

## Friday 27th February 2026

Dear Parents/Carers,

What a fantastic first week back we have had!

As we move through a very short half term, we would like to draw your attention to the term dates outlined in the table below.

Please note that school will break up on **Monday 30th March at 3pm**. We appreciate that finishing on a Monday is unusual; however, in order to fulfil the statutory requirement of 190 school days, we have added this additional day at the end of the Easter term rather than extending the summer term and breaking up on a Monday in July. We are grateful for parents' continued cooperation in ensuring strong attendance, particularly during this condensed half term.

Please also note that, due to the shorter half term **Friday Clubs and the Dean Field Den will run on Friday 27th March as normal. There will be Dean Field Den provision on Monday 30th March as normal.**

Thank you, as always, for your ongoing support.

Mrs Fiona Pether



<b>2026 Spring Term</b>	Re-open	Monday 5 January	<b>56 school days</b>
Half Term	Close	Friday 13 February	
	Re-open	Monday 23 February	
Easter Holiday	Close	Monday 30 <sup>th</sup> March	
<b>2026 Summer Term</b>	Re-open	Monday 13 April	<b>59 school days</b>
<b>May day</b>	Closed	<b>Monday 4 May</b>	
Half Term	Close	Friday 22 May	
Mid-Summer	Re-open	Monday 8 June	
	Close	Friday 17 <sup>th</sup> July	
			<b>Total 190 days</b>

# Little People, BIG DREAMS®

Be Bold, Be Brave, DREAM BIG!

### Dreamers World Conference

On Friday 6<sup>th</sup> 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 3<sup>rd</sup> March and Wednesday 4<sup>th</sup> 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!



# ONLINE SAFETY

## What Parents & Educators Need to Know about

# WHATSAPP

AGE RESTRICTION  
**13+**

### WHAT ARE THE RISKS?

WhatsApp is a free messaging app owned by Meta, allowing users to send text and voice messages, share multimedia, make video calls, and chat in groups. With end-to-end encryption, only the sender and receiver can view messages. This may offer privacy, but it also comes with risks that parents and educators need to be aware of.

### GROUP CHAT PRESSURES

Group chats enable multiple users to message in the same space, but this can also make it easier for young people to feel excluded or overwhelmed. Negative comments can escalate quickly, and young people may feel pressure to respond or stay engaged even when the conversation is uncomfortable or upsetting.

### SCAMS TARGETING YOUNG USERS

Scammers are increasingly using WhatsApp to trick users into sharing personal information. Common scams include fraudsters posing as family members in an emergency or tricking users into revealing security codes. These can lead to identity theft or access to private conversations.

### DISAPPEARING AND HIDDEN MESSAGES

WhatsApp offers features like disappearing messages and 'Chat Lock', which can give users a false sense of security. While intended to protect privacy, they can be used by young users to hide inappropriate conversations or content, making it harder for adults to spot potential issues.

### EXPOSURE THROUGH CHANNELS

'Channels' are an optional feature that allows users to follow updates from public figures or organisations; however, there is no way to block this feature or filter its content by age. Young users may encounter adult or distressing content, including misinformation and harmful ideologies.

### UNWANTED CONTACT AND LOCATION SHARING

WhatsApp users can share their live location, and if not managed carefully, this can allow others – even those in mutual groups – to track someone's whereabouts. Also, without the right privacy settings, young users may be contacted by strangers.

### COMMERCIAL AND AI CONTENT

WhatsApp now includes ads in the 'Updates' feed and has introduced an AI assistant – Meta AI – across the app, which cannot be removed. These additions raise concerns about targeting, privacy, AI use, and the type of content children and young people might interact with.

## Advice for Parents & Educators

### REVIEW PRIVACY SETTINGS TOGETHER

Help young users check who can see their profile photo, status, and location. Activate the 'Silence Unknown Callers' setting and set group chat invitations to 'My Contacts' or 'My Contacts Except...' for added safety.

### TEACH HOW TO SPOT SCAMS

Encourage caution around unusual and unexpected messages, especially if they involve money or codes. Help young users understand the signs of scams and what to do if they receive a suspicious message. Enable two-step verification to add an extra layer of protection.

### BE OPEN ABOUT HIDDEN CHATS

Discuss why children and young people might use features like disappearing messages or 'Chat Lock'. Encourage them to share if something made them uncomfortable, even if the messages are gone. Let them know that privacy should not mean secrecy.

### TALK ABOUT ADVERTISING AND AI

Explain that WhatsApp now includes ads and AI tools. Discuss the difference between genuine and sponsored content, and the potential for AI to share inaccurate or age-inappropriate responses. Encourage young users to think critically before trusting or interacting with these features.

### Meet Our Expert

Dr Claire Sutherland is an online safety consultant, educator and researcher who has developed and implemented anti-bullying and cyber safety policies for schools. She has written various academic papers and carried out research for the Australian Government comparing internet use and sexting behaviour of young people in the UK, USA and Australia.



See full reference list on our website

#WakeUpWednesday

The National College

## SAFEGUARDING

# Mental health and parenting

Parenting while living with a mental health issue can cause challenges. But you can still be the parent you want to be.

### Taking care of your mental health

If you have coping strategies that work well for you already, keep doing them. That might be using mindfulness techniques, taking five minutes for yourself, or talking to a friend.

Choosing one or a couple of things from the list below to focus on could give your mental health a boost.

- Maintaining good sleep might feel impossible, but the NHS has tips and advice to help.
- Keep in touch with family and friends on the phone or try a video call. If you're struggling to find someone to talk to about what you're going through, Mind has helplines and you can speak to your GP to see what counselling provision might be available in your area.
- Write down your feelings in a notepad. This can help you reflect, understand, and let go of emotions.
- Join a support group or network online.
- Try to have some time for yourself, whether that's at home or by going for a walk.
- Physical activity is really helpful for some people. You could try walking, going for a jog, swimming or doing an online class. If these don't suit you, you could try a gentler activity like gardening, sitting next to an open window to get some fresh air, or doing a crossword.
- We know eating well isn't easy or accessible to everyone. If you need help with getting essentials you can contact your local food bank.
- Planning things to do by yourself or with your child can help create structure and a routine for the day. Try starting your day with a short list of 4 small, achievable things you'd like to do.
- If there's another adult in your house or older children, ask them to play an active part too.



**Red Nose Day 2026**

**Friday 20th March 2026**

**“Take Yourself Funny For Money!”**

This year we are celebrating Red Nose Day with the theme: Take Yourself Funny For Money!

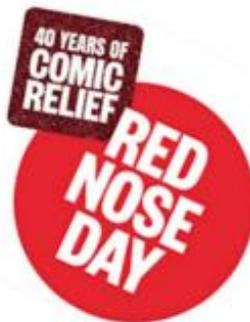
Encouraging everyone to embrace humour and everyday silliness to raise money for great causes.

**What's Happening?**  
We invite all pupils to:  
Dress up in something SILLY  
OR wear something RED for  
the day!



**Do your own thing**

Got a better idea? Go for it! The funnier the better – because when it comes to Red Nose Day, no idea is too weird or wonderful. Through simple acts of silliness, we can change some serious stuff for the better.



**Donation**

We kindly ask for a **£1** donation per child. 50p will go to **Comic Relief** and 50p will go to a charity chosen by our parents and carers—Happy days or Mother-share or Lighthouse.

To vote for the charity you would like school to donate to, please follow the link—[Comic Relief Charity Choice – Fill in form](#)

# Uniform Policy

## Daily Uniform



## Dean Field Community Primary School Uniform



Grey or black trousers/skirts/dresses

Pale blue summer dresses or short suit



A pale blue polo shirt or pale blue collared shirt



Black school shoes



Grey or black tights with skirts and



A royal blue jumper or cardigan (this can be with or without the school's logo on it, rounded or V neck)



Grey or black smart shorts for boys in warmer months

Optional blue tie



## Easter Raffle



We are excited to launch our Easter Raffle 2026! We have some fabulous Easter Eggs to be won.

To be in with a chance of winning please return the slip handed out this week, along with your payment.

Tickets cost **£1.00 per strip**. Raffle tickets will be sent home, please keep them safe. No ticket no prize.

**The raffle will close on Wednesday 25<sup>th</sup> March.**

**Good Luck!!**



## School Crossing Patrol

We are delighted to confirm that the school crossing patrol will remain in place from September 2026 onwards.

Following discussions with Calderdale Council and valuable feedback from parents, the decision has been made to retain the crossing patrol.

We are extremely pleased with this outcome and hope you will be too. The patrol plays an important role in helping our children travel to and from school safely, while also making the journey easier for families.

Thank you to everyone who took the time to share their views with the council — your support has been greatly appreciated.

We look forward to continuing with the funded school crossing patrol.



**SUPPORT  
OUR LOTTERY  
TODAY**

**£1 per  
week**

**Weekly  
cash prizes**

**£25,000  
jackpot**



## Splitting the £1.00

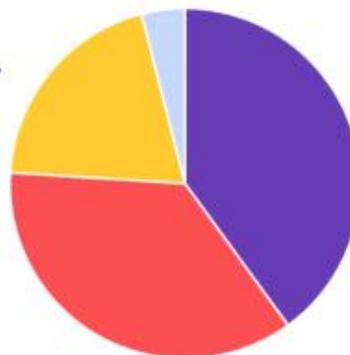
### How it works...

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**

**Boothtown & Southowram**

**Methodist Church**



*Beverley Place, Akroydon, Halifax, HX3 6LR*

# Easter Fayre

**Saturday, 21<sup>st</sup> March**

11am—2pm

*Free entry (with chance to win a prize!)*



**Proceeds for church boiler fund.**

[www.facebook.com/btown.Church/](https://www.facebook.com/btown.Church/)

Week commencing Monday 2nd March 2026

		 <b>School Meals Menu - Week 2</b> 				
2	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	
Hot Meal Option	Chicken Burger 5, 12 (served in a bun 5, 14 with lettuce & Mayo 12)	Butter Chicken Rice	Fish Bites 2, 5	Roast Chicken Dinner Gravy	Pizza 5, 10 (various toppings - margherita/vegetable/spicy beef)	
	Quorn Dippers 5	Vegan Hot Dog 4, 5, 8 bun 5, 14	Macaroni Cheese 5, 10 Dough Balls 5	Quorn Sausage 5	Vegetable Biryani	
Vegetables	Chips Beans	Potato Puffs Peas Broccoli	Wedges Peas & Sweetcorn	Roast Potatoes Broccoli Carrots	Chips Beans	
Served Daily	Jacket Potatoes with various fillings Salad Bar Selection of Sandwiches Fresh Fruit, Yoghurts & Fruit Cocktail					
Dessert	Selection of Fresh Fruit or Choobs 10	Sponge and Custard 5, 10, 12	Iced Cake 5, 10, 12	Sponge and Custard 5, 10, 12	Chocolate Milkshake 10 & Cookie 5, 10, 12	
	Assorted Ice Cream 10	Raspberry Jelly	Meringue Nests 10, 12	Angel Delight 10	Assorted Ice Cream 10	

### Polite Reminder



## DIARY DATES

DATE	EVENT
Tuesday 3rd March	N, Y1, Y3, Y5 Stay and Read
Wednesday 4th March	R, Y2, Y4, Y6 Stay and Read
Friday 6th March	Year 3 Family Learning—sign up on Forms
Friday 6th March	World Book Day—Dress Down
Thursday 12th March	SEND Coffee Morning
Friday 20th March	Red Nose Day—Dress Down

**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 ...**

**Caring**

*Sharing Is Caring*

*"Sharing is a way of life that brings joy to everyone involved."*

## Accelerated Reader – Reading Achievements this week



Australia	90%
Poland	78%
Kenya	74%
Brazil	87%
Ireland	87%

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 in Year 4**



NumBots Star of the Week

**Dorian in Year 1**

## This Week's Attendance

Group	% Attendance
Mexico	97.8%
China	91.2%
Australia	95%
Poland	93.9%
Kenya	97.8%
Brazil	91.4%
Ireland	93.1%
<b>Total</b>	<b>94.4%</b>

Congratulations to **Mexico and Kenya** class who had the highest attendance in the school this week. Well done to **Australia** class for coming second. **All classes above 96% continue to receive £5 for their jars; well done Mexico and Kenya!** We have 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



Dean Field  
Community Primary School

# GOLD BOOK



Dean Field  
Community Primary School

## CELEBRATION ASSEMBLY

Mexico Reception	Roma-Leigh J	For fantastic input in our science topic lesson looking at animals and their young.
	Theo SH	For excellent progress with independent self-care routine.
China Year 1	Tobias C	For some amazing progress in his phonics and reading.
	Sebastian S	For a more positive week, showing enthusiasm in lessons.
Australia Year 2	Alex K	For amazing progress in phonics and always trying his best.
	Isabella N	For settling in well and working hard in comprehension group.
Poland Year 3	Lucy W	For always being an outstanding role model.
	Frankie R	For a fantastic week!
Kenya Year 4	Ranveer R	For a fantastic start at Dean Field and a great attitude towards learning.
	Jack PM	For great resilience and class contribution.
Brazil Year 5	Joshua S	For his effort and enthusiasm in all lessons.
	Mia E	For always trying hard in lessons and modelling this to others.
Ireland Year 6	Myla Mc	For fantastic algebra work in maths.
	Seb L	For an improved attitude towards learning.