



SCISSETT MIDDLE SCHOOL

Newsletter

April 2019

As we move to the end of the Spring term, I wanted to write to parents to keep you informed of all the events that have happened in school over the last very busy term and events to look forward to in the final term of the year.

Ann Large – Head of School

Attendance

At Scissett Middle School we are committed to ensuring that your child reaches their full potential in all aspects of their education. In order to achieve this, we have set ourselves a target of 97% attendance; it is vital that your child attends school regularly and punctually. We would like to congratulate the many parents who make sure their children attend school regularly. Current whole school attendance at the end of the week 29th March was 96.5% so we are almost at our target with your support hopefully we will hit this in the next half term.

Uniform

A reminder that after Easter, pupils may wear shorts and do not need to wear jumpers at school when the weather is hot. Unless the weather is very hot, pupils should bring their jumpers to school as it is not appropriate to wear an alternative if the weather becomes colder. Can I also take this opportunity to remind parents that boots, trainers and canvas shoes are not allowed in school.

Cashless System

Just a reminder that from Monday 29th April 2019 Scissett Middle School will be going cashless. This means we will no longer be taking any cash payments in school, apart from the charity dress differently days where pupils pay £1. The ParentPay system allows you to make payments for any school activities such as trips, clubs, books, lockers, etc. We will also be adding some school uniform items, such as ties, in the future. Payments can be made either by using a secure website or Pay Point facility at your local newsagent.

Awards

Arts Award

Forty pupils took part in the Arts Award this year. Work varied from abstract Jackson Pollock inspired paintings, to stain glass windows, animation, dream catches and several sculptures.

Once again the Arts Award moderator was very impressed with all of the pupil's work. After a lot of hard work throughout two terms the gym became Scissett's own Art Gallery and every pupil put their work on display, parents were invited to look at all the work and certificates were awarded. All pupils achieved the Bronze Award. This carries with it a Level one qualification, level 2 equates to a GCSE. On the third evening Year 7 pupils and their parents were invited to walk around our gallery and Mr Terry explained the how the award works and the work needed. So far 70 pupils have expressed an interest in taking part – the gallery will need to expand!



Wellbeing Award

We are also really proud to have been awarded The Wellbeing Award for Schools, a national standard for positive mental health and emotional wellbeing. This initiative was led by Miss Crossley and the school was assessed in January after many new initiatives had been successfully implemented. A big thank you Miss Crossley and to everyone involved for their hard work in gaining the award and the ongoing work that helps support all pupils and staff in the school. Please find attached the Spring Wrap Up that gives further details about the work in school and beyond.

Year 6 SATs

Year 6 will complete their SATs during the week beginning 13th May and will have some time the week before with English and Maths teachers to prepare. All pupils have worked incredibly hard and I am sure they will show just how brilliant they are during that week. We have built in preparation time for Year 6 in school time and as part of the programme of homework and would ask that parents both support and monitor at home. Parents should, of course, use their own judgement about appropriate time spent on homework to ensure children have lots of time to relax and spend with family and maintain a healthy balance. SATs' results are used nationally as GCSE indicators, and so we work with pupils to enable them to do the best they can as they move into their Secondary phase of education, but they are merely a point in time and test under a very narrow format. They do not test resilience, respect and tolerance or sporting prowess and artistic skills – qualities displayed by all of our pupils which are highly valued, and for which we seek to reward and recognise in other ways. We are very proud of each and every child in Year 6.

The SAT timetable is as follows:

Date	Time	Paper
Monday 13 th May	Morning	English Grammar, Punctuation and Spelling (Papers 1 & 2)
Tuesday 14 th May	Morning	English Reading
Wednesday 15 th May	Morning	Mathematics Paper 1
Wednesday 15 th May	Afternoon	Mathematics Paper 2
Thursday 15 th May	Morning	Mathematics Paper 3

Aladdin

Our final event of this term has been our school production of Aladdin. Rehearsals have been ongoing after school and on a weekend for many weeks. In addition to running the numerous rehearsals for singing, acting and dancing staff have been busy making props, costumes and scenery. I would like to thank Mr Osborne and Mrs McDonald and all the pupils involved for their time and commitment to making this such an amazing production, Mrs Ward for making all the costumes, Mrs Dacres for the choreography and Mr Terry and his artists – staff past and present for the scenery. What a superb way to end the term!

Careers

We have successfully fully attained 'The Quality in Careers Standard' and are one of only twenty-two schools in England that have reached 100% of the Gatsby Benchmarks. The Quality in Careers Standard is the National quality award for careers education, information, advice and guidance (CEIAG) in schools, colleges and work-based learning. Some of you may have seen the articles in the Yorkshire Post about the 6 schools in the region ourselves included that have achieved the award. Every year 8 pupil has now been on a University or College with a campus visit and a 6th form college. Some pupils have done college taster sessions in robotics, engineering, hair and beauty, media make-up, electrical engineering and animal care. Some pupils visited Honley High School's Careers Fair. A big thank you to Mrs Greenleaf who has led on this throughout the year and has worked extremely hard to ensure we achieved the award and that all our pupils feel prepared for their future studies and life beyond.

Careers Fair

This is to be the first Scissett Careers fair and will take place on the morning of Wednesday the 8th May from 9 till 12.15. There will be a number of stalls from Businesses and Educational establishments. We have also invited Kirkburton and Joseph Norton School Year 8 students to attend.

BBC 500 Words

On February 7th, we had an enthusiastic group of students digging deep in their imaginations for ideas for a 500-word story for the annual BBC 500 Word Story Competition.



Book Fair

The Book Fair ran from the 4th to the 8th of March in the LRC, book sales were £748, giving us commission of 50% to spend in Scholastic on new books for the LRC.

Sporting Events

It has been another busy sporting term with teams competing in football, hockey, netball, basketball, athletics, cross country, new age curling and boccia.

Sportshall Athletics

All our Sports Hall Athletics teams (Year 6, 7 and 8 girls and boys), were successful in the primary rounds of the athletics and went on to compete in the Kirklees Schools finals. The Year 8 girls and Year 7 boys were victorious and went on to represent Kirklees in the West Yorkshire Winter Games. The Year 8 girls finished in 2nd place just one point behind the winners. Although disappointed by the result it was an amazing effort by all involved. Year 7 Boys finished in 5th place overall another fantastic performance. Having had success in previous rounds the Year 6 Girls Cross Country team represented Kirklees in the West Yorkshire Winter Games Finals.

Netball

The Year 8 netball team completed the double by winning both the league and end of season tournament. This is a fantastic achievement and well deserved victories.

Basketball

The Year 8 basketball team completed the double by winning both the league and end of season tournament. Another amazing achievement.

Football

The Year 6 girls football team won the first round of the Premier Stars Football Tournament qualifying for the regional round, narrowly missing out on the national finals, this was a fantastic effort by the girls. The Year 6 Boys football team finished second in the first round of the Premier Stars football tournament narrowly missing out on the regional finals. Year 7 and 8 boys football league are still on going.

There have been fixtures against KMS in New Age Curling and Boccia. Our Year 8 Sport Leaders have had many opportunities to go into our feeder school to help run events and have run events held at SMS. As part of the SSCo program we have hosted under 6, 7 and 8 football tournaments and a key stage 2 girls football tournament.

Centre of Excellence for Sport

Scissett Middle, Kirkburton Middle, Shelley College and fifteen first schools have been awarded, the Centre of Excellence Award from Yorkshire Sport for their continued hard work to ensure all pupils are given the opportunity to take part in sport with in the pyramid.

Drop Down Days

On the 5th of March classes had an opportunity to come off timetable to discuss the theme of diversity and difference. The aims and objectives were to consider the idea of diversity and difference and to look at the themes of tolerance and respect. The afternoon included an assembly and a chance to produce a class charter showcasing discussion ideas based on the importance of respect and tolerance. Video clips and poetry were used to prompt important discussion on how we treat others and allowed us to consider how our speech and actions affects others. At SMS we strongly believe that our school should be a safe place for everyone, that we can celebrate our differences, support each other and be proud of who we are!

On May 8th, 9th and 10th, we will have a careers and well-being event in school for our Year 7 and 8 pupils whilst Year 6 have time with their English and Maths' teachers in a last push before SATs the following week. It is shaping up to be a very exciting few days.

Recycling

Recycling club/Eco club have made some exciting stride forwards in the past few terms. Organised recycling bins for the school dinner hall, which hopefully can help us do our bit for the community as well as the world.

We have also set up a pen recycling point which a useful method of keeping a track of old and used pens which normally would end up in a landfill somewhere.

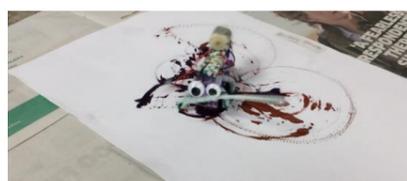
All classes are also being encouraged to recycle their classroom weekly paper bins in a bid to limit the wastage of papers. It is hoped that we can get a team of permanent recyclers to carry the mantle and help Scissett Middle School continue our recycling drive. Future plans also involve the possibility of distributing personally decorated bins by our pupils around the community which can encourage people in the Scissett and Clayton West area to be more environmentally friendly.

Science

Science week started on the 11th March and many of fun experiments were held in lessons, year 6 made slime and coloured mixtures, year 7 investigated sneezing and made perfumes and year 8 made miniature bristle robots and studied water fleas under microscopes. Year 7 visited Magna for a STEM event, they visited lots of stalls showcasing the importance of STEM subjects in the workplace. There were a lot of interactive displays and participants such as McLaren automotive, the Army, Sheffield Hallam University and lots more. Pupils were very enthusiastic and positive about the trip.

Mr Haigh took fifteen Year 8 pupils to Leeds University to take part in their annual Festival of Science. The focus was STEM and pupils took part in interactive activities and workshops to show the how important STEM subjects are and it was also a chance to look round a university and meet some "real" scientists. This trip was a collaboration with Kirkburton and Shelley College.

Some of our pupils attended and helped with the Kirkburton Science Fair held in March. This was held on the evening of 7th March and was very well attended, thank you to all the families who took part.



Community

Our pupils with your support and the support of members of staff have continued to support local, national and international charities this year. So far we have raised £2410.29;

September	Macmillan Coffee Morning	£655.35
October	Homelessness (Run by Ashley TSN)	£133.11
November	Children in Need	£600.50
December	Mission Christmas Toy Appeal	£253.13 and 90 gifts
January	Yorkshire Rose Dog Rescue	£596.75
March	Red Nose Day	£596.75

We currently have pupils raising money for Brain Tumour and the World Wildlife Fund by organising a raffle, a bun sale and selling Wear a Hat merchandise. As soon as we have totals for these we will put it on Facebook and Twitter.

Miss Ryan has donated the chocolate for an amazing Easter hamper and pupils are selling raffle tickets during morning break to raise money for the Dukem school in Ethiopia.

Our pupils continue to be inspirational in their tireless support for a range of charities and it is always fantastic to see their enterprising ideas for fund raising. This support shows that our pupils are responsible citizens who show great consideration to others who may be less fortunate. We are grateful to the support you give as families to all the fund raising events.

Forget Me Not Children's Hospice

For many years now we have supported the Forget Me Not Children's Hospice in Huddersfield. We have raised money through the end of year community fair and through pupil sponsorship to 'run the world'. Every penny that is raised is used to support children and young people with life-shortening conditions and their families. The hospice currently cares for over 500 children and families, their vision is for all of these children and families to receive the help they need. Community support is vital to keep the hospice running, this year they need to raise £4 million. One of our staff, Mrs Johnson, has very bravely decided to do a skydive to help raise these much needed funds. Her target is to raise £400 so along with all the staff at school she would be very grateful for your support. Her Skydive is booked for June 22nd and we wish her a safe and exhilarating dive. Mrs Johnson will be setting up a JustGiving page for sponsorship/donations and we will send you further details when this is in place. We also hope to share photos and a video of the dive.

From the 22nd May our PE staff will be organising pupils to collect sponsorship to join in Forget Me Not fundraising for the 'Round the World Challenge'. The hospice challenges pupils around West Yorkshire to each travel at least one mile and collectively travel the 24,900 miles which make up the circumference of the earth! At the same time, this helps to educate children about children's hospices and what they do, which in turn helps the hospice to reach out to those families who really need our support.

Up Coming Events

12 th April	Ski Trip departs/Cineworld Rewards Trip
3 rd May	Yorkshire Air Ambulance Bake Sale & Dress Differently Day
8 th -10 th May	Drop Down Days for Careers & Wellbeing/SAT Preparation
13 th -16 th May	KS2 SATs
24 th May	School Closed (Staff Training Day)
4 th July	Cineworld Rewards Trip
5 th July	Year 8 Leavers Assembly
8 th July	New Academic Year begins/Year 5's start SMS
9 th July	Celebration Evening
15 th -16 th July	Drop Down Days for Community/Quarry Bank Mill
16 th July	New Parent's Evening

From all the staff at Scissett Middle School, we wish you a very happy and relaxing Easter.