



SpringTerm - Date: 18.02.2022

## Talking Head

And there we have it - the end of an eventful Spring term start!

We certainly weren't expecting it to be such a turbulent time, and we really appreciate all of the efforts that everyone's been making to support the children, and the staff, and the school community as a whole during the last few weeks. With any luck (although I've given up crossing my fingers now!) we're fully through the worst of everything...fingers crossed.

The school - whilst depleted in numbers at times - has been running as you'd expect: fun, excitement, engagement.

We had Derek and Rachel from CYC to have a look at teaching and learning across the school, last week and they were very complimentary about how things were looking and our plans for the future - where the curriculum is heading, and the great work of the staff across the school.

There's a note about absence on this letter - I totally appreciate it's been a tough year so far, so just to stress that we're very much looking at everything we can do to support families with attendance, and make sure that children have the fairest access to everything available, academically and socially.

So, enjoy the half-term...I can thoroughly recommend the fourth season of Cobra Kai, if you're at a loose end.

## Wellbeing Watch!

### A note from Clare Smith:

Thank you to all the parents who came to the wellbeing workshop last week and for your recommendation for a wellbeing spot in the newsletter... You have inspired the first one: Sharing ideas... The more we work together and share ideas, the more open we are to diverse and widespread opinions, the more we can succeed.



## Absence Matters

On the back of a very challenging few years, school absence is something critical to address as a school, and at a family level to ensure the wellbeing and success of our children.

We're very much taking an 'awareness first' approach, as part of our attendance plan for Dringhouses Primary.

We analyse attendance on a daily basis, then gathering patterns and issues together at the end of each half-term. Claire Neal oversees this, then works with the head Ben, to make strategies and systems to support the needs identified.

1. We're investing in a new school management information system (MIS) that allows families easy access to their child's attendance data. This should be up and running during March, so watch out for training and instructions coming your way soon.
2. We're sending letters out to families where absence is particularly high this half term. Covid (and the reporting codes for it) have made this a challenge, but we have identified children with attendance below 86% to send absence matters letters out to. This includes authorised AND unauthorised absences, so please don't be taken aback if the absences are related to something that you recognise, or even have spoke to our team about already. We want to make sure we're offering

See you on the playground!



Ben Sutton | **Headteacher**

## Dringhouses Out of School Club

Your local out of school club - used by many of our families needs your help.

1. **TRUSTEES** - the club needs trustees to run it! If you have time, or if you know anyone with an interest, please let the club know at [dringhouses@yorkchildcare.co.uk](mailto:dringhouses@yorkchildcare.co.uk)
2. **JOB VACANCIES** - the club desperately needs more staff to run it! If you know anyone who'd be interested (and it's in everyone who uses the club's interest!) in a **manager's** position, or in **playworker** positions, please tell them...similarly, if you know of anywhere to advertise these positions, please let them know too. The club is running with minimal staff, and it's a very challenging situation that has already resulted in closures, as you will have experienced. Please share the vacancies widely.
3. **PLACES** - as a reminder, please get in touch with the team above email address if you'd like to inquire.



support as a school where it might be required, and don't want to miss anyone.

Absence does equate to social, and academic dips in progress, and we want the best opportunities for all of our children - yourselves as the older people in the house are the ones who can help us the most!

## Dates Ahead!

**NOTE:** The end of this academic year is Monday 25th July (not the 26th as previously stated). As a school, we're placing our Jubilee Bank Holiday on Monday 25th July, so the children's **last day of this academic year will be Friday 22nd July.**

### Spring2 Dates:

28th February - Back to School  
28th February - Y2 Sats  
Briefing for Parents (3.30-4.30PM / 4.30-5.30PM)  
3rd March - World Book Day  
4th March - FODs Bag4School Event  
14th March - Y5/6 PGL  
7th April - EcoWarriors Fundraising event (details to follow)  
7th April - Viking Performance Year 3/4 in hall (parents invited)  
8th April - Inset Day

The dates above are finalised - we will endeavour to avoid any short-notice dates from this point. If anything does occur where limited notice is available, we will still attempt to make this as low pressure as possible!

School Events Google Calendar Link - to sync with your own electronic calendar:

<https://calendar.google.com/calendar/u/0?cid=Y19qMmd0MWs3a2loMnEyNnlzdmFjM2JibHBjOEBncm91cC5jYWxlbnRhci5nb29nbGUuY29t>

## All things book related!

We recently asked the children about what authors, books and series they would like to see added to in our new library. When we had our new library built, we had a good sort through of the books and thanks to your generous donations we have been able to purchase all of these fantastic new books to add to our collection!



Many families have also asked how they can donate books to our new library. We now have the capacity to take donations again so if you are having a sort out at home and you have some books that need a new home then we will happily take them off your hands. All that we ask is that they are in a good condition and not activity/sticker books. We are also working on a wishlist that can be shared with FODs and families to continue to ensure that our library is offering current, diverse and inclusive texts for all of our children.

### World Book Day

World Book Day is on **Thursday 3rd March** (the first Thursday after half term) and there will be reading-linked activities across the school.

This year, we're inviting children to dress up as their favourite book character or in a fashion linked to their favourite book, but we're not specifying a theme, to try and make it as easy as possible for families. Equally, if dressing up is more stress than dress, that's fine too - just bring in a favourite book!

Derek and the book fair will be visiting school on Thursday 10th March where children will have the opportunity to spend their £1 World Book Day token. Derek will be bringing a wide range of books as well as this year's £1 books for children to choose from. Children will have the opportunity to visit the book fair during the day and it will also be open after school.



## FODS (Your PTA)

The new committee of FODS (your Parent-Teacher Association) had their first meeting in January. Old and new faces turned up and we had a great chat (and a really enjoyable time) over lots of refreshments, getting to know each other and going through the upcoming FODS events for the year. Many parents and teachers (including the head teacher, Ben) brought their great ideas, suggestions and feedback, and our hearts were warmed by the tremendous support we are getting for the events we're planning.

Here's a summary of the upcoming events:

- Bag2School: A chance for you to get rid of your old clothes, shoes and linen! Put them all into black bin bags and leave them in front of the reception door before 9am on the 4th March (Friday)!
- Easter bake sale
- Easter raffle (with lots of wonderful prizes)! More information to come!
- A party for KS1 students and another for the KS2s.
- Ongoing recycling of dental products and ink cartridges: Bring them to school any time and leave them in the appropriate boxes at the reception desk!
- Summer Fair: I know! We haven't had a fair in sooo long! This will be exciting! The summer fair sub-committee are starting to meet up so if you would like to join the sub-com or offer your help in any way, give us a shout!
- and lots more in the works...

We have set up a Whatsapp group for parents who might be interested in being involved in our events. To join the Whatsapp group, simply email us at [friends@dringhouses.co.uk](mailto:friends@dringhouses.co.uk) with your mobile phone number, and we'll add you to the group. That way, you can find out more about events that need your support and choose the ones that you'd like to volunteer

at, at your own convenience.

We'd also love to see you at our next FODS PTA meeting. The details are as follows:

Date: 9 th March (Weds)

Time: 7.30pm – 8.30pm

Location: School Hall

It'll also be a good chance to meet and catch up with other parents...which is why we head to the pub after for a little bit of socialising after the meeting!

I hope to continue chatting to you in the Whatsapp group and at the FODS meeting!

**Chia and the FODS committee**

## VACANCIES

We want you! (or someone you know)

Come and join our lovely team of Midday Supervisors...

<https://www.dringhouses.york.sch.uk/job-opportunities/>