

Dear Parents/Carers,

What a fantastic week we've had at school!

It's been a busy one, full learning opportunities and special moments.

We started the week with a visit from our School Improvement Professional, Andy Taylor, who spent time in EYFS and KS1. He was really impressed with how we're building those key foundations children need to thrive as they move through school. Andy also popped into Italy Class, our resourced provision and was blown away! He commented on how well the children are doing and how clearly their needs are being met. A wonderful piece of feedback for the whole team!

We've also been lucky to welcome two visitors this week: Mr Winston, who inspired Year 3 during a poetry workshop and Mr Bullock, who helped Year 5 create some incredible 3D artwork.

Some of our pupils represented the school brilliantly at Hipperholme Grammar School during an exciting Boccia competition and we were delighted to host members of Heptonstall's school council for a joint behaviour for learning walk alongside some of our own Dean Field councilors and Head Boy and Girl.

I also had the pleasure of spending some time recapping key 'sticky' knowledge facts with Year 3 and Year 5 this week. They really impressed me with their knowledge retention.

Wow—what a week!

Thank you to everyone who helped make it so special.

Have a lovely weekend,

Mrs Fiona Pether
Headteacher



Reminder: Please can parents complete a FSM application form; either hard copy available at the office or on line [Apply for free school meals | Calderdale Council](#). Even if your child receives universal school meals (Reception to Year 2).

SAFEGUARDING

The countdown to Christmas is on, and with Black Friday and Cyber Monday just around the corner, millions of us will be hunting for bargains online. But while the deals might look tempting, there's a hidden danger lurking behind some of those "too good to be true" offers—unsafe and counterfeit products.

From toys to tech, e-bikes to e-scooters, the festive season is prime time for rogue sellers. These products can put your family at risk—especially children—if they don't meet UK safety standards.

So whether shopping for a loved one (or yourself!), shop smart and stay safe by following the RoSPA guidance.

Here's how to shop smart and stay safe this Christmas:

- ~ **Prioritise safety over savings** – A cheap deal isn't worth a trip to A&E.
- ~ **Check for UKCA or CE markings** – These show the product should meet safety standards.
- ~ **Be wary of counterfeit goods** – Popular toys and gadgets are often faked.
- ~ **Avoid impulse buys** – Research the seller and read reviews before you click "buy."
- ~ **Stay informed about recalls** – Check the Office for Product Safety and Standards website for product safety alerts.
- ~ **Extra caution for baby and child products** – Look for age warnings and safety marks.
- ~ **Second-hand gifts? Inspect carefully** – Make sure instructions and warnings are included.



ONLINE SAFETY



It can be challenging for parents and carers to know whether children are spending too much time on their devices. Furthermore, it's even more of a challenge to know whether a child is addicted to the internet and social media. As technology is becoming more pervasive, children and young people are experiencing tech-related dependencies. Do we as parents and carers have the knowledge to identify and support children and young people who may be developing an addiction to their devices?



47% of parents said they thought their children spent too much time in front of screens

What parents need to know about SCREEN ADDICTION

HEALTH & WELLBEING

Children as young as 13 are attending 'smartphone rehab' following growing concerns over screen time. There are now help centers in the UK which deal with screen addiction for children and adults showing the seriousness of device addiction. The World Health Organisation (WHO) has officially recognised gaming addiction as a modern disease. The condition was confirmed as part of their International Classification of Diseases (ICD) which serves as an international standard for diagnosing and treating health conditions.

LACK OF SLEEP

7 out of 10 children said they had missed out on sleep because of their online habits and 60% said they had neglected school work as a result. It is important that children get the sleep they need in order to focus the next day.

LOSS OF INTEREST IN OTHER THINGS

Your child may become less interested in anything that does not include their device. You may notice that your child is missing school time and generally being less engaged with other activities in the home. It is important to discuss this with your child as soon as you notice a behaviour change.



CONFIDENCE, SUPPORT & ADVICE

The Children's Commissioner report 'Life in Likes' explored how children aged 8-11 are using social media today. It showed that children are using their devices to speak to their online friends about their problems and seek acceptance and support, removing face to face interactions.

APPS CAN BE ADDICTIVE

Apps have been designed with 'psychological tricks' to constantly keep grabbing your attention. One example of this is on the app Snapchat, where you can gain 'streaks' when interacting with your friends. If you don't respond, you lose the streak. This addictive nature of apps aims to engage children and keep them coming back for more.



National Online Safety



Top Tips for Parents



LIMIT SCREEN TIME

In today's digital age, technology is an important part of a child's development so completely banning them from their device will mean they are missing out on a lot, including conversations and communication with their friends. Rather than banning them from using their devices, we suggest setting a screen time limit. Work out what you think is a suitable and healthy amount of time for your child to be on their device per week. Remember that your child may need to use devices for their school homework so only set screen limits on recreational time on their device. Once you have established this, have the conversation with them to discuss why you are implementing a screen limit. There will be others in your child's friendship group who will not have screen limits set and will be sending messages when they do not have access to their phones.

LEAD BY EXAMPLE

Children model their behavior on their peers, so if their parents are constantly on their device, they will see this as acceptable. Try limiting your own screen time and follow the same rules you have set for them. If you have asked your child to not use their device at the table, make sure you don't. Try setting house rules that the whole family abide by.

REMOVE DEVICES FROM THEIR BEDROOM

Setting a rule about removing devices from bedrooms will help your child to get the sleep they need and be more focussed the next day at school. 20% of teenagers said that they wake up to check their social network accounts on their devices. Even by having a device switched off in their bedroom, they may be tempted to check for notifications.

LESS TIME MEANS LESS EXPOSURE

There are many risks associated with devices, such as cyberbullying, grooming, sexting, viewing inappropriate content etc. Less time spent on a screen means that a child will be less exposed to these risks.

MOBILE-FREE MEAL TIMES

Have you tried to settle your child by giving them a tablet at the dinner table or restaurant? This may seem like a quick fix to calm them down but in reality, it is encouraging them to use their device as a distraction from conversation and dealing with their emotions. We suggest removing all technology from the dinner table and having conversations with your family about how their day has been.

ENCOURAGE ALTERNATE ACTIVITIES

It may seem like an obvious solution, but encouraging children to play with their friends, read a book, or playing outdoors will help them realise they can have fun without their device. Playing football, trampolining, camping, going for a walk or swimming are all healthy replacements for screen time. Try to join them in their outdoor activities to show your support.

STATISTICS

52% of children aged **3-4** go online for nearly **9hrs** a week

82% of children aged **5-7** go online for nearly **9.5hrs** a week

93% of children aged **8-11** go online for nearly **13.5hrs** a week

99% of children aged **12-15** go online for nearly **20.5hrs** a week

Children and Parents: Media Use and Attitudes Report 2018



Christmas Events



Event	Date
Christmas Fayre	Wednesday 3 rd December
Christmas Dinner Day	Wednesday 3 rd December
Christmas Jumper Day	Monday 8 th 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 19 th December 1.10pm

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

We thank you for support with this.



School Council Learning Walk

This week we were joined by some school councillors from Heptonstall Primary School: a school in our Trust. They worked along side our head and deputy boy and girl and some other school councillors to carry out a learning walk across school. The focus was on behaviour for learning and classroom environments. Overall, they were extremely pleased with what they saw across the school! The pupils from Heptonstall commented on how well presented classrooms at Dean Field are! They also noticed the high levels of behaviour and the enthusiasm towards learning across school.

Thank you to all the pupils and staff for, once again, representing our school so well! We are looking forward to visiting Heptonstall next term to carry out a learning walk with them!





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.

DEAN FIELD CHRISTMAS FAYRE 2025

WEDNESDAY 3rd DECEMBER

We are back for another year.

BUT WE NEED YOU!!!!

Our Fayre cannot go ahead without our
Dean Field Community

We are looking for Donations of

- Raffle Prizes
- Unused Gifts
- Toys
- Chocolate
- Bottles

Please no Soft toys or Books

Please bring any donations to the
school office.



Enter our **Super Draw**

**Win a Nintendo Switch 2 bundle
– or take the cash!**

PLUS £500 for your school!



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

29th
November

12 noon
to 3pm

Faith



Hope

Gift Stall

Tombola

Handicrafts

Christmas
Fayre

Love

And Much More

Games

Cake Stall

Choc Tombola

Hot Food, Refreshments & Mince Pies

THRIFTMAS COMMUNITY EVENT

CRAFTS - FOOD - GOODIES - FUN - SANTA'S GROTTO

ENTRY & ALL ACTIVITIES FREE

SATURDAY 29TH NOVEMBER 2025
1.00 TO 4.00PM

Forest Cottage
Cousin Lane, Halifax, HX2 8AD



Thriftmas Community Event 2025

It's the most wonderful time of the year! 🎄

Join us for our FREE annual community event, THRIFTMAS!
With festive fun, crafts, and refreshments, you are bound to have a fantastically festive time!!

Plus you can get tips on saving money and enjoying a greener Christmas.

Overgate Hospice

Illingworth Overgate Hospice charity shop on Bank Edge Road have kindly contacted school with a special offer.

To support local families as well as raise funds for the hospice they are offering a 10% discount voucher that can be used in the shop until 31st December 2025.

Overgate Hospice stocks a wide range of toys, clothes and homeware and every purchase helps to support local hospice care.

You simply need to show the voucher on your phone at the till to receive the discount.



Week commencing Monday 24th November 2025

 School Meals Menu - Week 3 					
3	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday
Hot Meal Option	Chicken Nuggets 5	Beef Burger 1, 5, 8	Cod Stars 2, 5	Roast Chicken Dinner Yorkshire Puddings 5, 10, 12	Pizza 5, 10
	Spinach & Ricotta Tortellini 3, 4, 5, 10, 12	Samosas 5 Savoury Rice	Homemade Cheese & Onion Quiche 5, 10	Quorn Sausage 5	Homemade Sweet Potato & Chickpea Curry Rice
Vegetables	Chips Beans Sweetcorn	g/f Waffle Fries Mixed Veg Broccoli	g/f Wedges Mushy Peas Sweetcorn	Roast Potatoes Peas Carrots	Chips Beans Peas
Served Daily	Jacket Potatoes with various fillings Salad Bar Selection of Sandwiches <i>Allergies for the daily items available on request</i>				
Dessert	Sweet Waffles 4, 5, 10, 12	Chocolate Sponge 5, 10, 12 Custard 10	Crispy Buns 5, 10	Marble Sponge 5, 10, 12 Custard 10	Assorted Fresh Baking 5, 10, 12
	Ice Cream Swirls 10	Assorted Biscuits 5, 10, 12	Ice Cream Cake 4, 5, 10, 12	Jelly	Ice Cream 10

Polite Reminder



DIARY DATES

DATE	EVENT
Thursday 27th—Friday 28th November	Year 2 Nell Bank Trip
Monday 1st December	Year 2 Owl Experience
Wednesday 3rd December	Christmas Dinner Day
Wednesday 3rd December	Christmas Fayre

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	91%
Poland	83%
Kenya	79%
Brazil	85%
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)

Amelia H in Year 6



**NumBots Star of the Week
Dorian Z in Year 1**

This Week's Attendance

Group	% Attendance
Mexico	97.2%
China	92%
Australia	91.6%
Poland	88%
Kenya	84.5%
Brazil	90.3%
Ireland	96.2%
Total	91.5%

Congratulations to **Mexico** class who had the highest attendance in the school this week. Well done to **Ireland** class for coming second. **All classes above 96% will receive £5 for their jars this week! Well done to Mexico and Ireland.** 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



Learning without Limits Leadership Award



The award recognises outstanding leadership, dedication and commitment to fostering a culture of 'Learning Without Limits' and helping others to do their best and believe in themselves. Recipients of the award also show great courage, creativity and kindness, making our school a better place.

Winners this week:

Francesca R Y3
**Leading by example—picking up fruit in the
playground and putting it in the bin.**

CELEBRATION ASSEMBLY

Mexico Reception	Louie C	For practising his learning at home and trying his best.
	Mark H	For a fabulous Van Gogh inspired picture for our artist of the month.
China Year 1	Romeo S	For using some awesome adjectives in English.
	Ayvah-May K	For a huge improvement in phonics and in her attitude towards learning.
Australia Year 2	Autumn S	For trying your best in maths.
	Josie S	For focusing on her handwriting.
Poland Year 3	Megan S	For always being a super role model.
	Owais B	For your effort and enthusiasm in maths and reading.
Kenya Year 4	Kaya Mc	For her huge efforts with English work.
	Zoraiz B	For his amazing efforts with learning and always showing beautiful manners.
Brazil Year 5	Leo B	For trying hard in lessons.
	William H	For his enthusiasm for challenges in maths.
Ireland Year 6	Ava O	For trying extra hard with her presentation this week.
	Pippa BH	For a huge improvement in presentation and handwriting.