

Friday 11th October 2024

Dear Parents and Carers,

It has been another fun packed week at Dean Field school! From Family Learning with year 6 and their parents to National Poetry day and much more in between. Please see our X (formally known as Twitter) feed to see some of the wonderful things going on across school.

A very important event this week is World Mental Health Day which is celebrated on the 10th October every year. Mental health is something we're serious about at Dean Field for all of our stakeholders. Children took part in World Mental Health Day by wearing yellow for Young Minds on Friday and completing some work in class around mental health at an age appropriate level.

More information can be found here:

<https://www.youngminds.org.uk/>



Staff Training

This week, teachers received some training around SEND delivered by Miss Clay. Our staff are already really well informed around strategies for children with SEND needs but we are always seeking ways to become even better!

SAFEGUARDING

Helping a child with anxiety or depression

Sometimes, parents feel like their child's mental health problem is their fault. Or they want to know exactly why their child is struggling. This is understandable, but the most important thing is to reassure your child and not judge them for how they're feeling.

You can help a child who's struggling by:

- letting them know you're there for them and you're on their side
- talking to them over text or on the phone if they don't feel able to talk in person
- being patient and staying calm and approachable, even if their behaviour upsets you
- recognising that their feelings are valid and letting them know it's OK for them to be honest about what they're feeling
- thinking of healthy ways to cope. You could try things like yoga, breathing exercises or mindfulness together
- encouraging them to talk to their GP, someone at their school or [Childline](#). Especially if they're finding it hard to talk at home.
- taking care of yourself and getting support if you need to. Try not to blame yourself for what's happening, and stay hopeful about your child's recovery.



ONLINE SAFETY

What Parents & Educators Need to Know about **IN-GAME CHAT**

WHAT ARE THE RISKS?

Video games are continuing to grow in popularity – including, of course, among children and young people – and the emergence of gaming communities has been accelerated by the inclusion of chat functionality across many different titles. While in-game chat isn't inherently a bad thing, it can create some concerns about online safety and the people that children might be interacting with.

DIFFERENT TYPES OF CHAT

There are a number of ways that gamers commonly chat with one another online. As the name would suggest, in-game chat happens within the game itself. There's also party chat: a group voice conversation that console users can have with anyone on the same platform. This tends to be more commonly used by players who already know each other. Finally, many gamers – especially on PC – will chat via a third-party app such as Discord.

CONTACT WITH STRANGERS

Whether it's text- or voice-based, in-game chat is frequently open to all players to use. Many games default to making it an opt-in function, but some don't: meaning a child could start seeing messages within the game from people they're playing with, regardless of whether they know those individuals or not. While most strangers won't necessarily have ill intent, there are some who may behave inappropriately when chatting to a child – intentionally or otherwise.

DANGER OF GROOMING

It's been reported that some young gamers have encountered older players online who pretend to be a lower age to manipulate children, sending gifts in exchange for chatting and sending photos. Just as on any messaging platform, it's good to advise young people to avoid speaking to strangers; emphasise that they shouldn't accept gifts from anyone online that they don't know.

BULLYING AND ABUSE

While some in-game chat can turn toxic because of how a match plays out, others turn that way because of people who engage in trolling – in essence, behaving in an offensive and abusive way simply to cause pain or get a rise out of whoever they're talking to. These 'trolls' often lean on racial slurs, anti-LGBT sentiment and other hateful rhetoric; they normally feel most confident preying on younger, more impressionable gamers.

POTENTIAL FOR PRIVATE CHAT

If a player would like a re-match with a stranger after meeting them in the game, they can send a friend request, or use the party chat together in the future. For the most part, this is harmless – but it might lead to messages being exchanged in private. This could then escalate to the sharing of private information, and potentially attempts to manipulate or scam younger players.

COMPETITIVE ATMOSPHERE

Certain games are very competitive, and players can sometimes get upset if they feel a teammate is underperforming, an opponent won unfairly, or they're just a bad loser. This can lead to unpleasant messages that stray away from playful 'trash talk' and wander into the territory of bullying. Some players have been known to get incredibly abusive in situations like this, and the impact of this on a young gamer's emotional wellbeing could be severe.

Advice for Parents & Educators

LOCK-DOWN IN-GAME CHAT

In-game chat can often be disabled in the game's settings. This allows children to play without risk of contact from strangers – but it will need to be done in each individual game. Text chat appears in the corner of the screen in many titles, so it's normally easy to take a quick glance and see what's being said. With voice chat, explain to children what behaviour is inappropriate, so they can spot the dangers themselves.

REPORT POTENTIAL OFFENDERS

Most games offer a robust means of reporting other players, so you can flag an account as potentially harmful. This normally leads to the account not being matched with yours in the future and, if that person's conduct breaks any of the game's rules, they may be banned from playing entirely. This is done within the game itself, so each title has a slightly different process, but these tend to be designed for simplicity.

CONSIDER OTHER CHAT OPTIONS

If a child wants to play with people they know, consider using party chat or a third-party service like Discord. This allows everyone involved to chat on a private server and even enjoy each other's company while playing different games. It's also far more secure, as anyone looking to join will need to request and be granted access – normally by whoever is hosting the chat.

COMMUNICATION IS KEY

Make sure children understand the differences between being competitive and being abusive. Talk about what constitutes unusual or inappropriate behaviour from strangers online. Be clear that if anything ever concerns or worries them, they should tell a trusted adult as soon as possible. Empower children to identify the risks of in-game chat for themselves and reassure them they won't get in trouble for seeking help if anything goes wrong.

Health and Safety Reminder

To ensure that we are upholding health and safety standards, we ask that parents and carers supervise children at all times before and after school and make sure that children stay off the play equipment in the EYFS playground and in the main playground.

Thank you for your support.

A reminder of our Whole School Values

As a school, our vision is 'Learning without Limits' and being guided by our school values.



This half term's focus value is ...

honesty

Year 5 MasterChef

This week for MasterChef, year 5 made Brazilian carrot cake. We looked at the difference between carrot cake and Brazilian carrot cake.

We prepped all the ingredients and completed the task using a variety of cooking skills such as blending, peeling and mixing.





Stay and Read



On **Tuesday 15th** and **Wednesday 16th October** we are welcoming parents and carers to come and read with their children in class! Classroom doors will open from 8:30 to 9:00 and all parents, carers and grandparents are welcome!

Tuesday, 15th October - Reception, year 2, 4 and 6
Wednesday, 16th October - Nursery, year 1, 3 and 5

All parents can enter classroom doors via the playground. If you wish to visit more than one class, please use the same doors to enter and exit classrooms as you wish.

We look forward to seeing you!

Christmas Dinner Day

Please confirm your Christmas dinner on Forms by Wednesday 6th November.

Christmas Dinner Menu

Tuesday 10th December

Traditional Roast Turkey
Quorn Turkey 10, 12
Fish Fingers 2, 5
Pigs in Blankets 4, 5, 8
Sage & Onion Stuffing 5

Baby Carrots
Peas
Roast Potatoes
Gravy

Homemade Choc-Orange Cupcakes 5, 10, 12
Homemade Christmas Biscuits 5, 10, 12
Ice Cream 10

Halal option available upon request
Please advise if there are any allergies or special requirements

BBC 500 Word Story Writing Challenge

The BBC 500 word Challenge is now open for entries! Visit <https://www.bbc.co.uk/teach/500-words/articles/zctk7v4#zbx4jfr> to find out more and to submit your entries! The top 50 finalists will be invited to Buckingham Palace for the grand final in February! Good luck!



Harvest Festival 2024



At Dean Field, we are celebrating **Harvest Festival** by collecting non-perishable food items and toiletries for the charity Happy Days. If you would like to donate, please send your donations into school on or before

Thursday 17th October.



Newsletter Promotion - School

Parentkind – the charity that supports school PTAs - have teamed up with Asda, who is making millions of pounds available to donate to primary schools across the UK through their 'Cashpot for Schools' initiative – all you have to do is, opt in through the Asda Rewards app, choose our primary school and shop and scan in store or shop online at Asda.com, between 2nd September and 30th November 2024

Asda will donate 0.5% of the value of your shop to our Primary school. Also, every time somebody opts in, Asda will give an additional £1 to the school Cashpot. Plus, it doesn't stop there – Asda are also giving £50 to every school to get them started.

The supermarket has joined forces with Joe Wicks to support the initiative – look out for the TV advert, radio ads and social media coverage

Asda does the rest, all money raised will be donated to schools to spend on the things they need the most.

**INTRODUCING
CASHPOT FOR
SCHOOLS**

Download and opt-in with Asda Rewards
and we will donate **££s** to schools.

**CASHPOT
FOR
SCHOOLS**

Only with
**ASDA
Rewards**

Download and
opt-in today



HERE'S HOW

- 1 Download the Asda Rewards app & sign up today
- 2 Opt-in to Cashpot for Schools and follow the steps in your app
- 3 Shop, scan and we donate

With
Parentkind

Selected stores. Minimum spend £2+. Exclusions apply including Asda Express & George.com. Subject to availability. UK 18+. App & Opt in required. 0.5% of the value of a customer's eligible shop is donated. Publicly funded primary schools must register with Parentkind charity 4079911. Opt in to Asda Rewards at asda.com/cashpotforschools. Shop on Asda at asda.com/rewards/terms. Ends 30/11/24

Week commencing Monday 14th October

		 School Meals Menu - Week 1 				
1	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	
Hot Meal Option	Battered Chicken Steak 1, 3, 4, 5, 10	Homemade Chicken Pulao Rice 4	Cod & Parsley Fishcakes 2 Parsley Sauce 5, 10	Homemade Mexican Chicken Enchiladas 5, 10 Peri-Peri Shredded Chicken 4, 5	Pizza 5, 10	
	Cheese & Onion Rolls 3, 5, 10, 12	Homemade Vegan Meatball Curry 4 Rice	Homemade Vegan Spaghetti Bolognaise 4, 5	Spicy Bean Burgers 5	Spinach & Ricotta Ravioli 3, 4, 5, 10, 12	
Vegetables	Potato Wedges Spaghetti 5	Ziggy Fries Broccoli Sweetcorn	Chips Peas Carrots	Potato Smiles Sweetcorn Cauliflower	Potato Cubes 5 Beans Mixed Veg	
Served Daily	Jacket Potatoes with various fillings Salad Bar Selection of Sandwiches Allergies for the daily items available on request					
Dessert	Jam Doughnuts 4, 5, 10, 12, 14	Treacle Sponge 5, 10, 12 Custard 10	Carrot Cake 5, 10, 12	Choc Chip Sponge 5, 10, 12 Custard 10	Assorted Fresh Baking 5, 10, 12	
	Assorted Biscuits 5, 10, 12	Angel Delight 10	Crispy Buns 5, 10	Jelly	Strawberry Ice Cream 10	

Enter our
Super Draw
 Win a £1,000 Sainsbury's Voucher
OR £1,000 CASH PRIZE




YOUR SCHOOL LOTTERY


Dean Field
 Community Primary School



West Yorkshire
Fire & Rescue Service



West Yorkshire
Fire & Rescue Service

Celebrate Safely: Follow **The Firework Code**

- Plan your firework display; making it safe and enjoyable, and make sure it finishes before 11 pm.
- Only buy fireworks that are CE-marked. Keep them, in a closed box, and use one at a time.
- Always read and follow the instructions on each firework. (Use a torch if you need to).
- Keep an arms-length distance with a taper and stand well back when lighting fireworks.
- Keep naked flames like cigarettes, away from fireworks.
- Never return to a firework once it has been lit.
- Do not put fireworks in your pocket, and never throw them.
- Fire any 'rocket' type fireworks well away from spectators.
- Never use paraffin or petrol on a bonfire.
- Make sure that any bonfires are out and the surroundings are made safe before leaving it unattended.

For more information scan the QR code on the front of this flyer or visit:
westyorksfire.gov.uk/bonfire-night-safety

Walks for Wellbeing

North Halifax

Boost your mood in the great outdoors by joining your friendly and caring local walking and peer support group.

We run a variety of walks to suit everyone - a free cuppa always included on the way!

You MUST book to join the group.

Healthy
Minds

Calderdale Wellbeing

Shroggs Park



Call 01422 345154 for enquiries

To book email: likeminds@healthymindscalderdale.co.uk

Or visit: healthymindscalderdale.co.uk/walksforwellbeing

  @HealthyMindsCalderdale |  @HealthyMindsCW

DIARY DATES

DATE	EVENT
Tuesday 15th October	Stay + Read—Rec, Y2, Y4, Y6
Wednesday 16th October	Stay + Read—Nursery, Y1, Y3, Y5
Thursday 17th October	Halloween Discos
Friday 18th October	Non-Uniform—Dare to be different Day
Friday 18th October	School closes
Monday 4th November	School reopens

REMINDER: All school fees, dinner money, extended provision and Nursery fees 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.



REMINDER: If your child has asthma please ensure they have an inhaler in school and you have filled out a medical form at the school office. Thank you.



Accelerated Reader – Reading Achievements this week



Australia	88%
Poland	80%
Kenya	87%
Brazil	72%
Ireland	85%

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!

TTRS Stars of the Week

Year 3— Eleanor H

Year 4 – William H

Year 5 – Isaac P

Year 6 – Leo H



This Weeks Attendance

Group	% Attendance
Mexico	96.3%
China	91.7%
Australia	93.3%
Poland	95.7%
Kenya	89.6%
Brazil	85.5%
Ireland	94.8%
Total	92.4%

Congratulations to Mexico class who had the highest attendance in the school this week. Well done to Poland 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



GOLD BOOK



CELEBRATION ASSEMBLY

Mexico Reception	Dakota A	For completing lots of maths challenges.
	Scarlet W	For finding her voice and exploring more areas.
China Year 1	Vanessa A	For always listening to input and contributing to all lessons.
	Noah B	For a fantastic week! You've been a star this week.
Australia Year 2	Frankie R	For showing an interest and knowledge of recycling in science.
	Hollie-Rose K	For super joining in with lessons this week.
Poland Year 3	Eleanor H	For always being an outstanding role model.
	Tommy D	For your fantastic attitude to learning.
Kenya Year 4	Robyn GH	For superb expression during poetry.
	Poppy B	For a fantastic persuasive piece of writing.
Brazil Year 5	Nico G	For having a great attitude to his learning.
	Harper C	For always being positive and helpful.
Ireland Year 6	Lewis S	For making fantastic progress in reading.
	LJ G	For having an excellent week!!