

Friday 13th February 2026

Celebrating Achievement, Opportunity and Community

Dear parents/carers,

As we reach the end of another busy and successful half term, I would like to thank our pupils, families and staff for their continued support and commitment. This term has been filled with great opportunities, memorable experiences and outstanding achievements that reflect the high standards and strong community spirit here at Dean Field. This half term has been packed with exciting learning experiences that have enriched our curriculum and broadened our pupils' horizons.

Young Voices

Our pupils shone as part of the **Young Voices** concert in Manchester, performing with confidence and enthusiasm alongside thousands of children.

Flat Stan First Aid

Through the **Flat Stan First Aid** programme, our children have learned essential life-saving skills. They now have a greater understanding of how to respond in emergencies and help keep themselves and others safe.

Family Learning Events

We have been delighted to welcome so many families into school for our **Family Learning sessions**. These events have strengthened home-school links and supported children's learning beyond the classroom.

FoLT TTRS Competition Winners

Congratulations to our pupils for winning the **Family of Learning Trust Times Tables Rock Stars Competition**. Their hard work, determination, and commitment to improving their maths skills has truly paid off.

Stay and Read

Our **Stay and Read** sessions have continued to be a wonderful success, promoting a love of reading and giving parents and carers the opportunity to share special reading time with their children in school.

National Recognition

We were incredibly proud to receive recognition from the **Secretary of State for Education, Bridget Phillipson**, congratulating our school on our strong outcomes for disadvantaged pupils.

Thank You to Our Community

None of this would be possible without the ongoing support of our parents, carers, governors and partners. Your encouragement, involvement and trust continue to make our school a positive, ambitious and nurturing place for every child.

Wishing all our families a restful and enjoyable break. We look forward to welcoming everyone back refreshed and ready to learn on 23rd February.



10 Top Tips for Parents and Educators

SUPPORTING SAFE USE OF AI

Artificial intelligence (AI) is increasingly woven into young people's digital lives. It can offer some educational benefits and day-to-day assistance; however, it also raises concerns about misinformation, privacy, fairness, and safety. This guide provides parents and educators with practical strategies to support young people to navigate AI tools responsibly, and to use them safely and with discernment.

1 DEMYSTIFY WHAT AI REALLY IS

Children encounter AI in most online places, including games, streaming platforms, and school tools. Explain that AI uses patterns from past data to make decisions, but it doesn't think or feel like humans. Use age-appropriate examples, like how recommendations on YouTube or Netflix work, to build understanding and prevent false beliefs about AI being all-knowing or alive.

2 TALK ABOUT RISKS OF MISINFORMATION

AI can create convincing false information, including deepfake videos, photos, and fake "facts". Encourage children to think critically about what they see and read. Teach them to double-check information using reliable sources, to look at images and videos carefully, and to ask an adult if something doesn't seem right.

3 DISCUSS DATA AND PRIVACY

Explain that AI systems learn by analyzing lots of data, sometimes including personal information. Help young people to be mindful of what they share online and why protecting personal data matters. Model good habits like reading app permissions together or reviewing what's collected by voice assistants like Alexa or Siri.

4 ENCOURAGE CREATIVE USE OF AI

Support children, when using AI tools, to explore ideas, make art, or build projects. This fosters confidence, imagination, and independent thinking. When children use AI creatively, rather than just passively consuming it, they are more likely to stay engaged and make thoughtful choices.

5 USE AGE-APPROPRIATE AI TOOLS

Not all AI platforms are suitable for children. Choose tools designed for education or creativity, with clear safety policies. Review terms of use and privacy settings, and help children use them in age-appropriate ways. For example, some chatbot tools mimic conversation but should only be used with guidance and boundaries in place.

6 USE AI TOGETHER

Exploring AI tools together can help adults understand how they work and spot potential issues. Try co-writing a story with an AI writing assistant or experimenting with an AI art tool. This encourages curiosity, helps you stay informed about the latest AI tools, and allows you to reinforce safe and respectful use while modelling critical thinking.

7 SET BOUNDARIES FOR AI USE

Establish when, where, and how AI tools can be used, just as you would with any digital technology. For example, you might agree not to use AI tools to complete school assignments without permission, or to avoid unsupervised use of voice assistants. Consistent boundaries help manage overuse and misuse.

8 WATCH FOR OVERRELIANCE

Some AI tools, like homework help apps, may be tempting shortcuts. Encourage children to use AI to support their thinking, not replace it. Celebrate effort and process over perfect answers. Reinforce that mistakes are part of learning and that relying too heavily on AI can limit real understanding.

9 TEACH DIGITAL ETHICS AND LITERACY

Help children explore how AI works, where it might be biased, and why ethical thinking matters. Building digital literacy alongside ethical awareness ensures children engage with AI critically, not just conveniently. Help young people to understand that not all people use AI for legitimate purposes; some use it for malicious reasons. Encourage questions about fairness, representation, and who benefits from certain tools; talk about algorithms, echo chambers, and the impact of automation on daily life.

10 STAY CURIOUS AND INVOLVED

AI is developing rapidly, and staying informed helps you support the young people in your care. Follow trusted sources for updates and keep the conversation going. If a child brings up a new AI trend or tool, take the opportunity to learn about it together. Showing interest builds trust and strengthens digital resilience.

Meet Our Expert

Home to the world's largest CPD library for educators, The National College has transformed the way education establishments go about developing their workforces and managing compliance. Our three memberships help all phases and types of setting raise standards, save time, reduce risk, and build a culture of improvement.

#WakeUpWednesday

The National College

Safeguarding

Potty training: how to start & best age to potty train



Learning how to use the potty independently and stopping wearing nappies is a big milestone for your child. There are lots of new and exciting skills for them to learn with your help.

To make this process easier for you both, follow our evidence-based 3 step **Let's Go Potty** approach.

It begins with **preparation** to use the potty, next is **practising** potty skills before eventually **stopping using nappies** as your child gains confidence.

When should you start potty training?

Before they can start training, your child needs to be given lots of opportunities for **learning**. Babies are born ready to learn new skills with our help and the best way for them to do so is through practice and repetition.

That's why it's important to think about potty or toilet training in the same way we support children to develop other skills such as brushing their teeth or using a spoon.

Just like when helping them to walk and talk, you can start teaching your child to use a potty before they stop using nappies. This gives them all the time and practice they need to succeed with being independent from nappies when the time comes.

What is the best age for potty training?

Most children are ready to master potty independence and lead in many parts of the process from around 18 months. The majority of children will be capable of doing most things including wiping by themselves when they start school.

Research shows it is better for your child's bladder and bowel health to stop using nappies between 18 and 30 months.

The longer you leave it, the harder it can be for your child to learn this new skill and accept not having a nappy on anymore.

Supporting children with additional needs

Almost all children can learn to be clean and dry. Children with special needs such as delayed speech, autism or a physical disability may find the process more challenging. Children with an additional need often need more support with learning to use a potty or toilet, but we recommend following the same 3 step process: preparation, practice and then stopping using nappies.

The longer they wear nappies, the harder it may be to introduce a new place for them to wee and poo. Therefore, it's important not to put off potty training for too long.

Little People, BIG DREAMS®

Be Bold, Be Brave, DREAM BIG!

Dreamers World Conference

On Friday 6th March, you can come to school dressed up as your favourite 'Little People, Big Dreams' hero! Your outfit can be as simple or as elaborate as you like!

We will hold a 'Dreamers World Conference' where you will get the chance to mix with other heroes across the school!

Come prepared with some facts about your hero that you can share with others! Your teachers will provide you with a sheet to do this on.

World Book Day Special – Family Challenge

Extreme Reading

Can you take a picture of you reading your favourite book in an extreme or crazy place? **Please make sure you do this with adult support!** Pictures will be shared on World Book Day!



Recreate a front cover from your favourite book

Get family members involved and recreate your favourite book cover!



Stay and Read – quiz special!

On Tuesday 3rd March and Wednesday 4th March we are welcoming parents and carers to come and read with their children in class and complete a Little People, BIG dreams quiz! Classroom doors will open from 8:30 to 9:00 and all parents, carers and grandparents are welcome!

Tuesday – Nursery, year 1, year 3, year 5
Wednesday - Reception, year 2, year 4, year 6

See page 2 for some examples of the Little People, Big Dreams books.

Or visit: <https://littlepeoplebigdreams.com/> to find out more about the books and the author!



Little People, BIG DREAMS®

Be Bold, Be Brave, DREAM BIG!



Value Award Winners

We are incredibly proud of our wonderful pupils who received the Value Award this half term for showing outstanding determination and perseverance. Your positive attitude and commitment to never giving up truly embody our school values. Keep believing in yourselves – you are amazing!



Dean Field House Team Winners!



Sir Charles Barry



234 points

Anne Lister



220 points

Charlotte Bronte



231 points

Percy Shaw



210 points

Nursery Farm Trip

Nursery had a fantastic visit today to Little Farmers Cabin. Alyssa has a fantastic area for the children to learn and explore. We also got to feed the sheep, ducks, chickens and pet the baby lamb and blueberry the guinea pig!



Dean Field School



February Half Term Family Challenge

World Book Day is soon approaching so we thought this half term you could spend time making book related memories! This challenge will run all the way up to when we celebrate World Book Day on **Friday 5th March** where we will be having a celebratory day to showcase all the creations that you make! This is completely voluntary and there is no expectation to complete the challenge. If you choose to take part, we would love to see and hear all about what you have been doing so please upload your challenges to Seesaw or bring them to school **on or before Wednesday 4th March. There will be a prize for everyone who participates!**

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Can you take a picture of you reading your favourite book in an extreme or crazy place? **Please make sure you do this with adult support!** Pictures will be shared on World Book Day!



World Book Day Baking

Do some baking and base it around your favourite book or book character. Take photos for us to see.



Recreate a front cover from your favourite book

Get family members involved and recreate your favourite book cover!



Potato Book Characters

Makes some of your favourite book characters from potatoes! Paint them, stick them, be as creative as possible!



**SUPPORT
OUR LOTTERY
TODAY**

**£1 per
week**

**Weekly
cash prizes**

**£25,000
jackpot**



Splitting the £1.00

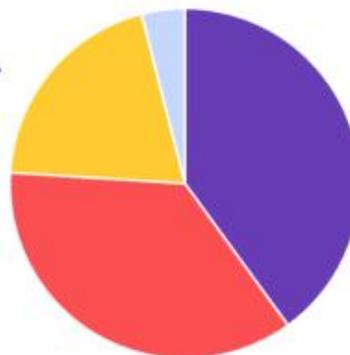
How it works...

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



- 40p goes to our school
- 36p goes to cash prizes
- 20p goes to admin costs
- 4p goes to VAT

**Enter our
Super Draw**
Win a Luxury City Break!
OR £1,000 CASH PRIZE

YOUR SCHOOL LOTTERY

**Dean Field
Community Primary School**

World Book Day Special – Family Challenge

Extreme Reading

Can you take a picture of you reading your favourite book in an extreme or crazy place? **Please make sure you do this with adult support!** Pictures will be shared on World Book Day!



Recreate a front cover from your favourite book

Get family members involved and recreate your favourite book cover!



Remember to place your group photograph order by
Sunday 22/02/2026
for FREE delivery to
Dean Field Community Primary School

Every order generates funds for your school too

www.schoolphotographs.co.uk



School
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HEALTHY
HOLIDAYS
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Free holiday activities
and food sessions

HALF TERM FUN

16th - 20th Feb 2026

Join #HealthyHolidaysCalderdale for a variety
of activities during Half Term!

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FOUNDATION
FOR CALDERDALE

HALF TERM FUN

This is your chance to take part in
free, fun activities during the half term
holidays! Scan the QR code to find out
what activities are available to book.

Find out what's on
and book your place
at...[healthyholidays.
calderdale.gov.uk](https://healthyholidays.calderdale.gov.uk)

Whether it's abseiling or
caving, drama or dance there
is something for everyone.

In school holidays, children and young
people can access holiday clubs through our
Healthy Holidays Calderdale programme

Calderdale's Healthy Holidays Half
Terms provides enriching activities,
delicious nutritious meals, and a
chance for young people to meet new
friends in a safe & fun environment,
during the school holidays.

Calling all
5-16s on Free
School Meals
- Book your
place now!





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FEBRUARY



Fiver February

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PHOTO CREDIT NEIL TERRY



Clayton West Station,
Park Mill Way,
Clayton West,
West Yorkshire
HD8 9XJ

Week commencing Monday 23rd February 2026



School Meals Menu - Week 1



1	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday
Hot Meal Option	Southern Fried Chicken Goujons 1, 5	g/f Chicken Tikka Wraps 12 Shredded Chicken 4, 5	Fish Fingers 2, 5	Roast Chicken Dinner Gravy	Pizza 5, 10 (various toppings - margherita/vegetable/spicy beef)
	1/4 Pounder Vege Burger 5	Cheese & Onion Rolls 3, 5, 10, 12	Vegetarian Bolognese Pasta Bake 5, 10 Dough Balls 5	Quorn Sausage 5	Vegan Meatballs in Tomato Sauce 4 Rice
Vegetables	Chips Beans	Wedges Sweetcorn Carrots	Potato Puffs Peas & Sweetcorn	Roast Potatoes Broccoli Carrots	Wedges Beans
Served Daily	Jacket Potatoes with various fillings Selection of Sandwiches Salad Bar Fresh Fruit, Yoghurts & Fruit Cocktail				
Dessert	Selection of Fresh Fruit or Choobs 10	Sponge and Custard 5, 10, 12	Cheesecake 5, 10	Sponge and Custard 5, 10, 12	Vanilla Milkshake 10 & Cookie 5, 10, 12
	Assorted Ice Cream 10	Strawberry Jelly	Golden Syrup Cornflake Buns 5	Angel Delight 10	Assorted Ice Cream 10

Polite Reminder



DIARY DATES

DATE	EVENT
Monday 23rd February	School reopens
Monday 23rd February	Midweek clubs start
Friday 6th March	Year 3 Family Learning—sign up on Forms

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 ...

DETERMINATION



**NOTHING WILL WORK
UNLESS YOU DO.**

MAYA ANGELOU

Accelerated Reader – Reading Achievements this week



Australia	95%
Poland	82%
Kenya	68%
Brazil	93%
Ireland	80%

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)

Elliot in Year 5



NumBots Star of the Week

Jason in Year 2

This Week's Attendance

Group	% Attendance
Mexico	97.9%
China	93.3%
Australia	95%
Poland	96.5%
Kenya	92.4%
Brazil	94.2%
Ireland	97.9%
Total	95.3%

Congratulations to **Mexico and Ireland** class who had the highest attendance in the school this week. Well done to **Poland** class for coming second. **All classes above 96% continue to receive £5 for their jars; well done Mexico, Poland 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,
Lorraine 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:

Freddie Wr - For taking it upon himself to tidy up the library whilst he was staying in at break time due to an injury. Future librarian in the making!

Abigail W - For been on gold and showing others how to behave.



SCHOOL VALUES



CELEBRATION ASSEMBLY

Mexico Reception	Ronnie M	For not being distracted, keeping on going and trying his best.
	Yuna L	For perseverance in RWI group and reading at home.
China Year 1	Fraser R	For showing perseverance and determination in ALL lessons.
	Matias C	For showing consistent perseverance and determination in phonics and reading.
Australia Year 2	Rosie H	For determination with all her work and reading.
	Reuben G	For perseverance with his English writing.
Poland Year 3	Owais B	For your determination and perseverance in English and maths.
	Cub M	For always showing determination and perseverance.
Kenya Year 4	Zoraiz B	For perseverance across his work, particularly in maths.
	Rio H	For showing incredible determination across all subjects this week!
Brazil Year 5	Rogan M	For always persevering to achieve.
	Melissa Mc	For always being determined to complete work to her best ability.
Ireland Year 6	Ava O	For her determination to achieve in the core subjects.
	Lucy H	For her perseverance in learning.