

Firstly, I would like to thank all parents and carers for their support over the last couple of weeks. We have seen an unprecedented amount of illness in school and indeed across the whole of Calderdale. I am pleased to say that we seem to be through the worst and attendance has begun to pick up again this week.

Whilst I appreciate that some children may still be feeling a little under the weather, I would encourage parents, where possible, to ensure that children are attending school; unless, of course, they have a high temperature. Despite what you may see on social media, we continue with our normal curriculum right up until the Thursday of the final week. That may sound a little “Scrooge-like”, I know, but routine is so important for children and with so much to cram into each school day, we simply don’t have the luxury of easing off early.

Rest assured, the last two days will be filled with festive fun and Christmas cheer, but up until the 18th it really is business as usual.

🔺 Christmas Fayre – A Huge Thank You! 🔺

We have been absolutely overwhelmed this week by the incredible support from our families at our annual Christmas Fayre. Events like these are vital for fundraising, especially at a time when school budgets continue to tighten, so we were truly amazed and delighted to discover that the event raised **nearly £1,200 profit**. Every penny will go straight back into school funds to help us purchase essential equipment and to support extra-curricular trips and opportunities for our pupils.

A huge thank you must go to all the staff members who generously gave up their own time to help run the fayre and to Mrs Edwards for overseeing the event so diligently. Thank you also to all the local businesses and connections of ours who generously donated prizes for the raffle.

The biggest thank you of all goes to **Bethany and Chelsea**, our fantastic parent volunteers. They have dedicated so much of their own time since September to plan, organise, and deliver the fayre. I’m sure you will agree, that this one ran so smoothly and offered such a wonderful variety of stalls. Onto planning the summer fayre now!

It was truly a special community Christmas event for all and we are so grateful for your continued support.

Christmas Calendar

Please make a note of key dates which are further along in the newsletter. We will be sending out weekly reminders also on Seesaw of things that are going on in school. There are lots of events both Christmas related and just usual events that would take place at this time of the year going on and we wouldn’t want anyone to miss out! Inviting families into school is one of the things we love most, especially at this time of year!

Wishing you all a great weekend!

Mrs Fiona Pether

Headteacher



SAFEGUARDING

Christmas Pressures and expectations

Christmas time comes with a lot of ideals that many households try to reach. This can bring families and groups closer together – but it can also cause tension. Whether it's being cooped up for longer periods than usual, conflict can ensue and it can require safeguarding practices to be used.

On top of this, children in particular can have a very specific and idealised version of Christmas in their heads that may not come true in their household. Managing the expectations of those within your circle at Christmas is complicated, but the most important thing to remember is to prioritise the people first.

Pressure creates environments that can facilitate abusive behaviour. So, the key is to create a Christmas atmosphere not based on vanity (presents, lights, and whether you can cook the best dinner), but on welcoming values that make all members feel accepted.



ONLINESAFETY



The whole concept of social media relies upon users having friends and/or followers. 'Friends' tend to be those with whom users will share their own personal profile. It's usually a mutual relationship with both parties able to engage and interact with everything their friends post online. 'Followers' on the other hand can typically be just one-way relationships and, dependent on the platform, only provide access to certain aspects of an individual's profile, such as a person's content feed. A common trait that often exists between the two however is the desire to gather as many friends or followers as possible.



What parents need to know about SOCIAL PRESSURES LINKED TO 'FRIENDS & FOLLOWERS'



POSSIBLE 'FRIEND ENVY'

Children may compare the number of friends or followers that they have with their own online friends and people they know. In some cases, this could lead to 'friend envy', particularly if they see this as a sign of popularity. This could lead to your child showing signs of jealousy and resorting to sending friend requests to people they don't know that well, or even strangers, in a desperate bid to increase their own status online.



OPEN DOOR POLICY

Another way that children can increase their following is by leaving their accounts open so that they can be easily found, and anybody can view their posts. This is in the hope that other users will like their posts and decide to follow them, therefore increasing their numbers. Once again, this can leave your child vulnerable to being followed by strangers or people who have dishonest intentions.



FEELINGS OF REJECTION

Just like increasing friends and followers can bring a sense of happiness and satisfaction, so the loss of friends and followers can cause children to suffer feelings of sadness and rejection. Depending on how invested your child is in their social media activities, this could influence their attitude and behaviour offline and potentially have a negative impact on their mental health and wellbeing.



COLLECTING 'FAKE' FRIENDS

Children who feel under pressure to increase their friend count or want to increase their following as quickly as possible can be vulnerable to collecting 'fake' friends. They may, for example, accept friend requests from people they don't know very well or from complete strangers, inadvertently leaving themselves open to online bullies, trolls or even the possibility of being groomed.



CONSTANT NEED TO PLEASE

As children start to gain more friends or an increasing number of followers, they might start to feel an added level of pressure to provide them with more interesting and likeable content. Almost as if they now have an audience waiting, this constant need to please may be an extra burden that pushes your child into oversharing personal information or posting material that is inappropriate or offensive, inaccurately portraying what they're actually like in the offline world.



Safety Tips For Parents

BE THEIR FRIEND OR FOLLOWER

The best way to know who your child is friends with online or who follows them is to be their friend or follower yourself. This will allow you to see who your child is engaging with most online or open up discussions about how they know certain people they've added to their network who you haven't heard them speak about before or you yourself don't know.

BEHAVE ONLINE AS THEY WOULD OFFLINE

Your child's behaviour online should always be treated as an extension of their behaviour offline. Discuss with your child the pitfalls of trying to be somebody they're not and that trying to please everybody will only make them unhappy. Tell them that they should be proud of who they are and that they should always behave in an appropriate and responsible way when posting content online.



TURN ON PRIVACY CONTROLS

All social media platforms have their own privacy controls which can be used to help protect children online. For instance, removing the ability for strangers to comment on public posts or having a screening process for friend or follow requests is good practice which can help to ensure your child's experience online is a safer one.

TALK TO THEM ABOUT THE VALUE OF REAL FRIENDSHIP

Social media can often distort what true relationships and friendships should actually be like. It's important to teach your child the value of true friendships and that meeting and speaking to people face to face in the real world, offline, is often a better way to build a more trusting and confident relationship with someone rather than just speaking to them online.



TALK ABOUT STRANGERS

If privacy measures have been put in place, then usually your child will receive a notification if somebody tries to befriend them online. Talk to your child about making sure they don't open up their personal life to people they don't know and that if they are ever in any doubt, they should never accept a friend request from a stranger.



DISCUSS WHAT BEING POPULAR ACTUALLY IS

A higher number of followers can be a measure of popularity but can also lack substance beyond just the number itself. Discuss with your child that popularity can come and go and that a large number of followers doesn't necessarily mean a large number of friends, particularly online where the real value in a relationship cannot be accurately determined.





Christmas Events



Event	Date
Christmas Jumper Day	Monday 8th December
Reindeer Run/Elf Dash	Monday 8 th December
EYFS Christmas Performance	Tuesday 9 th December
Singing around the Christmas tree – Lower School	Wednesday 17 th December 9am
Singing around the Christmas tree – Upper School	Wednesday 17 th December 2:15pm
Santa Visit	Wednesday 17 th December
Christmas Party – non-uniform	Thursday 18 th December
School Closes for Christmas break	Friday 19th December 1.10pm

Merry Christmas

MONDAY 8TH DECEMBER



Your child will be taking part in the Elf Dash (formally known as Reindeer Run) on Monday 8th December 2025 to raise money for Overgate hospice.



Children can get as many sponsors as possible from their friends and family to help towards a great cause this Christmas.



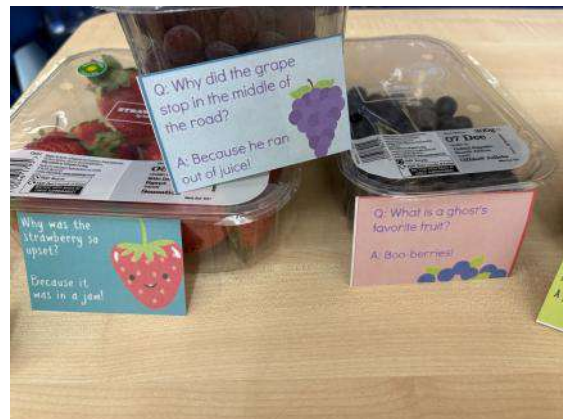
It is also our Christmas Jumper Day on Monday 8th December so join in the fun and help school to get into the Christmas Spirit this year!

Sponsor forms and money bags will be sent home on Friday 14th November with a hand in date of Tuesday 9th December, please return these completed to your class teacher.

Year 6



A photograph of a pineapple with two large googly eyes attached to its top. Next to it is a small elf figurine with red clothing and striped leggings. A small card with a drawing of a pineapple and text is placed in front of the pineapple. The scene is set on a light-colored wooden surface.

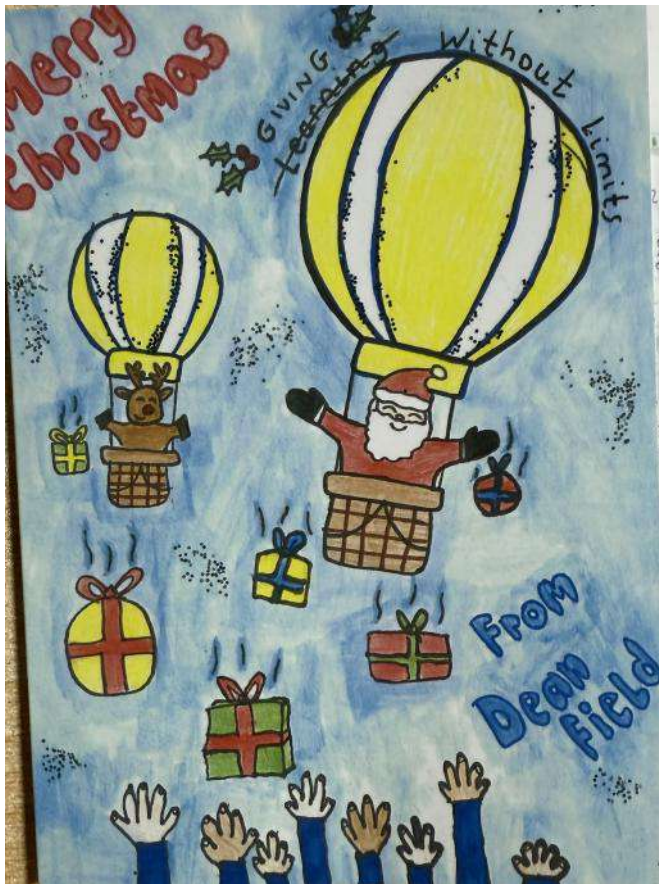


Christmas Card Competition Winner

Well done to Freddie in Year 4 for winning the Christmas card design competition!

His wonderful design has now been printed and will be sent out to all of our Trust schools, along with the many organisations we work closely with. We think it looks fantastic.

Well done Freddie!



Stars in Our School

This morning we celebrated the many stars in our school!

This was our annual UNISON celebration for all of our non-teaching staff. Each member of staff was awarded a certificate in assembly and then had the chance to put their feet up in the staff room for an hour, enjoying some lovely treats!

Thank you for all your hard work, everyone!



Year 2 Residential

On Thursday and Friday last week, some of Year 2 went on a Trust residential trip to Nell Bank in Ilkley with children from Beech Hill School. They were so brave spending a night away from home and had so much fun minibeast hunting, playing on the adventure playground and making new friends! It was a pleasure to take them on this trip.





Dean Field
Community Primary School

DEAN FIELD NURSERY

We are now accepting children the day after the child's 3rd birthday if a parent is in receipt of either the working parent 30 hour entitlement or 15 hour disadvantaged funding.



Register Now -
Contact the school office:



01422 258 258

FREE UNIFORM!



Starting School September 2026

How to apply for a school place

Children born between 1 September 2021 and 31 August 2022 are due to start primary school in September 2026.

To apply for a school place you must **apply online by 15 January 2026** at www.calderdale.gov.uk/admissions

For advice and guidance regarding the application process please contact 01422 392617, option 1, and a Customer First Advisor will be able to assist you.

If you would like a leaflet about applying for a primary school place please contact your preferred school and register your child's name. The leaflet will then be distributed by the primary school at the end of November 2025.

Information relating to Admission to Primary School 2026, including oversubscription criteria, is available at www.calderdale.gov.uk/admissions

The application process opens on 18 November 2025 and the close date is 15 January 2026

Offers of school places will be made on 16 April 2026.



How it works...



It's simple—choose 6 numbers between 0-9 and if they match the weekly lottery draw, you win great prizes. One of our players will win a cash prize every week, maybe even the £25k jackpot! Tickets cost just £1 per week and the proceeds are donated to Dean Field Community Primary School

Every Saturday at 8pm the numbers are drawn and posted online. Winners are notified by email and winnings paid into the account of your choice.

The easiest way to join our lottery is online by direct debit or debit card.

It's so easy to join and will make a real difference to Dean Field Community Primary School

JOIN THE FUN THIS WINTER AND ENJOY A HEALTHY HOLIDAY!

HEALTHY HOLIDAYS CALDERDALE WINTER PROGRAMME

20th December 2025 - 4th January 2026

This Winter, during the school holidays, 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 winter by visiting:
healthyholidays.calderdale.gov.uk

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.



Make your way down to The Piece Hall for our annual...

CHRISTMAS TRAIL!

Join us on our trail to help us build a snowman! We have the body but need your help to find all the materials to bring our snowman to life!

Pick your trail up from the Visitor Centre and collect your prize at the Learning Studio.

Trail £3.50 per Child.

11am-2.30pm.

Festive face painting and glitter tattoos at an additional charge.

Free festive crafting will be held in the Learning Studio!

Join us on the weekends leading up to Christmas!

6th and 7th . 13th and

14th . 20th and 21st

December 2025.

For more information, visit www.thepiecehall.co.uk.

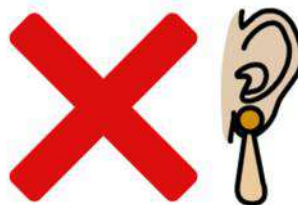


Please ensure you look at the Uniform Policy posted on Seesaw messages.

We thank you for support with this.



Correct Uniform




No Dangly Earrings

JOIN OUR **U9** RUGBY TEAM!
THIS IS YOUR CLUB


**WHY
PLAY
RUGBY?**

-  MAKE NEW FRIENDS, BE PART OF A TEAM
-  BUILD CONFIDENCE AND SELF-ESTEEM
-  LEARN RESPECT, DISCIPLINE AND TEAMWORK
-  HAVE FUN WHILE GETTING FIT AND BEING ACTIVE

NO EXPERIENCE NEEDED... JUST BRING YOUR ENERGY!



 FOLLOW US ON FACEBOOK

 07706 405183

 FOUR FIELDS, COUSIN LANE, HX2 8AD



Week commencing Monday 8th December 2025

<div>  School Meals Menu - Week 2  </div>					
2	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday
Hot Meal Option	Chicken Goujons 5	Homemade Lasagne 5, 10 Shredded Chicken 4, 5	Fish Fingers 2, 5	Homemade Chicken Curry Rice	Pizza 5, 10
	Tomato Pasta 5, 10	Vege Nuggets 5	Homemade Cauliflower & Broccoli Cheese 5, 10	Quorn Dippers 5	Homemade Cheese & Onion Pie 5, 10, 12
Vegetables	Chips Beans Peas	g/f Waffle Fries Broccoli Mixed Veg	Chips Peas Sweetcorn	g/f Wedges Broccoli Carrots	Chips Beans Sweetcorn
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, 14	Jam Sponge 5, 10, 12 Custard 10	Cupcakes 5, 10, 12	Treacle Sponge 5, 10, 12 Custard 10	Assorted Fresh Baking 5, 10, 12
	Ice Cream Cake 4, 5, 10, 12	Jelly	Assorted Biscuits 5, 10, 12	Angel Delight 10	Ice Cream 10

Polite Reminder



DIARY DATES

DATE	EVENT
Monday 8th December	Elf Dash/Christmas Jumper Day
Wednesday 10th December	Year 3 Roman Day
Monday 15th December	Nursery Christmas Party in Class
Tuesday 16th December	Rec Care Home Trip

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.

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.

This half term's focus value is ...



Accelerated Reader – Reading Achievements this week



Australia	93%
Poland	84%
Kenya	86%
Brazil	89%
Ireland	89%

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 and Numbots Stars of the Week



TTRS Star of the Week
(Minutes played)

Tommy D in Year 4



**NumBots Star of the Week
Jacob S in Year 2**

This Week's Attendance

Congratulations to **Kenya** class who had the highest attendance in the school this week. Well done to **Ireland** class for coming second. **Remember all classes above 96% will receive £5 for their jars!** 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,
Lorraine Stansfield, Pastoral Manager

Group	% Attendance
Mexico	91%
China	84.3%
Australia	90%
Poland	86.2%
Kenya	92.3%
Brazil	88%
Ireland	91.3%
Total	89.1%