

Dear Parents/Carers,

It's certainly been a challenging week in school. We've seen unusually high levels of absence among both children and staff. Despite this, I want to say a huge thank you to all our parents and carers for your continued support, patience and cooperation during what has been a difficult few days.

I'd also like to give a heartfelt thank you to our amazing staff team, who have worked so hard to keep school running smoothly despite the absence of many colleagues. Their dedication and teamwork have been truly appreciated.

Here's hoping for a much healthier week ahead for everyone!

We're hoping that next week brings us back to normality with improved attendance across school. Just a reminder that if your child has a high temperature of **38°C or above**, they must remain off school until their temperature returns to normal.

If your child is otherwise fit and well then we look forward to seeing them in school.

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

We all want children to grow up in a safe, loving environment and become happy, confident adults.

It's important that every child has someone they trust that they can ask for help. You might need to start a difficult conversation because you have to:

- break some bad news
- ask about something you're worried about
- ask about topics you find uncomfortable
- ask your child if they're worried or scared by something
- ask your child about a new behaviour.

You might not know how to talk to children about difficult topics. But whatever the subject, and however old the child you're talking to, you can make it easier for you both. You know your child best, so trust your judgement about what's going to work for them.

Listening is important too!

If you're worried or nervous about a conversation, it's easy to forget that it should go two ways.

It's important to show that you're listening to your child and value what they tell you.

- Start by asking questions that have more than yes or no answers. This gives your child the chance to tell you what they think.
- Give them as long as they need to answer without interrupting. They may be nervous or still working out what they really think.
- Let your child ask you questions, too. Be honest with them about how you feel about certain subjects and talk to them about things that happened to you in the past.

Let them know that they can trust you. Reassure them that you want them to talk to you, other people they trust, or organisations like Childline when anything worries them.



ONLINESAFETY



Social media influencers are people who have established credibility in a specific industry and have the power to influence other people's decisions. Most commonly associated with YouTube and Instagram, 'influencers' will usually have a large number of followers and be viewed as authentic by their audience. It is for this reason that many influencers are often paid by big companies to promote their products in the hope of persuading their followers to purchase those goods.



What parents need to know about SOCIAL PRESSURES LINKED TO 'INFLUENCERS'



AN UNREALISTIC PERCEPTION OF BODY IMAGE

Some of the most popular social media influencers often depict themselves as having the 'perfect body' and are paid to promote items such as health supplements or swimwear, which young people believe can help them achieve the same look. What is not always realised is that these images can be edited or filtered and aren't always a true-life representation. Your child may feel like this is what they need to look like and in some cases, become obsessed with their body image, which could contribute towards a lower self-esteem or even becoming depressed if they can't achieve the same look.



BECOMING UNREALISTIC ROLE MODELS

As children become more and more involved on social media and identify with their favourite people are to follow, they may come to see social media influencers as role models, particularly if they are attracted by the lifestyle they see online. This could lead them into developing potentially unrealistic expectations of life and in some cases, using their role models as an escape from reality, particularly if they feel like they're own life isn't very fulfilling.



ENCOURAGING BAD HABITS

Although many social media influencers will get paid to advertise brands and their products, they will also post their own material online too, usually depicting their daily life or an activity for example. This may have both desirable and undesirable consequences, with influencers able to inspire both good habits, such as healthy eating, exercise or kindness. However it may also encourage children to adopt bad habits, such as drinking, smoking, swearing or even criminal behaviour, particularly if these are seen to be endorsed by the influencer.



THE NEED TO HAVE EVERYTHING

Many social media influencers will take photos or videos of themselves wearing the latest fashion or jewellery which companies want them to promote. They may also be provided with the latest gadgets to promote or, if they are children, toys to play with in order to persuade their followers to purchase them. Many children will be keen to buy these items in order to keep up with the latest trends however if they get left behind, they could be made to feel inadequate or inferior by other children who do have them.



AUTHENTICITY OF ENDORSEMENTS

Social media influencers hold a lot of persuasion with their audience and are often looked up to by younger followers. Many children will see them as credible, authentic and trust what they see online. However, some influencers may not always believe in the product they are promoting and therefore can mislead their followers, abusing their level of confidence in them. Your child may therefore find themselves looking up to people who are disingenuous or who feign interest in activities that they themselves do not actually care about.



Safety Tips For Parents



FOLLOW WHO THEY FOLLOW

A good way to see first-hand who may be influencing your child is to create your own social media account and follow the same people they do. This will give you a strong indication of what is shaping how your child behaves, what they like and what they are taking an interest in.



TALK ABOUT ROLE MODELS

Role models can play an important part of your child's life, particularly outside of the home. Talk to your child about who they look up to and why. Remind them that not everybody online is who they seem to be and if you do have concerns that your child is being negatively influenced, work with them in finding more positive alternatives.

BUILD THEIR SELF-ESTEEM

It's important that your child is aware of how unrealistic perceptions of life can be depicted on social media and that it is easy to be deceived. Discuss with your child how images can be heavily edited, cropped or manipulated to create artificial scenarios and that often the lifestyle that people display on social media isn't always realistic or in fact the truth.

DISCUSS REALISTIC VS UNREALISTIC EXPECTATIONS

If you notice your child has suddenly taken a strong interest in the way they look, or you find they are a lot more body conscious, then it's a good idea to speak to them about why they feel that way. If they seem unhappy, try to build their self-esteem by talking to them and listening to their concerns, helping to build their confidence through praise and positivity. Remind them that looks aren't everything and not everything they see online is actually a true depiction of real life.



ENCOURAGE INDEPENDENT THINKING

Social media influencers can be quite powerful individuals who hold a lot of persuasive power so it's important to encourage your child to think independently about everything they see and engage with online. Talk to them about the dangers of blindly following others and in keeping an open mind when viewing content. Teach them to always question people's motives online, especially when they see individuals are promoting a brand or product which they are likely to have been paid to advertise but may not necessarily personally endorse.



Meet our expert

Pete Badh is a writer with over 10+ years in research and analysis. Working within a specialist area for West Yorkshire Police, Pete has contributed work which has been pivotal in successfully winning high profile cases in court as well as writing as a subject matter expert for industry handbooks.





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



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.

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

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.



**SCAN
ME**



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**



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 1st December 2025

<div>  <h3>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 Allergies for the daily items available on request				
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 1st December	Year 2 Owl Experience
Wednesday 3rd December	Christmas Dinner Day
Wednesday 3rd December	Christmas Fayre
Monday 8th December	Elf Dash/Christmas Jumper Day

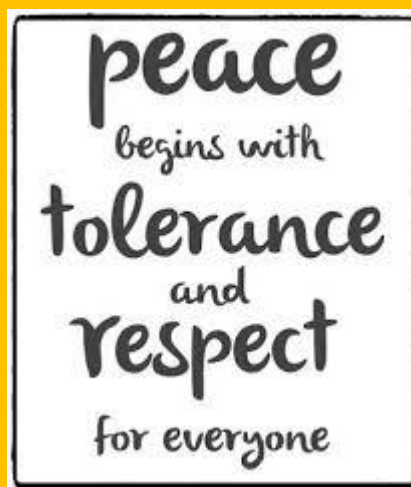
REMINDER: All school fees, dinner money, extended provision and Nursery fees need to be paid in advance.
We do not offer any credit and there are no exceptions.

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 ...



TTRS and Numbots Stars of the Week



TTRS Star of the Week
(Minutes played)

Eleanor H in Year 4



NumBots Star of the Week

This Week's Attendance

Group	% Attendance
Mexico	58.3%
China	60.8%
Australia	77.2%
Poland	50.9%
Kenya	63.4%
Brazil	63.6%
Ireland	64.6%
Total	62.6%

This week, we have seen unprecedented levels of absence, which could not be helped, so our attendance is currently very low. We had been doing extremely well with our attendance in the weeks prior to this and we would really like to get back up to **96% or above**. We need everyone on board to help us get there!

Remember that all classes who achieve **96% or above** receive **£5** for their attendance jars, and those that reach **100%** receive **£10**. Classes can spend this on a special treat of their choice. We thank you in advance for your support in helping us raise our attendance levels again.

Just a reminder that 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.

Loraine Stansfield, Pastoral Manager

CELEBRATION ASSEMBLY

Mexico Reception	Ronnie M	For showing improved attention and patience whilst on the carpet: waiting and sitting nicely.
	Roma-Leigh J	For her wovely writing in her Christmas card. Fantastic letter formation!
China Year 1	Marats S	For some fantastic handwriting.
	Paige W	For making good choices and being kind to her peers.
Australia Year 2	Mia O	For working really hard this week and staying focused in class!
	Caitlin P	For being a helpful and kind friend!
Poland Year 3	Posy B	For being kind, helpful and tackling her Math's roblem solving tasks with a super attitude.
	Joey C	For trying really hard to practice his spellings.
Kenya Year 4	Sarah Mc	For improved concentration during lessons.
	Keall A	For always having a positive energy.
Brazil Year 5	Melissa Mc	For trying hard in writing a formal closing speech.
	Keeley C	For always trying hard in everything she does.
Ireland Year 6	Amelia H	For being in school and having excellent focus
	Myla Mc	For great ukulele playing!