

Friday 27th March 2026

Dear Parents/Carers,

As we come to the end of this term, there is so much to be proud of. Although it has been a short term, it has been full of exciting learning opportunities and extra-curricular activities and pupils will certainly need a well-earned rest over the Easter break to recharge for the long summer term ahead.

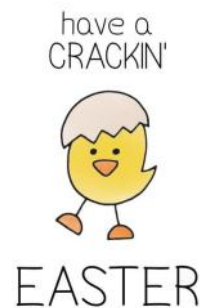
Parents of children in Years 1, 2, 4, and 6 will be aware that the Phonics Screening Check, Year 2 Optional SATs, the Multiplication Tables Check and the Year 6 end-of-KS2 SATs are approaching. I would like to thank parents for your continued support at home, which makes such a difference to your children's learning. Many pupils in these year groups also benefit from additional interventions at breaktimes, lunchtimes and after school, so a huge thank you to our staff for providing these. If you have any questions relating to any of these assessments please do not hesitate to get in touch with your child's class teacher.

We finished the term in style with *Dean Field's Got Talent*. Academic success is vital, but showcasing individual skills and talents is equally important. Thank you to all the staff who have mentored acts, to the judges and especially to Miss Lees, our Arts Lead, for organising the event so brilliantly. Definitely a highlight of the year here at Dean Field!

I wish all our Dean Field families a restful Easter. A reminder that school resumes on Monday 13th April, with Parents' Evening on Wednesday 22nd April.

Don't eat too much chocolate!

Mrs Fiona Pether



Reminder— you can book a place for your child/children at our free Breakfast Club, running from Monday 13th April to Friday 17th July. Please note that bookings must be made by 12 noon on the Friday before each week.

After Easter morning toast will no longer be offered in the classroom (with the exception of Nursery). This is due to the breakfast being served at the Free Breakfast Club.

ONLINE SAFETY

12 Top Tips TO SUPPORT MENTAL WELLBEING THROUGH NATURE Online and Offline

'Nature' is a superb choice as the theme of this year's Mental Health Awareness Week, as there's clear evidence that getting access to nature is excellent for our mental health. With Covid-19 restrictions beginning to ease, it's the perfect time of year to rediscover the natural world and give ourselves a calming, uplifting treat. You don't have to drag the family on a four-hour hike, either – just 10 minutes each day in the garden, in the local park or your nearest green space could really help. Here are 12 suggestions for ways you can benefit from nature ... both online and off.

ONLINE

- 1 Give something back to nature**

A swift internet search should bring up details of any local conservation projects you could volunteer for, or litter-picking events that you could enrol the family in. It doesn't have to be a long-term commitment: most schemes are grateful for every bit of help!
- 2 Tranquil streams**

Search your preferred music player for some soothing natural sounds. A few minutes' gentle audio of rainfall, ocean waves or birdsong are all great ways of unwinding at the end of the day to get you ready for an excellent night's sleep.

OFFLINE

- 1 Ditch the phone**

Now the weather's improving, go for a walk in a green space nearby. If you're already familiar with your chosen route, you could always leave your phone at home to be completely free of the usual distractions and notifications.
- 2 Put down some roots**

Planting flowers, shrubs, herbs or vegetables can be extremely rewarding. Not only does it help us to connect with nature – it also provides an ongoing project to draw pleasure from. If your home doesn't have a garden, no problem: a window box will do the job just as well!

- 3 Give geocaching a go**

If you've not heard of it, geocaching is a modern twist on the traditional treasure hunt. Participants look for items hidden in outdoor locations, using a GPS-enabled device like a mobile phone or tablet. We'd recommend that an adult accompanies young adventurers!
- 4 Share what you see**

While you're out exploring nature, take a photo or video of anything you find that inspires you. Not only will it be a nice memory for you to look back on, but you could also share it safely on social media and maybe motivate others to engage with the natural world!
- 3 A different kind of tweet**

Most gardens in the UK attract a wonderful variety of birds, and just watching them for a few minutes can be immensely therapeutic. There are some excellent apps and sites to help you name any species you don't already know or even play a game: identifying bird song, like bird song bingo!
- 4 Feed your feathered friends**

Hang a bird feeder where you can easily see it from a window. Then enjoy the feelgood factor of satisfied avian visitors perching where you can see them. For something more advanced, you could try building a nesting box to fix onto a fence or under a windowsill.
- 5 Watch the stars**

Looking at the night sky can be incredibly calming. There are some comprehensive stargazing websites and apps to help you locate and recognise different stars. It can take 20 minutes or so before you can see stars fully in the dark, even on clear nights, so allow your eyes time to adjust.
- 5 Park your worries**

If you're lucky enough to live within easy travelling distance of a park, you'd benefit from using it. Whether it's to play ball games, get on your bike, walk the dog or just get some fresh air into your lungs, the potential bonuses for mental health are enormous.
- 6 Wildlife on the web**

A Google search will bring up lots of sites that stream webcam footage of nature. From seals to barn owls, rabbits to badgers, you can get an intimate, heart-warming view of all kinds of animal communities from inside the comfort of your own home.
- 6 Art and soul**

Younger children will enjoy drawing or painting animals or nature scenes, or writing a poem or song lyrics about nature. For extra art or crafting fun, you could collect natural materials – leaves, feathers, tree bark or seeds, for example – to use in your creations.

Meet Our Expert

Anna Bateman is passionate about placing prevention at the heart of every school, integrating mental wellbeing within the curriculum, school culture and systems. She is also a member of the advisory group for the Department for Education, advising them on their mental health green paper.





PASTORAL SUPPORT IN OUR SCHOOL

Miss Shawmarsh & Mrs Stansfield



The pastoral team provide emotional support, wellbeing advice and attendance management at our school. The pastoral team run after school clubs every Wednesday from 3pm-4pm, free of charge to all pupils. Whether it's in Miss Shawmarsh's Calm Minds / Mindfulness club or Multi-sports club with Mrs. Stansfield, both of these clubs are great for boosting emotional wellbeing, physical and mental health!

Over lunchtimes, Miss Shawmarsh and Mrs. Stansfield both run a club, to support the children during an unstructured and busy time of the day. Mrs. Stansfield runs a football club outside, encouraging physical activity which promotes healthy emotional regulation.

Miss Shawmarsh runs a social club which is a great opportunity for the children who are referred to make new friends, take part in mindful activities such as guided breathing/meditation, relax and enjoy a quiet and peaceful lunchtime, promoting an environment of calm.

Miss Shawmarsh and Mrs. Stansfield are both available to support our children from 8am every morning, with the start-up of the free breakfast club! This means the children will be able to have a healthy breakfast and an opportunity to speak with our pastoral team to share any concerns before setting foot in their classroom, so the children will be ready for learning from the first minute of the school day.

In an afternoon, Miss Shawmarsh provides targeted and tailored pastoral interventions, covering a range of topics from emotional regulation, friendship support, anxiety and much more. This half term, the sessions have been incredibly well engaged with by the referred children, with the number of children being referred for pastoral intervention significantly lower than last half term. Well done everyone!

**Miss Shawmarsh
Pastoral Learning
Mentor**



**Mrs. Stansfield Pas-
toral Manager**

Wellbeing

Relaxation

Easy mindfulness activities for you to enjoy

Mindfulness activities involve no more than being fully present and engaged in the moment, and being aware of our thoughts and feelings without judging them or getting too caught up in them.



Cooking

Notice the smell and texture of each ingredient.

Focus on the precision of repetitive tasks, such as chopping and stirring.

Recognise the **taste and smells** of different foods as they cook.

Involve the **family** and reconnect.

Dancing

Move your body and dance if you can.

Put on music that you enjoy and notice how you feel when your body responds.

Notice how different **songs, lyrics and rhythms** make you feel.

Create a wellbeing playlist of songs that affected your mood positively.



Appreciate or tend to nature

Feel the texture of the soil, the roughness of weeds or the softness of flowers.

Take in the **smells** of freshly cut grass and nectar.

Look at the changing colours, textures and patterns of plants and flowers.

Listen to the sounds of birds, lawnmowers and watering of plants.

2. Breathing exercises can help calm anxiety

Here are a few you can start with.



Breathing in colour

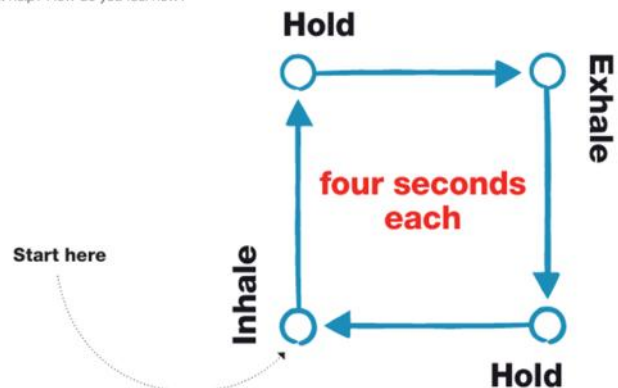
- Picture a colour you associate with happy, positive thoughts.
- Now picture another colour; for thoughts that are not positive.
- Take a slow breath in. Now picture breathing in that wonderful, positive colour. Imagine the breath is reaching your fingers and toes.
- Take a slow breath out and imagine you're breathing out the negative colour.
- Blow it far away from you.
- Repeat this exercise a few times.

Does it help? How do you feel now?

Box breathing

- Take a deep in breath. As you breath in, count to four slowly. Notice the air entering your lungs.
- Now hold your breath and count to four. Avoid inhaling or exhaling.
- Release your breath slowly, again for four seconds.
- At the end of your breath, hold it for another four seconds.
- Repeat this process as many times as you need.

Did it help? How do you feel now?



DFGT

Dean Field's Got Talent was an incredible success and a truly unforgettable experience. From start to finish, the energy in the room was amazing, with students showing off a wide range of talents—from singing and dancing to unique performances. Everyone who took part showed confidence, creativity, and hard work, making it clear how much effort had gone into preparing for the event.

It wasn't just about winning or being the best—it was about having fun, expressing ourselves, and celebrating each other's talents.

Well done to all our contestants, you were all amazing and so brave for having a go. But there can only be one winner.....Well done Kairo in Year 1!

Overall, the talent show was a fantastic event that highlighted the creativity and spirit of the school. It's something everyone involved can be really proud of.



Year 6 Visit from Beech Hill

This week, we were delighted to welcome Year 6 children from one of our Trust schools, Beech Hill, who led a wonderful assembly on Ramadan and Eid.

The children were excellent ambassadors for their school. They were confident, articulate and highly knowledgeable. They helped us all to gain a deeper understanding of the significance of Ramadan and the celebrations of Eid.

We were incredibly proud of our own pupils who listened respectfully, showed great interest and asked thoughtful questions throughout which reflected our school values.

We would like to extend a big thank you to the children and staff from Beech Hill for such an inspiring and informative visit.





15 & 30 HOUR
PLACES AVAILABLE!

APPLY FOR A NURSERY SCHOOL PLACE



A safe and nurturing start to school life!

- ★ Fun indoor & outdoor learning
- ★ Caring, qualified staff
- ★ Healthy meals, free fruit & milk
- ★ Trips, clubs & animal workshops
- ★ Smooth transition into Reception

When to Apply

When your child turns 2 years old.

Children start nursery in the term after their 3rd birthday:

- ★ Turns 3 between 1 Sep - 31 Dec → Start January
- ★ Turns 3 between 1 Jan - 31 Mar → Start April
- ★ Turns 3 between 1 Apr - 31 Aug → Start September

APPLY NOW FOR
A SEPTEMBER
PLACE

APPLY AT THE SCHOOL
OFFICE OR CALL 01422

258258

ATTENDING OUR NURSERY PROVISION
HELPS TOWARDS SECURING A PLACE
IN OUR RECEPTION COHORT

SEND White Paper – Parent Consultation

The Department for Education has published a new SEND White Paper outlining proposed changes to support for children and young people with Special Educational Needs and Disabilities.

Parents and carers are invited to share their views as part of the national consultation. If you would like to find out more or take part, please visit:

<https://www.gov.uk/government/consultations/send-reform-putting-children-and-young-people-first>

The consultation is open until **18 May 2026**. Parents and carers are welcome to contribute their views if they wish. Please note that the proposals are currently in consultation and there are no immediate changes to current SEND provision.



Week commencing Monday 30th March 2026

3		Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday
Hot Meal Option	Chicken Nuggets 5 Ketchup 1	Sweet and Sour Chicken Chicken Popcorn 5	Battered Fish 2, 5	Roast Chicken Dinner Gravy	Pizza 5, 10 (various toppings - margherita/vegetable/spicy beef)	
	Cheesy Omelettes 10, 12	Spring Rolls 4, 5, 8 Noodles 4, 5	Roasted Pepper & Tomato Pasta 5 Dough Balls 5	Quorn Roast 10, 12	Samosas 5 Savoury Rice	
Vegetables	French Fries Beans	Potato Puffs Peas Carrots	Chips Peas & Sweetcorn	Roast Potatoes Broccoli Carrots	Wedges 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	Carrot Cake 5, 10, 12	Sponge and Custard 5, 10, 12	Strawberry Milkshake 10 & Cookie 5, 10, 12	
	Assorted Ice Cream 10	Orange Jelly	Sweet Waffles 4, 5, 10, 12	Angel Delight 10	Assorted Ice Cream 10	



Dean Field Community Primary School
"Learning Without Limits"



Parent Code of Conduct

To ensure a safe, kind and inclusive environment for all children, families and staff, we ask all parents and carers to follow the school's Code of Conduct.



1. Behaviour on School Grounds

- **No vaping or smoking** anywhere on school grounds, including outside the school gates.
- **No swearing, shouting, or inappropriate language** in or around the school.
- **No inappropriate or disrespectful comments** towards staff, children, visitors, or other parents.
- Treat **all staff, pupils, parents, and visitors with respect** at all times.
- **Parents must remain in the workshop area** and must not walk around the school building unaccompanied. All visitors must sign in and wait to be escorted by a member of staff.

2. Mobile Phones, Photos, and Videos

- **Mobile phones must be kept off, silent, and away** during the workshop and while on school grounds.
- **No photos or videos** may be taken anywhere on the school premises to protect pupil safety and privacy.

3. Attendance and Punctuality

- Please **arrive on time** for workshops to avoid disruption.
- If you are unable to attend, please inform the school as soon as possible.

4. Health and Safety

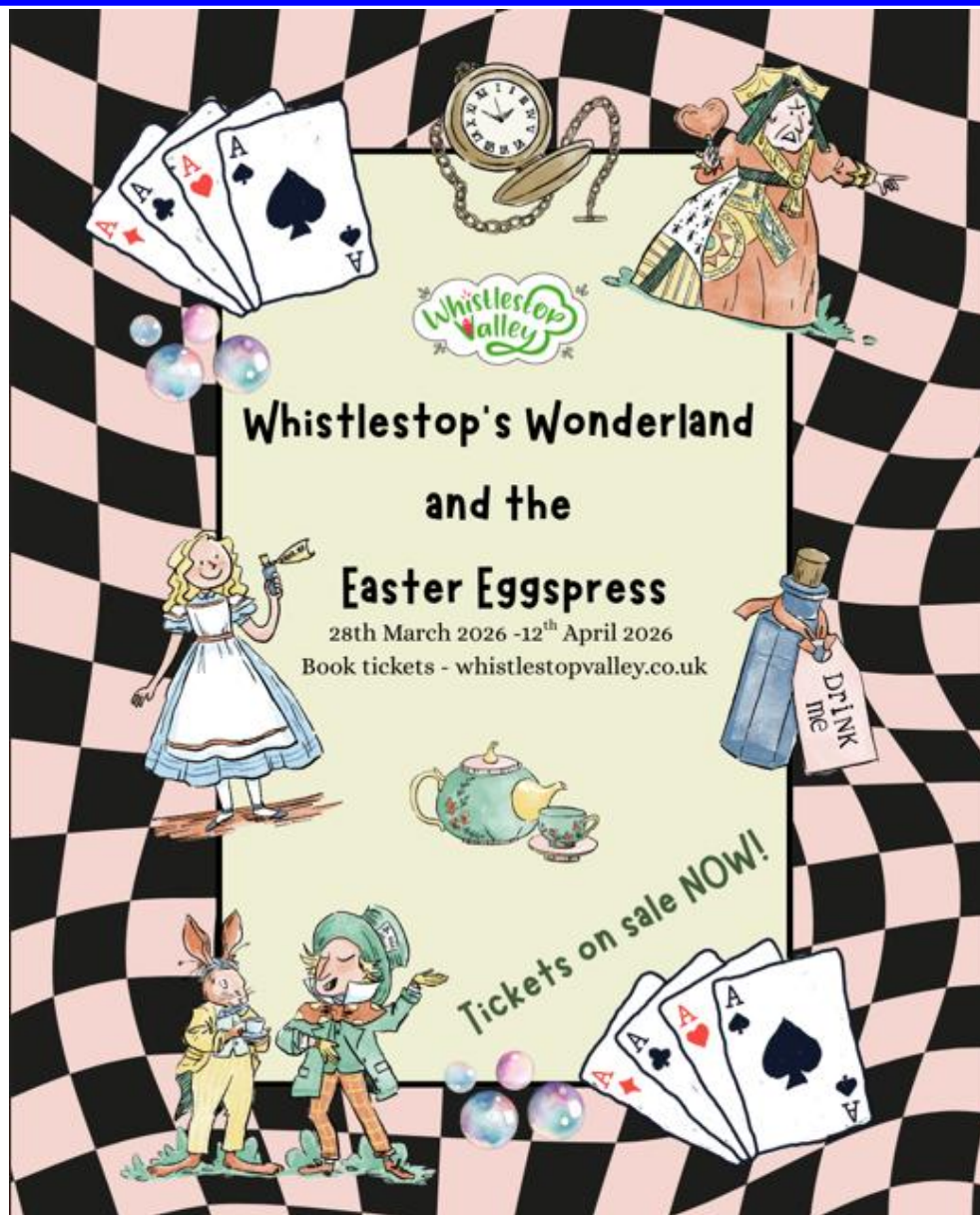
- Follow all **school safety instructions** given by staff.
- Do not bring **dangerous or prohibited items** onto the school site.
- Keep entrances, walkways, and exits **clear and safe** at all times.
- **Supervise younger children closely** while on school grounds.
- Report any **hazards or safeguarding concerns** to a member of staff immediately.

5. Creating a Positive Workshop Environment

- Be a **positive role model** for all children.
- Support staff in maintaining a **calm, focused learning environment**.
- Raise any concerns **calmly and respectfully** through the appropriate school channels.

Date	30/3	1/4	2/4	2/4	7/4	7/4
Time	11am - 12.30pm	2.30pm - 4pm	10am - 11.30am	1.30pm - 3pm	1.30pm - 3pm	3pm - 5pm
Event	Easter Arts and Crafts	YMCA Rollerblading Event	Easter Arts and Crafts	Easter Arts and Crafts	Happy Bunny Disco and fun activities with 'Bella Bubbles'	Playtime at Little Grandma's Playroom
Age	For ages 0-8yrs	For ages 3+ (size 6 junior shoe)	For ages 0-8yrs	For ages 0-3yrs	For ages 0-8yrs	For ages 0-8yrs
Where	Creations Family Hub, HX2 0QE Booking essential. Call 01422 434006.	YMCA Halifax, HX1 1UG. Booking essential. Call 01422 252022.	Ash Green Family Hub, HX2 8QD Booking essential. Call 01422 243 941.	Jubilee Family Hub, HX1 5NB. No need to book!	Siddal Primary School, HX3 9DL. No need to book!	Little Grandma's Playroom, HX5 9BX. Booking required. Call 01422 652367.

Date	7/4	8/4	9/4	9/4	10/4	10/4
Time	1pm - 3pm	11am - 12.30pm	11am - 12.30pm	1.30pm - 3pm	11am - 12.30pm	1pm - 3pm
Event	Natty Lane Park Easter Trail	Happy Bunny Disco and fun activities with 'Bella Bubbles'	Easter Arts and Crafts	Happy Bunny Disco and fun activities with 'Bella Bubbles'	Easter Arts and Crafts	Shroggs Park Easter Trail
Age	Everyone welcome	For ages 0-8yrs	For ages 0-8yrs	For ages 0-8yrs	For ages 0-8yrs	Everyone welcome
Where	Natty Lane Park. Booking required via communitiesteam@nhpltd.org.uk	Todmorden Community College. No need to book!	Boothtown Family Hub, HX3 6PU. No need to book!	Wellholme Park Family Hub, HD6 4AF. Booking required. Call 01484 262051.	Northowram and Shelf Family Hub, HX3 7EJ. Booking required. Call 01422 252209 to book.	Shroggs Park, Halifax. Booking required via communitiesteam@nhpltd.org.uk



Whistlestop's Wonderland and the Easter Eggspress

Spring is officially here at Whistlestop Valley! Once again over the Easter Holidays, we will be taking a trip down the rabbit hole to Wonderland!

Join us from 28th March - 12th April 2026 for Whistlestop's Wonderland and the Easter Eggspress.

Hop aboard the Easter Eggspress steam train to see Alice and watch graceful performances featuring bubbles, foam and captivating juggling - plenty of magical moments and photo opportunities throughout the day!

At Clayton West, the Mad Hatter awaits with his delightful blend of magic, comedy and interactive fun. Don't miss out on the playful chaos he brings!

Simply book a Big Adventure ticket to enjoy all of this, plus our activities including Crazy Golf, Jumping pillow, whizz around the Clayton Flyer, Pedal Cars and more!
Don't be late! Book your tickets at www.whistlestopvalley.co.uk

DIARY DATES

DATE	EVENT
Monday 30th March	School Closes
Monday 13th April	School Opens
Wednesday 22nd April	Parents Evening

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 ...

Caring

“
Try to be a rainbow
in someone's cloud.

Maya Angelou

TTRS and Numbots Stars of the Week



**TTRS Star of the Week
(Minutes played)**

Drake in Year 4



NumBots Star of the Week

Caitlin in Year 2

This Week's Attendance

Congratulations to **China** 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 China!** 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,
Loraine Stansfield, Pastoral Manager

Group	% Attendance
Mexico	93.3%
China	96.2%
Australia	89.7%
Poland	93.1%
Kenya	93.8%
Brazil	93.2%
Ireland	95.9%
Total	93.6%