed listening to songs and taking part in singing.

The children were all fantastic and did some super listening and were very sensible.

Well done Nursery!



EYFS Easter Bonnet Parades

This week we invited Nursery and Reception parents/carers into school to watch the Easter Bonnet Parades. The bonnets were fantastic and really well made. It was a great parade and the children even had the chance to meet The Easter Bunny! Our parents/carers always enjoy coming into school; one parent said:

"I enjoyed being able to come along and share in the parade, so thank you!"



Year 4 Stone Age Workshop

On Tuesday, Year 4 went to Beech Hill School to take part in a Stone Age to Bronze Age workshop. The children completed a variety of activities such as drama, creating their own Stonehenge and making salt dough tools.

The workshop was delivered by Past Productions.



Easter Raffle

We raised a huge **£260** in the Easter Raffle!

Thank you to Dean Field staff, RK Electrical, Embroidery in House and Aaran Sheet Metal for donating Easter Eggs.

A massive thank you to all the parents that have bought tickets to help fundraise for our school.

Congratulations to the winners; enjoy your Easter eggs!





**Tuesday 4th, Wednesday 5th and Thursday 6th
April at the old Thornton's shop at the
Wool shop's Halifax 10am until 2pm**

*We will be selling a mixture of brand new Harry Potter,
Star Wars and Friends merchandise along with some top
quality pre-loved clothing.*



**For more info please email
paula@calderdalesmartmove.org.uk**

Nursery Places

Was your child born between 1st September 2019 and 31st August 2020?

If so apply for your Nursery place at Dean Field now. Call the school office on 01422 258258 or come in to school for more information.



What we offer:

- ♦ Safe, secure & stimulating environment
- ♦ Fully equipped indoor and outdoor space
- ♦ Fun and sociable experiences
- ♦ Fully qualified, friendly and caring staff
- ♦ Up to date resources and equipment
- ♦ Nurturing transition to our school
- ♦ Hot meals available
- ♦ Free and daily fruit, milk and tooth brushing
- ♦ Whole school involvement to prepare for starting Reception with their class mates
- ♦ Half-termly trips and exciting opportunities including dance clubs and animal workshops

When to apply:

Apply when your child turns 2 years old. Children start nursery the term after they turn 3 years old.

When will my child start Nursery?

If your child turns 3 between 1 September and 31 December – **Term starting on or after 1 January.**

If your child turns 3 between 1 January and 31 March – **Term starting on or after 1 April.**

If your child turns 3 between 1 April and 31 August – **Term starting on or after 1 September.**



Free School Meals

Please see information below on criteria for Free School Meals. If you need an application for your child please ask at the school office or follow the link to apply online—<https://calderdalecouncil.custhelp.com/app/free-school-meals>.

Eligibility criteria for free school meals

Section 512 of the Education Act 1996, as amended, places a duty on maintained schools, academies and free schools to provide free school meals to pupils of all ages that meet the criteria.

Who is eligible for free school meals?

Free school meals are available to pupils in receipt of, or whose parents are in receipt of, one or more of the following benefits:

- Universal Credit (provided you have an annual net earned income of no more than £7,400, as assessed by earnings from up to three of your most recent assessment periods)
- Income Support
- Income-based Jobseeker's Allowance
- Income-related Employment and Support Allowance
- Support under Part VI of the Immigration and Asylum Act 1999
- The guarantee element of Pension Credit
- Child Tax Credit (provided you're not also entitled to Working Tax Credit and have an annual gross income of no more than £16,190)
- Working Tax Credit run-on – paid for four weeks after you stop qualifying for Working Tax Credit

In addition, the following pupils will be protected against losing their free school meals as follows:

- Since 1 April 2018, all existing free school meals claimants have continued to receive free school meals whilst Universal Credit is rolled out. This applies even if their earnings rise above the threshold during that time.
- In addition, any pupil gaining eligibility for free school meals after 1 April 2018 will be protected against losing free school meals until March 2025.
- After March 2025, any existing claimants that no longer meet the eligibility criteria at that point (because they are earning above the threshold or are no longer a recipient of Universal Credit) will continue to receive free school meals until the end of their current phase of education (i.e. primary or secondary).

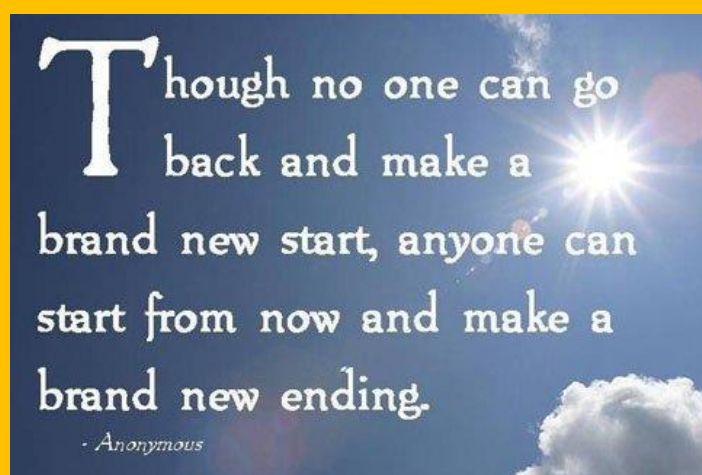
A pupil is only eligible to receive a free school meal when a claim for the meal has been made on their behalf and their eligibility, or protected status, has been verified by the school where they are enrolled or by the local authority.

DIARY DATES

DATE	EVENT
Monday 3rd April	Dean Field's Got Talent Hotdogs on Sale—50p
Tuesday 4th April	Rainbow non-uniform Day—Autism Acceptance
Tuesday 4th April	School closes for Easter at 3pm
Monday 17th April	School reopens

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.



Accelerated Reader – Reading Achievements this week



Brazil	80%
Poland	72.3%
Australia	84.4%
Ireland	80%
Kenya	83.3%

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!

TT Rockstars Weekly Winners

Year 2 – William H

Year 3 – Nico G

Year 4 – Jacob B

Year 5 – Ashton J

Year 6 – Jessica C

Class Winner - Poland



Group	% Attendance
Mexico	96.6%
China	89.7%
Australia	90.3%
Poland	91.6%
Kenya	93.2%
Brazil	92.8%
Ireland	89.3%
Total	91.9%

This Weeks Attendance

Congratulations to Mexico class who had the highest attendance in the school this week. Well done to Kenya 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	Aria R	For fantastic progress in reading and confidence.
	Grayson W	For being confident, sensible and smart in our Easter Bonnet Parade.
China Year 1	Jordan C	For having a great first few days at Dean Field.
	Ellie H	For your alternative story plan in English.
Australia Year 2	Mia E	For your fantastic letter in English.
	Poppy B	For being a role model pupil!
Poland Year 3	Seb L	For being a fantastic role model.
	Deacon T	For being a superb mathematician.
Kenya Year 4	Jessica S	For being an amazing role model during the workshop.
	Jacob B	For your fantastic engagement in PSHE.
Brazil Year 5	Kylan T	For your enthusiasm in learning.
	Emelia N	For being an absolute superstar at all times.
Ireland Year 6	Latisha F	For your imaginative ideas during writing.
	Alicia O	For using your initiative and trying hard.