

Dear Parents/Carers,

Attendance

We are currently placing a strong focus on attendance and are asking for your support with this. At present, our overall attendance is below the national average and our persistent absence rate is above national expectations. This has been highlighted by both our Trust and the Local Authority and is an area we must improve.

Regular attendance is vital for children's learning, wellbeing and progress. Every day in school matters and missed time quickly adds up. We know there are sometimes genuine reasons for absence and we are always here to offer support where needed.

If Mrs Stansfield contacts you regarding your child's attendance, please be assured that she is simply doing her job. Her role is to support families and to help ensure that children are in school as regularly as possible. We kindly ask that all communication with her is courteous and respectful. Ultimately, it is a parent's legal responsibility to ensure their child attends school regularly and all we want to do is support you with this so the matter is not taken further with the authority.

Communication

We would also like to remind parents that if you have any concerns or issues, no matter how big or small please come and speak to us as early as possible so that they do not escalate. We are seeing an increase in formal and sometimes AI generated complaints being submitted. While we do not want to discourage parents from raising concerns or from following our complaints policy where appropriate, we do ask that, in the first instance, you make an appointment with the relevant member of staff to discuss the matter.

In our experience, open and timely conversations are usually the most effective way to resolve issues. We are always here to work with parents, to support you and to resolve concerns in the best interests of your child.

Thank you for your continued support.

Have a great weekend.

Mrs Fiona Pether

Headteacher



What Parents & Educators Need to Know about DIGITAL DEVICES & WELLBEING

Children aged 7 to 14 now spend roughly 3 to 5 hours a day on phones, tablets, consoles, and computers. That much screen time has parents and educators worried – not just about the hours logged, but about online safety and the knock-on effects on mental health. This guide brings together practical, expert-backed strategies so adults can nurture healthier digital habits and help young people thrive both on and offline.

WHAT ARE THE RISKS?

SLEEP DISRUPTION

Excessive screen time, especially before bed, can interfere with melatonin production and delay sleep onset. Children may struggle to concentrate or regulate emotions due to poor sleep hygiene linked to late-night device use.

ONLINE PEER PRESSURE

Social media platforms expose children to unrealistic standards and peer validation loops. Likes, comments, and follower counts can influence self-worth and lead to anxiety or risky behaviour to gain approval.

CYBERBULLYING EXPOSURE

Children may encounter bullying through messaging apps, games, or social media. This can be persistent and anonymous, making it harder to detect. Victims often feel isolated and reluctant to report incidents.

REDUCED PHYSICAL ACTIVITY

Time spent on screens often replaces outdoor play and physical activity. This sedentary lifestyle can contribute to obesity, poor posture, and reduced cardiovascular health.

EMOTIONAL DYSREGULATION

Fast-paced digital content can overstimulate young brains. Children may become irritable, impatient, or struggle with boredom and emotional control when not engaged with screens.

PRIVACY AND SAFETY RISKS

Children may unknowingly share personal information or interact with strangers online. Without guidance, they may not understand the long-term consequences of digital footprints or unsafe online behaviour.

Advice for Parents & Educators

SET CLEAR BOUNDARIES

Establish screen-time limits and device-free zones, e.g. classrooms and dinner tables. Use parental controls and co-create a digital use agreement with children to encourage accountability. Trying a visual schedule or timer app can help children understand and stick to limits.

MODEL HEALTHY HABITS

Children mirror adult behaviour. Demonstrate balanced device use, take regular screen breaks, and prioritise face-to-face interactions to reinforce positive behaviours. Making a habit of putting your phone away during meals and conversations can show that real-life interactions come first.

ENCOURAGE OPEN DIALOGUE

Create a safe space for children to talk about their online experiences. Ask open-ended questions like, "What did you enjoy online today?" to build trust and awareness. Try setting aside 10 minutes each day for a digital check-in where children can share what they've seen or done online.

PROMOTE DIGITAL LITERACY

Teach children how to evaluate online content, recognise misinformation, and understand privacy settings. Empower them to think critically and act responsibly in digital spaces. You could use real-life examples from the news or social media to help children practise spotting fake information.

Meet Our Expert

Adam Gillett is Associate Vice Principal for Personal Development at Penistone Grammar School and works on secondment one day a week for Minds Ahead, which works with schools on improving their mental health provision.



#WakeUpWednesday

The National College

Safeguarding



NSPCC Number Day 2026

Friday 6th February



Dean field will be taking part in a mega maths fundraising day. We've got lots of activities planned including activity sheets, games, and puzzles.

Math Activities

During the day, pupils will be completing activities such as, games, puzzles, presentations and paying in instructions.

We will share our learning on Seesaw for parents and carers to see.



Dress up for Digits!

On Friday 6th February, we are inviting all pupils to wear an item of clothing with a number on it and make a donation.

Donation £1 for NSPCC

They could wear a favourite sports top or cap, or even a onesie. You could get more creative and design a unique t-shirt, hat or even become a human-sized calculator or dice!



NSPCC Rocks

NSPCC Rocks is an online times table competition to celebrate Number Day — in collaboration with Times Tables Rock Stars.

Taking place on **Friday 6 February 2026**, the competition boosts maths confidence, accuracy and recall speed.



Why your support matters



1 in 5 children across the UK have suffered abuse. That means **7 children in a classroom** experience abuse before they turn 18.



Last year, we reached **over 1.5 million children in over 6,300 schools** with our **Speak out Stay safe** safeguarding assemblies.



£3 from Number Day fundraising could help pay for the NSPCC **Speak out Stay safe** programme to reach 1 primary school child.

Elf Dash Funds

In December, we completed the Elf Dash to raise money for Overgate Hospice. On Tuesday, we received the total amount raised which was £827.72 which is an outstanding amount of money to support Overgate Hospice and all their hard work!

Thank you to all who donated, we really appreciate all your support.



Year 4 Family Learning

Today, Year 4 children and their families took part in a family learning craft session based on their recent history topic, Ancient Egypt.

This free session was kindly provided by Calderdale Adult Learning. Children and their families had a fantastic time bonding over arts and crafts while recalling and celebrating their learning from the previous topic.

It was wonderful to see families working together and engaging so enthusiastically in the activities.



Bikeability Comes to Dean Field Reception

The children in Dean Field Reception have begun an exciting new experience this week as they take part in their very first Bikeability lessons. These sessions will take place over the next three weeks and are designed to help our youngest learners develop essential cycling skills in a fun, supportive and safe environment.

During the lessons, children are learning to ride balance bikes with some children confidently practising on pedal bikes. They are developing key skills such as balance, co-ordination, steering, braking and controlled stopping. The sessions also focus on building confidence, spatial awareness and listening skills as the children learn to follow instructions and take turns.

Safety is a key part of Bikeability. The children are learning how to wear helmets correctly, check that their bikes are safe to use, and understand basic safety rules such as being aware of others around them and stopping when asked. These important early lessons help to build strong foundations for safe cycling in the future.

The children have shown great enthusiasm and determination and it has been wonderful to see their confidence grow already. We look forward to seeing their skills continue to develop over the coming weeks.





Dean Field Den



Welcome back to the School Den. We have the following things coming up this term.

February—Valentine's Day

March—Mother's Day

April—Easter Day

Food Friends Competition

During September and October the children at the den took part in a competition. They designed their own food and gave it a name.

These pictures have since been published in a book, children and their parents/carers were able to purchase a copy, we also have a copy of the book in school to look at.

Breakfast Club Menu

Monday—3 choices of cereals/toast/juice

Tuesday— Pancakes with Syrup/cereals/juice

Wednesday—3 choices cereals/toast juice

Thursday—3 choices of cereals toast juice

Friday—This week Sausage Sandwiches

Week after pain au chocolate

Fruit available at times

After School Club Menu

Week 1

Monday

Noodles

Crisps or fruit

Tuesday

Fish fingers/jelly

Wednesday

Beans/spaghetti on toast

Cream crackers

Thursday

Pasta cheese/tuna/sauce

Biscuits

Friday

Ham/cheese

toasties

Fruit or yoghurt

Week 2

Monday

Hot dogs

Angel delight

Tuesday

Wraps/sandwiches

cheese/ham/jam

Biscuits

Wednesday

Chicken nuggets/smiles

Thursday

Soup/bread

Buns/flapjack

Friday

Sausage rolls/beans

Swiss roll

Week 3

Monday

Sausage sandwich

Biscuit/yoghurt

Tuesday

Soup/bread

Jelly

Wednesday

Pasta/cheese/tuna/sauce

Crisps

Thursday

Ham/cheese/jam sandwich

Cream crackers

Friday

Homemade pizza

Swiss roll

Week 4

Monday

Beans/spaghetti on toast

Jelly or fruit

Tuesday

Noodles

Biscuits

Wednesday

Jacket potatoes cheese/beans

Pancakes

Thursday

Pizza fingers

Ice cream

Friday

Carrot sticks/cucumber sticks/humus

Sausage rolls/pork pie

Flapjack/biscuits



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!

**SUPPORT
OUR LOTTERY
TODAY**

**£1 per
week**

**Weekly
cash prizes**

**£25,000
jackpot**



**YOUR
SCHOOL
LOTTERY**



Splitting the £1.00

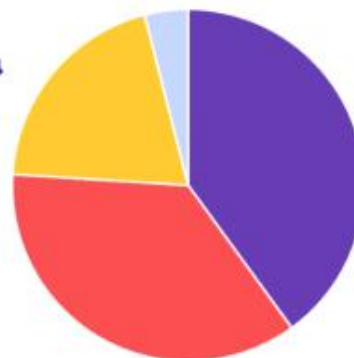
How it works...

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





THE BIG SLEEPOUT



**20TH
FEB**

D MILL, DEAN CLOUGH

Halifax HX3 5AX



**START
7:00PM**

**Spend a night under the stars and help raise funds
for people facing homelessness, food poverty, and
crisis in Calderdale**

Together, we can make a real difference

SPONSORED BY **interweave**
healthcare

Week commencing Monday 19th January 2026

<div>  School Meals Menu - Week 3  </div>					
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
Monday 19th January	Year 2 Owl Experience at Beech Hill
Wednesday 21st January	Year 5 Yorkshire Water Trip
Friday 23rd January	Year 1 Family Learning

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	85%
Poland	83%
Kenya	76%
Brazil	80%
Ireland	86%

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

Zarmish in Year 2

This Week's Attendance

Group	% Attendance
Mexico	94.8%
China	93.7%
Australia	98%
Poland	90.3%
Kenya	91.3%
Brazil	91.6%
Ireland	95.5%
Total	93.7%

Congratulations to **Australia** 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; well done Australia!** 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:

Archie W - For helping his friend zip their coat everyday this week. Good friend, role model and fab helper.

Isaac P - For helping Miss Jagger every week in breaktime club!

CELEBRATION ASSEMBLY

Mexico Reception	Myla M	For learning three red words and demonstrating great finger spaces in her writing.
	Elijah R	For fantastic interest in the fire engine and asking lots of questions.
China Year 1	Matias C	For some amazing set 3 spelling.
	Arizona L	For lovely enthusiasm in French lessons.
Australia Year 2	Evie E	For gaining confidence with reading!
	Star C	For working hard in maths with column addition and subtraction!
Poland Year 3	Poppy D	For always putting 100% effort into your learning.
	Grayson W	For improved effort and contribution in lessons.
Kenya Year 4	All of Year 4	For their fantastic improvement with their learning this year. For being amazing!
Brazil Year 5	Lennon W	For super geography skills on rivers.
	Amelia-Violet O	For fantastic effort in maths on fractions.
Ireland Year 6	Blakley R	For a huge improvement in reading this week.
	Charlie G	For enthusiasm in science lessons.