

# DALE HOUSE SCHOOL

Telephone 01924 422 215

## NEWSLETTER

Issue 1

Autumn 2009

The days and nights are already drawing in. How quickly the summer holidays have gone! Welcome back to a new academic year, to all our parents and a special 'Hello' to all our little new ones in Nursery, Prep, Transition and Form 1 & 2. All new pupils have settled well and other children are enjoying their new form teachers and time-tables. The staff and Junior School are celebrating the announcement of the new Head Boy and Girl : Hamza Naeem and Edie Sykes. They will hold these posts for 6 months and then two more children will be given the same opportunity. I am pleased to be writing to you in our new academic year.

Throughout the year a lot of information for parents is placed on our Parent's Notice boards and on our web-site [www.dhschool.co.uk](http://www.dhschool.co.uk) All documentation for parents about the running of the school is held in the school reception area, outside the school office. If parents require information or have any concerns, please do not hesitate to contact school by phone, email, or call in at the front office and ask for advice or guidance. If parents need to see Mrs Fletcher, will they please make an appointment with Mrs Demetriou. Mrs Fletcher's teaching commitments and attendance at courses, etc., means she is unable to see parents otherwise.

This week all pupils began their second full week of their new school timetables (on the Parent classroom notice-boards). As pupils move into Transition and Forms 1 upwards, parents will notice that children are being taught by their Form teachers and teachers who specialize wherever possible for certain subjects, e.g. Mrs Willis – Music; Miss Chester – Music, P.E. and R.E., Mrs Fletcher – English, Drama and History; Mrs Brady – French; Miss Windows – Spanish; Mrs Smith – Maths and Science.

In the academic year, your children will receive a written report every 6 months, one in February 2010 and one in July 2010. Your child's yellow or red diary, will be used by staff to keep you informed of school events and your child's progress on a daily basis. This diary is important – please keep it safe and try to read it daily. It is an important part of our monitoring procedures in school. We check housepoints,

homework, attitude and progress each week. **Please can you sign and say you have read it each week.** Please feel free to write in the diary to let staff know information. All notes from staff in the diary will be brief, please speak to staff for further details(s). In October 2009 and May 2010 Parents' Evenings will take place, where you can discuss your child's progress in a private meeting with their class leader-teacher. Any parent who wishes to see their child's work or discuss their child's progress at any time, may do so with the Form teacher or headmistress by appointment.

### **IMPORTANT NOTICE**

Please inform school immediately of any change in address or telephone numbers, particularly mobile phones, so our emergency records are kept up to date!

### **Medical Conditions**

We keep in school a Medical Plan for any child who has a known medical condition. These are up-dated every year. If you have not informed the school of your child's medical needs, could you please write a letter explaining any changes to medication or condition (eg. does your child still need the inhaler we keep in school?) and send it to school as soon as possible. Thank you.

### **Ballet & Music Exams**

Mrs Willis will be entering some pupils for their music exams later this year. Practise at home is essential. Can parents please encourage their child to practise.

Children also studying the guitar with Mr Boyle, need to practise every week before their lesson on Tuesday (10 minutes every night).

The Ballet teacher, Mrs Raine, will be entering children for exams in the Summer Term who are ready for their grades.

### **Uniform**

It is lovely to see all pupils looking smart in their new uniforms. We remind parents that uniform must be worn at all times. Will parents please

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check that ALL items of uniform are named, including hats, P.E. kit, outdoor coats, ballet and tap kit, etc. The wearing of boots, black or navy trainers (or school shoes that look like trainers) braided hair-pieces, nail polish, earrings (except studs) and jewellery (rings, bracelets, etc.) is not permitted. Years 1-6 – all children need a navy school coat for playing outside. Please send one in to school this week.

Please see the list of School Rules on the notice-boards. All uniform is from Rawcliffes Uniform shop in Dewsbury.

### **School Clubs**

School Activity Clubs began on Monday 7<sup>th</sup> September. At the end of each Club, pupils will be dismissed into the school yard at 4.20pm. Would parents wishing to collect children from these clubs please wait in the school yard. At 4.30pm any child remaining from the Clubs i.e. Games, Art & Craft, Choir, Spanish, Sport, Theatre/Drama, Piano or Singing, will go into the Late Club system. As the Hall is used for Christmas plays etc., activity clubs finish on Friday 20<sup>th</sup> November.

**\*Will parents please note there are no school activity clubs on Parents' Evenings**

### **Homework**

Homework will be set regularly. We ask that parents ensure all reading and homework is done every day. In the Junior department, homework is set every night. Pupils may do homework in the Junior Homework Club, 3 times a week. Any pupil who does not do their homework will miss their morning break the following day in order to finish it, unless a note is sent from home explaining the reason why it has not been completed.

### **Music/Ballet & Tap Lessons**

These begin on a rota. Ten lessons will be provided and there will be no refund for a pupil's absence. If a child wishes to withdraw from these lessons, **one full term's notice must be given in writing, a letter of notice must be received at the latest on the first day of a new term.** Music and Dance teachers' time is booked a term in advance eg. we have already booked teachers for the Spring Term based on pupil's needs and numbers on 2<sup>nd</sup> September 2009.

### **Publicity**

During the school year a number of events (Harvest Festival, Teddy Bear's Picnic,

Christmas plays, etc.) may appear in the local newspapers or as publicity shots in Prospectuses or advertisements. If you have any objection to your child being photographed in school and their names being used, please let Mrs Fletcher and the Form teacher know.

### **Health Warnings**

1. If your child is unwell, please do not bring him/her to school, for the health and safety of all other children and staff.
2. If your child has been sick before school, **please do not send them to school for at least 48 hours.** Mrs Fletcher will not hesitate to send a child home who has been sick under these circumstances.

### **Holiday Club**

Holiday club is fun and a great success. Book early to avoid disappointment. Forms will go out at the end of September. Parents please note that the Holiday club will run for a week during October half-term. Monday 26<sup>th</sup> – Friday 30<sup>th</sup> October. Christmas Holiday Club will run from Monday 14<sup>th</sup> December to Wednesday 23<sup>rd</sup> December. Tuesday 29<sup>th</sup>-Thursday 31<sup>st</sup> December only. Holiday Club will run from 8am-5.00pm daily.

**\*Holiday Club will not run in the February or May half-terms, when the school will be shut, including Nursery.**

### **Start of the Day**

The School gates open at 8.30am. Any pupils who arrive before **8.25am** must please use the blue main door and get signed in to the Early Club.

Parents please note Early Club closes at 8.25am because all pupils leave the Early Club to go up to their classrooms. *After this time please wait outside the Prep class room door or in the lower school playground when the doors will be opened at 8.30am.*

**Will all parents please leave school by 8.55am. The doors and gate will be locked at 9am. Assembly starts at 9.05am**

### **Absences from school**

If your child is absent from school please ring the school office before 9am to let us know and send in a letter of explanation (for our files) when your child returns to school. Thank you.

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### FRIENDS OF DALE HOUSE

#### *PTA Meeting*

On Thursday 17<sup>th</sup> September 6.30-7.30pm  
ALL WELCOME!

#### *\*Pink Day\**

Thursday 15<sup>th</sup> October : Junior School are holding events to raising funds for the Breast Cancer Charity. Please support this – thank you.

#### *\*Children In Need Cake Stall\**

Friday 20<sup>th</sup> November 8-9am and 3.30-5.30pm  
(Cakes/buns, etc., needed please)

### *School Rewards*

Children are rewarded for good work, play, etc., in school in many ways, eg. daily verbal praise, a showing of their work in assembly, cups, house-points, stickers, certificates, sweets and chocolate. Any parent who does not want their child to receive sweets as a reward for good work or behaviour, please see their child's form teacher and alternatives will be suggested.

### *Your Child's Safety*

May I ask that, in the interests of safety, pupils in Lower School (2-7 years) are escorted into school and **to classrooms every morning** and that parents then leave as soon as possible by 8.55am. **Will parents please close all school doors and gates when entering or leaving school.**

On entering or leaving school, all children **must** be continuously supervised by their parents or guardians in the school grounds and car park, as it is a potentially dangerous area. **Please do not let your child climb on walls, railings, playground furniture, etc.**

**Children are not allowed to walk on the garden areas or go near the rubbish bins.**

### *Parking*

It would help the parking and safety situation enormously if parents entered Ruby Street at the top of the street and exited at the bottom or half-way down, along Amber Street. **Please do not park outside the school gates, they must be kept clear for emergencies.**

### *TOYS*

Pupils may bring their own toys to school on Fridays. Will parents please ensure that all toys are clearly named and are **small enough to go into satchels.**

### *Friends of Dale House*

Meeting in school on Thursday 17<sup>th</sup> September. Events planned – Christmas Fair on Saturday 28<sup>th</sup> November. Any parents wanting to do a stall, please let the office know.

### ADVANCE NOTICE A DATE FOR YOUR DIARY!

**An exciting and enjoyable night!!!**

*Friends of Dale House*  
**SPRING BALL –**  
**SATURDAY 27<sup>TH</sup> MARCH 2010**  
**At Cedar Court Hotel, Wakefield**  
**7.30pm to midnight**  
**3 course meal/Disco (Tables of 10)**  
**\*Raffle prizes needed and sponsors**  
**for flowers, etc.**  
**Tickets £35**

### *School Exams*

Advance notice that the S.A.T.'s and school exams for Year 2 and the Junior School (Years 3/4 and 5/6) will be held during the week 10<sup>th</sup>-14<sup>th</sup> May. Please note that school exams will take place the week before.

### *Tesco, Sainsbury vouchers*

Thank you for all your help in collecting these shopping vouchers, they have been used to acquire lots of sports equipment for the school. Once again we will be collecting these vouchers and would be grateful if you would continue to send them to the form teachers or place them in the collection box when they are available at these stores. Thank you.

This is a very busy time, please see the separate sheet attached which lists the events taking place in school this term. We hope to see all parents, the children and their families throughout the term and especially at our end of term services in December.

S.M.G.Fletcher  
Headmistress

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### BAGS TO SCHOOL DAY

29<sup>TH</sup> JANUARY 2010

Bags will be sent to you in January.  
Why not have a good clear out after  
Christmas and help FODH raise funds!

### SCHOOL EXAMS

Years 2-6

School exams 5<sup>th</sup>-7<sup>th</sup> May

SATS EXAMS

Monday 10<sup>th</sup> – Friday 14<sup>th</sup> May

17<sup>th</sup> – 19<sup>th</sup> May 2010

### JUNIOR SCHOOL TRIP

(All children in Years 4, 5, and 6 classes)

**ROBINWOOD ACTIVITY CENTRE – Todmorden**  
(climbing, canoeing, trekking, etc.)

**Cost : £198**

Payment card issued for parents wishing to pay  
towards the cost each week (on Mondays)

**£50 deposit required by 9<sup>th</sup> October 2009**

**PARENT'S MEETING for Robinwood**

**TUESDAY 19<sup>TH</sup> JANUARY 2010**

**6.30-7.30PM**

### ***WEAR IT PINK DAY***

***Thursday, 15<sup>th</sup> October***

***Breast Cancer Charity***

Junior School event

**Pink stall**

Pink items needed for this stall please  
and for the raffle.

### **CHRISTMAS NEWS!**

See your child's Christmas card  
design at Parent's Evening and  
order your personalized cards!!!

**SANTA LETTER (£3.50)**

If you wish for your child to receive a  
personalized letter from Santa, please  
fill in the forms at Parent's Evening  
and pay £3.50