

Dear Parents and Carers,

Happy New Year

Happy New Year to everyone. Despite the snow and icy conditions, it has been a great first week back at school. The children have returned settled, positive and ready to learn. It has been lovely to see classrooms full of energy and enthusiasm so quickly after the break. This week I have enjoyed spending time in Mexico, China and Ireland. Thank you to families for your support with attendance and punctuality during the challenging weather—it has very much been appreciated.

Important Messages

A reminder to all parents and carers that **Seesaw is our main form of communication**. All letters, messages and important updates from school will be shared through this platform, so please ensure that notifications are switched on and that you check Seesaw regularly. This helps us to communicate efficiently and ensures that everyone receives information in a timely manner. If you are experiencing any difficulties accessing Seesaw, please contact the school office for support.

As we move through this term, I have been reflecting that it is approaching eight years since I took up post as Headteacher at Dean Field, in what was at the time an inadequate school. It will be nearly four years since our last Ofsted inspection. In that time, our school community has grown and achieved so much together.

Following a review of Ofsted after the death of Headteacher Ruth Perry, the way schools are now inspected has changed significantly and with very little notice on these changes, we are currently preparing for our next inspection, which could take place at any time from February onwards. With this in mind, we are kindly asking parents and carers to support the school by completing the parent survey on the Ofsted Parent View website and, if you wish, by submitting testimonials of support. Your voice and feedback are incredibly important to us. Please see my Seesaw message sent today for further details.

Have a great weekend.

Mrs Fiona Pether

Headteacher



Staff Training

This week's staff meeting focused on reviewing our School Improvement Plan and Pupil Premium Strategy so all staff share the same vision of what we are trying to achieve this academic year.

Miss Jagger is trying to tie up loose end before she starts her maternity leave and so led a session on both Science and PE: the subjects she leads.

Our EYFS staff were privileged to have Julia Lumb deliver training on effective personal, social and emotional strategies.

ONLINESAFETY

10 Top Tips for Parents and Educators

ESSENTIAL ONLINE SAFETY

Children and young people use the internet every day to learn, play, and connect, but the online world is not always safe. For adults, it can be hard to keep up with the risks, including harmful content, cyberbullying and scams. These 10 tips provide clear and practical advice to support safer and healthier digital habits, helping young people to make informed, secure choices when using technology.

- 1 START EARLY CONVERSATIONS**
Begin talking about online behaviour from the moment children start using devices. Use age-appropriate language and revisit topics regularly, making it clear they can speak to you about anything that upsets or confuses them. Keeping these chats open helps build trust, so children are more likely to come to you when needed.
- 2 PROMOTE SAFER SHARING**
Children can overshare without understanding the risks. Remind them that photos, locations, or messages can be copied or shared beyond their intended audience. Explain how even private messages or group chats can be saved and/or misused. Talk about what is appropriate to post, message, and who it's safe to share with.
- 3 ENCOURAGE DIGITAL BALANCE**
Many apps and games are designed to keep users engaged through rewards, likes, or constant updates. These features can make it hard for children to switch off. Talk openly about how these systems work and help children recognise when it's time to take a break. Building in tech-free routines supports a healthier balance and awareness of their screen time.
- 4 CREATE A SAFE SPACE FOR CONCERNs**
When children come to you with a concern, respond with interest and care, rather than with alarm. Keeping your reaction measured helps them feel safe and supported. This doesn't mean ignoring serious issues; it means showing that you're there to help. When children trust that they can speak openly, they're more likely to feel supported through unpleasant online experiences, and to ask for help in future.
- 5 STAY INFORMED AND CURRENT**
With emerging technologies like AI moving and changing so quickly, it's important to stay updated on how children are using new platforms, apps and games. Ask them to show you what they use and let them take the lead as you explore together. This opens up valuable conversations and helps you stay ahead of emerging risks and trends.
- 6 TEACH CRITICAL THINKING**
Talk to children about how to recognise unreliable information or scams online. With AI-generated videos, photos, and stories becoming harder to spot, help children question what they see and encourage them to look for evidence, check sources, and ask questions. These skills will help them avoid risks, make smart choices, and develop healthy habits for the future.
- 7 SET CLEAR BOUNDARIES**
Involve children in conversations about device usage so they feel included. Agree on digital rules such as screen-time limits, age-appropriate apps, and no devices in bedrooms overnight. Use parental controls to block or filter harmful content and explain that rules are there to protect and support them, not to spoil their fun.
- 8 LEAD BY EXAMPLE**
Children often copy the behaviour of adults around them. Show them what balanced, respectful, and mindful use of technology looks like, such as avoiding scrolling during family time and speaking kindly in messages. If you expect certain behaviour from them online, make sure your own habits reflect the same standards.
- 9 EXPLORE PRIVACY SETTINGS TOGETHER**
Show children how to use privacy tools on apps, games, and websites. Teach them to use strong passwords, block or report others in response to problems, and avoid sharing personal details. Explore settings together so they feel confident and in control, and explain that these features are there to help them stay safe online.
- 10 KNOW WHERE TO GET HELP**
Familiarise yourself with tools and organisations that support online safety. The National College offers online safety guides and webinars which provide tips on staying safe. Websites like Report Harmful Content and CEOP can be used to report when something goes wrong. Show children how to report or block users, and where to go if they feel unsafe. Make sure they know that asking for help is always the right thing to do, and be prepared to support them.

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



Privates are private—Your underwear covers up your private parts and no one should ask to see or touch them. Sometimes a doctor, nurse or family members might have to. But they should always explain why, and ask you if it's OK first. Remember, what's in your pants belongs only to you.

Always remember your body belongs to you—Your body belongs to you. No one should ever make you do things that make you feel embarrassed or uncomfortable. If someone asks to see, or tries to touch you, underneath your underwear, say 'NO' – and tell someone you trust and like to speak to. No one has the right to make you do anything that makes you feel uncomfortable. If somebody does make you do something, it is never your fault. Even if the person who has made you feel uncomfortable, has told you it is your fault.

No means no—No means no and you always have the right to say 'no' – even to a family member or someone you love. You're in control of your body and the most important thing is how YOU feel. If you want to say 'no', it's your choice.

Talk about secrets that upset you—There are good and bad secrets. Good secrets can be things like surprise parties or presents for other people. Bad secrets make you feel sad, worried or frightened. You should always talk to a safe adult who you trust about a bad secret or anything that doesn't feel right.

Speak up, someone can help—Talk about stuff that makes you worried or upset. If you ever feel sad, anxious or frightened you should talk to a safe adult who you trust. This doesn't have to be a family member. It can also be a teacher or a friend's parent or even Childline.

Talking should not get you into trouble, even if somebody has told you it will. If something has happened that makes you feel uncomfortable, it is never your fault.

EYFS First Songs Project

Dean Field EYFS were very lucky to be involved with South West Yorkshire Partnership NHS Foundation to pilot the First Songs Project.

This project aims to establish whether regular music sessions can close the developmental gap for children aged 0-5 years, by improving learning and development in movement, language and social skills.

We participated in workshops once a week with a trained musician coming in to deliver music and movement with the EYFS children led by Mrs Baker.

Dean Field along with four other settings have designed and helped to make the project a success, with booklets and YouTube videos available.

We have a booklet to give to each child in Nursery and Reception for you to keep at home and share with your child/children





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.

Learning Without Limits



Dean Field

Community Primary School



Register Now -
Contact the school office:



01422 258 258

FREE UNIFORM!

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

We thank you for support with this.



Correct Uniform



No tracksuit bottoms



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.

SUPPORT OUR LOTTERY TODAY

£1 per week

Weekly
cash prizes

£25,000
jackpot



YOUR
SCHOOL
LOTTERY



Splitting the £1.00

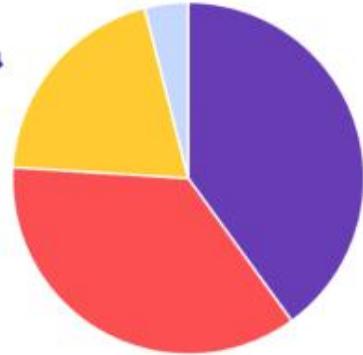
How it works...

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 £1,000 Aldi Gift Card
OR £1,000 CASH PRIZE

ALDI

YOUR SCHOOL LOTTERY

Dean Field
Community Primary School

Week commencing Monday 12th January 2026



School Meals Menu - Week 2



2	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday
Hot Meal Option	Chicken Goujons 5	Homemade Lasagne 5, 10 Shredded Chicken 4, 5	Fish Fingers 2, 5	Homemade Chicken Curry Rice	Pizza 5, 10
	Tomato Pasta 5, 10	Vege Nuggets 5	Homemade Cauliflower & Broccoli Cheese 5, 10	Quorn Dippers 5	Homemade Cheese & Onion Pie 5, 10, 12
Vegetables	Chips Beans Peas	g/f Waffle Fries Broccoli Mixed Veg	Chips Peas Sweetcorn	g/f Wedges Broccoli Carrots	Chips Beans Sweetcorn
Served Daily	Jacket Potatoes with various fillings Salad Bar Selection of Sandwiches Allergies for the daily items available on request				
Dessert	Jam Doughnuts 4, 5, 10, 14	Jam Sponge 5, 10, 12 Custard 10	Cupcakes 5, 10, 12	Treacle Sponge 5, 10, 12 Custard 10	Assorted Fresh Baking 5, 10, 12
	Ice Cream Cake 4, 5, 10, 12	Jelly	Assorted Biscuits 5, 10, 12	Angel Delight 10	Ice Cream 10

Polite Reminder



DIARY DATES

DATE	EVENT
Monday 12th January	Rec Bikeability
Thursday 15th January	Year 5/6 Fire Safety Talk
Friday 16th January	Year 4 Family Learning Event

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.

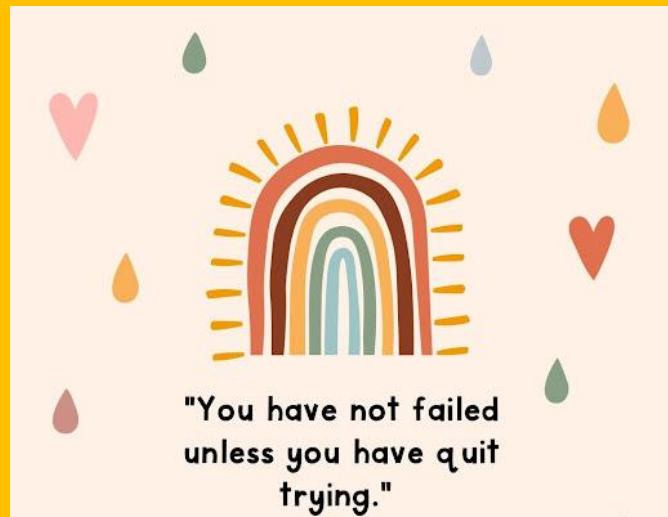
REMINDER: We are a nut free school and we would appreciate that any lunchboxes do not include nut products to protect the

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



Accelerated Reader – Reading Achievements this week



Australia	77%
Poland	80%
Kenya	70%
Brazil	80%
Ireland	93%

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)**

Elijah in Year 4



NumBots Star of the Week

Sebastian in Year 1

This Week's Attendance

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% continue to receive £5 for their jars.** 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

Group	% Attendance
Mexico	93.8%
China	92.4%
Australia	91.7%
Poland	84.8%
Kenya	91.1%
Brazil	88.7%
Ireland	92.6%
Total	90.7%



GOLD BOOK



CELEBRATION ASSEMBLY

Mexico Reception	Lyla C	For throwing herself back into her learning and having a positive attitude.
	Theo SH	For trying really hard to sit and concentrate during group carpet times.
China Year 1	Blake H	For always trying his best and making excellent progress across the board.
	Ayvah-May K	For a huge improvement in concentration and commitment to learning.
Australia Year 2	Isabella N	For working hard and improving your focus in lessons.
	Mason W	For always being kind, working hard, and ready to learn.
Poland Year 3	Kaleesi F	For returning to school with confidence and a positive, can-do attitude.
	Jorge D	For your hard work and determination in maths and English.
Kenya Year 4	Ellie H	For always being ready to learn.
	Alexander Z	For returning to school with an amazing attitude towards his learning.
Brazil Year 5	William H	For his superb computing skills learning about spreadsheets.
	Elliot R	For always trying hard and offering to help.
Ireland Year 6	Summer-Rae B	For creating a fantastic fact page in English.
	Libby S	For having a superb week.