



As the Chair of Governors at Dean Field, I bring my experience from my time as a Governor here since 2023. In this role, I chair our regular meetings and lead the Board in ensuring it fulfils its function. A key part of my role is to build a strong relationship with the headteacher, providing support while maintaining a focus on continued improvement at the school.

I have two older children who previously attended Dean Field and a younger child currently in Year 4. Although my background is not in education, the transferrable skills from my professional career and other volunteering roles are invaluable in my role as Governor.

I believe it is vital for everyone – children and staff – to feel safe, healthy, and happy to enable them to perform their best in school. As the Health and Safety lead on the Board of Governors, I am committed to ensuring a secure and supportive environment. I truly enjoy the opportunity to make a positive impact on our school community.

If you have any concerns you wish to raise with me in my capacity as Chair, please direct them to the school admin address and they will be forwarded on.

Sarah Gledhill
Chair of Governors



Reminder: Any outstanding balances will need to be cleared before tickets for school events, fundraisers or other paid activities can be purchased. If you have a balance outstanding, please get in touch with the school office if you have any questions. Thank you for your understanding and support!

What Parents & Educators Need to Know about **CHARACTER.AI**

Character.AI is an entertainment platform where users create and chat with AI-powered characters. These chatbots can act like existing favourite characters from movies or books, or like friends, mentors, or even romantic partners, responding in an emotional, personally engaging way. Although this can encourage creativity, it can also make a generated conversation feel like a genuine relationship, which is concerning if it takes the place of human relationships.

WHAT ARE THE RISKS?

INAPPROPRIATE CONTENT

AI replies are generated in real time rather than chosen from a fully checked script. Even with safety filters on, conversations can still move into sexual, violent, discriminatory, or self-harm material. These AI characters are often made by users, so a familiar name or child-friendly description does not guarantee that every response from the character will be suitable for a young person.

BLURRED BOUNDARIES

Characters on Character.AI can use the language of friendship, love, and empathy without ever feeling anything. Vulnerable young people may struggle to separate this simulation from genuine understanding. Romantic role-play or a character that demands attention, loyalty, or secrecy could also risk distorting young people's expectations around consent, disagreement, and the give-and-take involved in healthy human relationships.

UNRELIABLE ADVICE

Characters, like other chatbot platforms, are at risk of inventing facts or giving inappropriate advice while sounding completely confident. Characters may also echo a young person's assumptions instead of questioning them. This can become particularly risky when users rely on a character for guidance about health, mental wellbeing, relationships, money, or personal safety instead of checking with a credible source or trusted adult.

EMOTIONAL DEPENDENCY

Character.AI chatbots can appear endlessly attentive, supportive, and affectionate, which is one of the hallmarks of the generative AI models that such companions are built on. A young person may start turning to a character chatbot whenever they feel lonely or upset and believe that it understands them better than the humans in their life. This can become more concerning when chatting starts to replace sleep, schoolwork, hobbies and friendships.

PRIVACY CONCERNS

Character.AI chats may feel private, especially when a bot sounds personal and caring, but they take place on a company's online systems. Users could intentionally or unintentionally reveal their name, school, location, routines, images, or intimate concerns. Character.AI says some data may be retained to improve its services and AI models, so young people should never treat a chatbot like a confidential diary.

UNHEALTHY ENGAGEMENT

Be aware of warning signs such as secret accounts, bypassing age restrictions, hiding phone use from adults, chatting late at night, distress when access to the platform or character stops, withdrawal from other people, falling interest in school, or believing the character is conscious. Increased use may also signal that the young person is already lonely, anxious, or seeking help.

Advice for Parents & Educators

KEEP CONVERSATIONS OPEN

Ask what the young person enjoys about Character.AI and invite them to show you how the platform and their favourite characters work. Useful questions include, "Has it ever said something that felt wrong?" and "How can you tell it doesn't have feelings?" Avoid shaming them for using platforms like Character.AI or making them feel there is something wrong with them for doing so.

PAUSE, CHECK AND ASK

Teach young people to pause before accepting an answer from characters on Character.AI. Encourage them to check important claims against a trustworthy source and ask a safe adult when the issue matters. Never use a character as the sole source of medical, mental health, legal, financial, or safeguarding advice. Remind them not to share passwords, contact details, school information, live locations, or private images.

CHECK AGE, SETTINGS & LIMITS

Character.AI's minimum age is 16 in the UK, but open-ended companion chat is restricted to adults aged 18 or over. Users aged 16 to 17 receive a different experience built around guided 'Stories' and other creative or social features. Check their current settings, never help or encourage a young person to give a false age, and apply the same safety rules to other chatbot apps.

NOTICE AND RESPOND

Take action if chats involve sexual content, threats, coercion, abuse, self-harm or danger. Save relevant evidence, report the character and follow the setting's safeguarding process; educators should involve the designated safeguarding lead. If anyone is in immediate danger, contact emergency services. Childline is available on 0800 1111 and the NSPCC Helpline on 0800 800 5000.

Meet Our Expert

Darren Coxon is an educator with almost 30 years' experience across teaching, school leadership, and governance. He works internationally, supporting schools and colleges with AI leadership and governance, as well as teaching the key fundamentals of AI use and safety to educators at The National College.



#WakeUpWednesday

The National College



Mrs Stansfield
Pastoral Manager



**PASTORAL AND SEND
SUPPORT
IN OUR SCHOOL**

Miss Clay & Mrs Stansfield



Miss Clay
SENDCo



**Non-Uniform
Day!**

Friday 9th October 2026

For World Homelessness Day on 10th October

*COME IN NON-UNIFORM AND
BRING £1 FOR HAPPY DAYS*

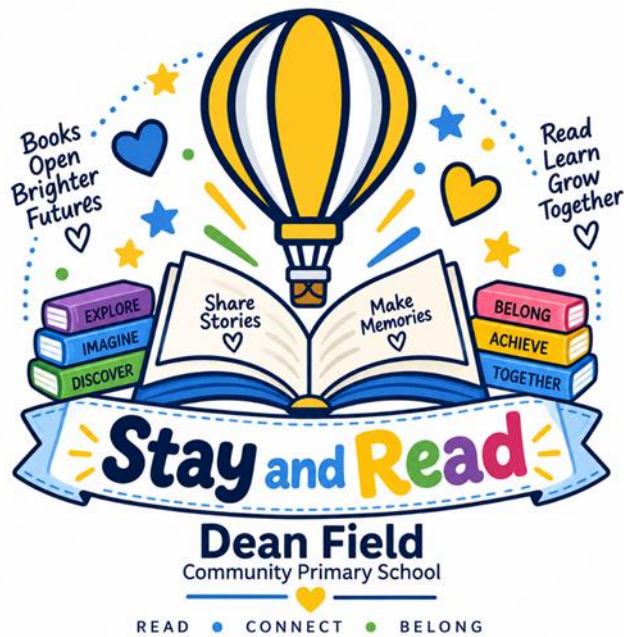
£1 = 1 hot meal for someone in need

Arts Ambassadors

Our new Arts Ambassadors have officially received their badges in gold book assembly today! They have an important role to play throughout the year, supporting and celebrating the arts across school. We're so excited to see the impact they make this year!

Year 1: Noah and Lyla
Year 2: Aria and Matias
Year 3: Zarmish and Freddie
Year 4: Maya and Franklin
Year 5: Ellie and Riley
Year 6: Melissa and Colin





A huge thank you to all our wonderful parents and carers who joined us for our Stay and Read sessions this week. It was lovely to see so many of you sharing books with the children. Your support is so important in helping us promote a love of reading across school.





Dean Field
Community Primary School

**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**





Free Breakfast *Club*



**MONDAY TO
FRIDAY 8-8:30AM
RECEPTION TO
YEAR 6**

**LAST ENTRY 8:20AM
NO NEED TO PREBOOK -
JUST TURN UP!**

*'Staff are amazing,
caring and attentive'*

*'Supports the children and
the transition in to class'*

*'It's great for children to
socialise and
eat breakfast together before
going to class'*

*'Great selection of different
foods'*

*'It's good for parents that need to
attend work'*



**IF YOU WOULD LIKE TO BOOK YOUR N-Y6
CHILD ONTO THE PAID BREAKFAST CLUB
FROM 7:30AM PLEASE CONTACT THE
SCHOOL OFFICE ON 01422 258 258.**

Week Commencing Monday 28th September 2026

 School Meals Menu - Week 2 					
2	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday
Hot Meal Option	Cod & Parsley Fishcake 2	Sausages 5, 8	Homemade Lasagne 5, 10	Roast Chicken Dinner	Homemade Creamy Chicken Pasta 5, 10
	Quorn Hot Dogs Sausage 5 Bun 5, 14	Homemade Vegetable Quiche 5, 10, 12	Pizza 5, 10	Homemade Vegetarian Cottage Pie 4, 10	Mac n Cheese Croquettes 5, 10
Vegetables	Chips Spaghetti Hoops Peas	Mashed Potato 10 Broccoli Carrots	Wedges Green Beans Sweetcorn	New Potatoes Broccoli Cauliflower	Wedges Peas Sweetcorn
Served Daily	Jacket Potatoes with various fillings (Tuna Mayo, Beans, Cheese) Selection of Wraps & Sandwiches Salad Bar Fresh Fruit, Yoghurts & Fruit Cocktail				
Dessert	Arctic Roll 4, 5, 10, 12	Cheesecake 5, 10	Homemade Choc Chip Sponge 5, 10, 12 Custard 10	Vanilla Milkshake 10 & Homemade Cookie 5, 10, 12	Fresh Fruit Selection
	American Pancakes 5, 10, 12	Assorted Ice Cream 10	Strawberry Jelly	Mango & Orange Frozen Smoothie	Choobs 10



YEAR 6 OPEN EVENING

Wednesday 30th September 2026

5:15pm until 7pm

School tours & lesson demonstrations

Opportunity to talk to staff & students

Headteacher Talks at 5:30pm & 6pm



For more information call 01422 301080 or email office@thehalifaxacademy.org

Calderdale Adult Learning

What free, part-time courses would you like to see in North Halifax?

Complete a [short survey](#) to help Calderdale Adult Learning shape new learning opportunities in your community.

Your feedback will help them to plan and deliver courses that local people need and want.

Closing date is 11th October.



Calderdale Adult Learning

Do you live in North Halifax?

We want to know what free courses you'd like to see in your community.

Scan the QR code to complete the short survey.



Deadline 11th October



OLD RISH GIRLS RUGBY

#ONECLUB #ALLWELCOME #TRYRUGBY

GIVE RUGBY A GO!

INTRO TO RUGBY TAG SESSIONS

SCHOOL YEARS 2-7



- CONFIDENCE
- FRIENDSHIP
- RESILIENCE
- TEAMWORK
- FUN & FITNESS

• WEDNESDAYS @6:30PM

• FREE MEMBERSHIP

CALL LAURA - 07543 654 242

JOIN THE JOURNEY #UPTHERISH

WWW.PITCHERO.COM/CLUBS/OLDRISHWORTHIAN OLD RISHWORTHIAN RUFC @ORRUFC

DIARY DATES

DATE	EVENT
Wednesday 7th October	Grandparent's Day
Friday 9th October	World Homeless Day non-uniform
Monday 12th October	Rec Copley Woods Trip
Tuesday 13th October	Rec Copley Woods Trip

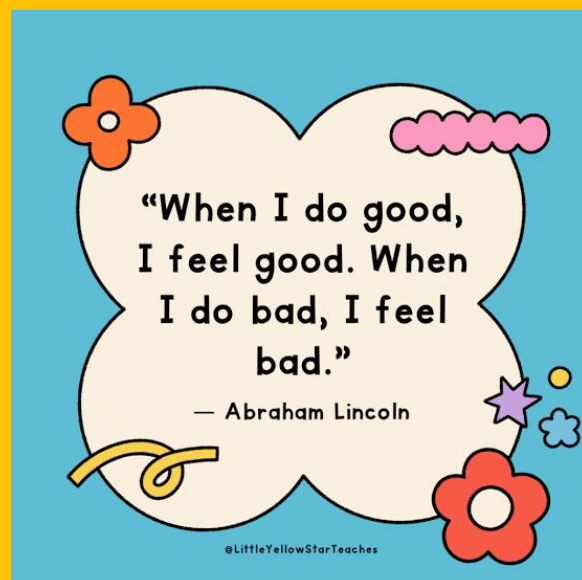
REMINDER: All school fees, dinner money, extended provision and Nursery fees need to be paid in advance.
We do not offer any credit and there are no exceptions.
Please pay fees on time.

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 ...



Accelerated Reader – Reading Achievements this week



Australia	81%
Poland	84%
Kenya	90%
Brazil	82%
Ireland	84%

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)

Drake in Year 5
(29 minutes)



NumBots Star of the Week
(Minutes Played)

Daryl in Year 1
(58 minutes)

This Week's Attendance

Group	% Attendance
Mexico	92.9%
China	94.5%
Australia	98.8%
Poland	96.3%
Kenya	94.8%
Brazil	94.8%
Ireland	96.8%
Italy	79.7%
Total	94.9%

Congratulations to **Australia** class who had the highest attendance in 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, Poland and Ireland!** 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

CELEBRATION ASSEMBLY

Mexico Reception	Issac M	For always showing kindness and caring for his friends in class.
	Lorenzo A	For fantastic homework and having a go!
China Year 1	Myla M	For being a great role model in class.
	Harlo A	For great independent work and always having a try.
Australia Year 2	Ayvah-May K	For showing amazing effort in Canada class!
	Fraser R	For trying your best and creating great character descriptions!
Poland Year 3	Vanessa A	For super English work and extra work at home!
	Reuben G	For being a good role model in your play time club.
Kenya Year 4	Maya T	For always doing the right thing; will help the adults and children in class without hesitation.
	Cub M	For lovely manners. Always has his hand up to answer questions and tries his best.
Brazil Year 5	Drake C	For great focus and producing some fantastic ideas in his writing.
	Elijah P	For following class routines well and having a 'can do' attitude in all lessons.
Ireland Year 6	Millie-Lou A	For always doing the right thing and trying hard in forest school.
	Elliot R	For trying hard in PE and good teamwork.