

Dear Parents/Carers,

What a fantastic festive week we have had here at Dean Field. Here are some of the highlights!

### **Singing Around the Christmas Tree**

Thank you to all who joined us and to those who couldn't make it we hope you enjoyed the videos on Seesaw! I'm sure you'll agree this was a wonderful event again this year. Thank you to Miss Brambani for leading both events!

### **Santa's Visit**

A tradition at Dean Field, Santa visited each class this week to give them a very special present on behalf of the school. The gift of reading is something we try and instill in all our children and we hope you and they enjoy the book they were given this year.

### **Behaviour Treat**

97% of all children in the school took part in their behaviour treat this week, which this year was Christmas discos/ parties in the hall. The children all looked amazing in their party clothes. Gold and Superstar children also had an added treat on Wednesday—biscuit decorating and hot chocolate with me.

### **Goodbye Fred**

Fred the Elf bid us a fond farewell today and promised he would tell Santa just how well behaved all the boys and girls at Dean Field are.

### **Staff Christmas Video**

If you haven't seen this already on Seesaw—check it out. We hope you enjoy it. We certainly enjoyed making it and spreading some festive cheer!

### **Community Christmas**

Our Reception children enjoyed their visit to Lee Mount Care Home this week with a special cinema treat was put on for them!

Italy class our Head Boy/Girl and their deputies delivered some special cards and knitted gifts for the community this week too. A big thank you to Miss Taylor's mum for knitting Dean Field Christmas decorations for us!

A special thank you to all the staff for making these last couple of weeks so special for our children and for their hard work and dedication over the whole term. I know you will agree with me when I say, they really do go **above and beyond!**

Thank you once again for your support, we really do value our parents and carers here at Dean Field.

On behalf of all the staff I would like to wish our families a wonderful Christmas and we look forward to seeing you in the New Year!

Mrs Fiona Pether  
Headteacher



## ONLINE SAFETY

# AI TOYS

This festive season, the newest toys on the shelves do not just blink or make noise; they listen. Many now come with artificial intelligence (AI), allowing them to talk, learn, and even respond to a child's emotions. These toys can be educational and engaging, but they also collect, store, and process information. This guide explains what that means for families and why it matters.

### WHAT ARE THE RISKS?

#### TOYS THAT LISTEN AND LEARN

When a toy uses AI, it collects data such as voice recordings, interactions, and background sounds. This information is sent to remote servers, where it is analysed to improve responses. Your child's voice becomes training data, which may be stored indefinitely or shared with third parties.

#### WEAK SECURITY PROTECTIONS

Some AI toys have poor password protection or open network connections. Others may have microphones or cameras that stay on, even when the toy appears to be off. This can lead to recordings being made without your knowledge, including conversations unrelated to play.

#### ARTIFICIAL VOICES, REAL INFLUENCE

For very young children, an AI companion may become one of the first voices they interact with regularly. How that voice shows humour, empathy, or authority can shape how a child learns to communicate. If the model is artificial, then part of what is learned is artificial as well.

#### PRESSURE TO KEEP ENGAGING

Some toys reward repeated use or track engagement, encouraging children to interact more. When children compare how their toys perform, it creates pressure to play more often. This increases the amount of data collected and can make learning feel like competition.

#### MARKETING THROUGH PLAY

Toys that learn a child's preferences may feed that data into future advertising. A toy that knows a child's favourite colour or hobby could help a company design more targeted marketing to that child and their family.

#### PLAYTIME AS DATA TRAINING

The information collected from children helps train AI systems. Their voice, emotional responses, and behaviour shape how machines 'understand' people. Play becomes part of a much larger system that influences how future technologies behave.

## Advice for Parents & Educators

#### START WITH A CONVERSATION

Talk to young people. Explain that some toys learn from what they say and do. Help them understand that even friendly technology should have boundaries, and to ask questions about it. Curiosity is healthy, blind trust is not.

#### SET LIMITS ON USE

Turn off Wi-Fi or Bluetooth when the toy is not in use. Check for updates regularly, as they can change privacy or safety settings. Treat connected toys like any smart device; they should be monitored, updated, and switched off when not in use.

#### MODEL DIGITAL AWARENESS

Children learn from adults. If they see you checking privacy settings, reading terms, and talking openly about online safety, they are more likely to do the same. Show them how to question technology in a healthy way.

#### RESEARCH BEFORE YOU BUY

Look for toys that work offline or store data locally. Check for a free or demo version so you can test how it behaves. Read privacy policies to understand what data is collected, where it goes, and whether it's shared with others.

#### REVIEW PRIVACY SETTINGS

Find out where the data is stored and who has access to it. Some companies sell or share data with advertisers. If the toy connects through an app, check what it requests access to and limit those permissions whenever possible.

#### BALANCE AI WITH REAL PLAY

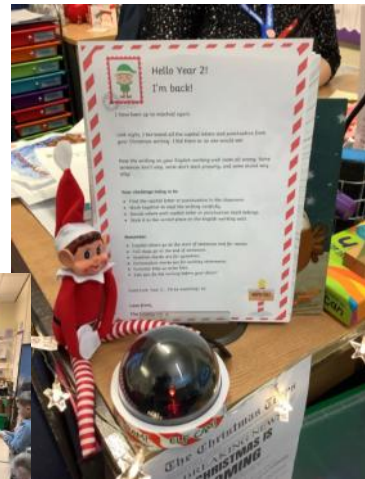
AI toys can be fun and creative, but they are not a replacement for real human interaction. Encourage time away from technology with activities that foster emotional and social development. Use AI toys to support learning, not define it.



## Elf Class Visits

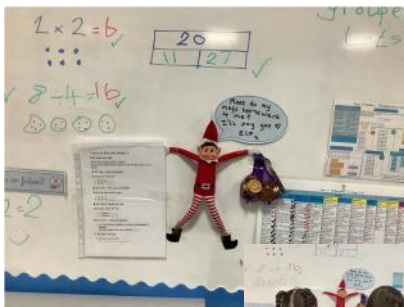
### Year 2

The cheeky elf came to visit year 2 this week! He'd hidden all of the capital letters and punctuation from some Christmas writing on our working wall and challenged us to find them and put it back together.



### Year 5

Year 5 had a visit from the elf this week, he hid lots of chocolate coins around school for the children to find. Once they had answered his tricky maths questions, the next clue was revealed.



### Year 3

The elf has been! He made a LOT of mistakes on our maths working wall. He asked us to complete his maths homework for him then paid us with a chocolate coin

## Reception Care Home Visit

This week our Reception class enjoyed a very special festive visit to the residents of Park View Care Home in Lee Mount, where they were invited to watch a seasonal film together.

From the moment we arrived, the children were made to feel incredibly welcome. The residents and staff created such a warm, friendly atmosphere, helping the children to feel relaxed and excited. It was lovely to see the smiles on everyone's faces as the children and residents sat together to enjoy the film and some yummy treats!

The residents clearly enjoyed sharing this special time with the children just as much as the children enjoyed being there. A real highlight of the visit was when Peter kindly got his guitar out and sang to the children. This brought lots of smiles and added an extra touch of festive magic to the afternoon.

We would like to say a huge thank you to everyone at Park View Care Home for their kindness and hospitality. We are very much looking forward to celebrating more events together in the future and continuing to be an active part of our local community.



## Our Value Award Winners

Well done to all of these superstars who have gained a values award for demonstrating tolerance and respect. Displaying our school values is extremely important to everyone at Dean Field.



## Topic Board Winners

Well done to Team 4, who were judged the winners of our half-termly display board competition by the Year 5 School Councilors. A huge thank you to all of our amazing staff for putting in so much effort, as always.





## Christmas Delivery

Italy Class have been spreading the Christmas community spirit and went on a walk to deliver some cards and gifts to the nearby bungalows!



## Poppy Appeal

Thank you to all parents/carers and children that donated to the poppy appeal; we raised £142.10 for the Royal British Legion.



## Dean Field House Team Winners!



Charlotte Bronte



342 points

Anne Lister



299 points

Sir Charles Barry



296 points

Percy Shaw



294 points

### Dean Field School

#### Winter Family Challenge

It's time for the Winter Family Challenge! It's the perfect way to keep the children occupied, have fun and make memories for little or no cost during the holidays. This is completely voluntary and there is no expectation to complete the challenge. However, we love to see and hear all about what you have been doing so please upload your challenges to Seesaw before our return to school on **Monday 5th January 2026**. There will be a small prize for all participants!

#### Festive light hunt

**With an adult**, go on a walk or drive around the Halifax area to see how many decorative festive lights you can find. Take some photos to share with your classmates! Perhaps you could make them a map of the best route to take.

Top tip: wait until the sun has set to see the lights at their best!



#### Decorate a gingerbread house

Buy or bake some gingerbread pieces then add your favourite treats to decorate your home to look nice, festive and tasty!



#### Cosy movie night with your family

Choose a festive film to watch with your family, snuggle up on the sofa and enjoy a hot chocolate!



#### A winter picture

Get artistic and crafty this festive break and create a picture that shows features of the winter season.

Winter starts on December 21<sup>st</sup>







**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](http://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](http://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**



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

We thank you for support with this.



Correct Uniform



No tracksuit bottoms

## 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](https://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](mailto: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.*





## Week commencing Monday 5th January 2026

<div style="display: flex; justify-content: space-between; align-items: center;">  <h3 style="margin: 0;">School Meals Menu - Week 1</h3>  </div>					
1	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday
Hot Meal Option	Southern Fried Chicken Goujons 1, 5	Sausages 5, 8 Gravy	Cod & Parsley Fishcakes 2  Parsley Sauce 5, 10	Homemade Chicken Tikka Wraps  Southern Fried Chicken Poppers 5, 8	Pizza 5, 10
	Cheese & Onion Rolls 3, 5, 10, 12	Quorn Burger 5, 10, 12 in a Bun 5	Homemade Vegetarian Lasagne 5, 10	Mac n Cheese Croquettes 5, 10	Homemade Vegetable Biryani
Vegetables	g/f Potato Wedges Beans	Mashed Potato 10 Sweetcorn Broccoli	g/f Waffle Fries Peas Carrots	Potato Puffs Spaghetti 5 Sweetcorn	Chips Beans Mixed Veg
Served Daily	Jacket Potatoes with various fillings Salad Bar Selection of Sandwiches <i>Allergies for the daily items available on request</i>				
Dessert	American Pancakes 5, 10, 12	Treacle Sponge 5, 10, 12 Custard 10	Cheesecake 5, 10	Choc Chip Sponge 5, 10, 12 Custard 10	Assorted Fresh Baking 5, 10, 12
	Assorted Ice Cream 10	Jelly	Cornflake Buns 4, 5, 10	Angel Delight 10	Assorted Ice Cream 10

### Polite Reminder



## DIARY DATES

DATE	EVENT
Monday 5th January	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.

**This half term's focus value is ...**



"Respect for  
ourselves guides our  
morals, respect for  
others guides our  
manners."  
— Laurence Sterne

LittleYellowStarTeaches.com



## Accelerated Reader – Reading Achievements this week



Australia	95%
Poland	75%
Kenya	76%
Brazil	92%
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 and Numbots Stars of the Week



**TTRS Star of the Week**  
(Minutes played)

**Annabelle in Year 4**



**NumBots Star of the Week**

**Jacob in Year 2**

## This Week's Attendance

Group	% Attendance
Mexico	99.3%
China	91.3%
Australia	91.9%
Poland	94%
Kenya	92.9%
Brazil	90.7%
Ireland	91.7%
<b>Total</b>	<b>93.1%</b>

Congratulations to **Mexico** class who had the highest attendance in the school this week. Well done to **Poland** class for coming second. **All classes above 96% will receive £5 for their jars this week! Well done to Mexico.** We have just fallen below 96% this week and we need to get back there or above! 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



# SCHOOL VALUES

## CELEBRATION ASSEMBLY

Mexico Reception	Pyper M	For always thinking of others and respecting resources.
	Harlo A	For listening to his teachers and waiting his turn.
China Year 1	Willow B	For showing respect and tolerance everyday without being reminded.
	Tobias C	For showing respect and tolerance everyday without being reminded.
Australia Year 2	Kristopher BH	For always showing respect and tolerance to people and things.
	Lacey-Mae C	For always showing respect and tolerance to people and things.
Poland Year 3	Violet C	For always showing tolerance and respect.
	Nilaani S	For always showing tolerance and respect.
Kenya Year 4	Mila H	For always being respectful to ALL.
	Alarah S	For always respecting EVERYONE!
Brazil Year 5	Keeley C	For showing respect and tolerance everyday without being reminded.
	Poppy B	For showing respect and tolerance everyday without being reminded.
Ireland Year 6	Riley A	For always being respectful and polite.
	Kodey N	For always showing tolerance.