



# SCISSETT MIDDLE SCHOOL

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29<sup>th</sup> March 2018

Dear Parent/Carer,

It has been a very busy and somewhat disjointed term with interruptions caused by the extreme weather we recently experienced. Please accept my thanks for your patience during this time particularly when we have had to close the school due to the unsafe conditions. It is never an easy decision to make and we will only ever choose to close if we consider there to be a significant risk in opening. However, as a working parent, I understand the challenge this can present to parents in a similar position and I am very grateful for the support we have received from many of our families and your patience during this challenging time.

All our staff and pupils have been working hard to catch up on lost learning time and as ever, our pupils continue to impress with their resilience and determination to do well.

## **Year 6 SATs:**

Year 6 will do SATs during the week beginning 14<sup>th</sup> May 2018 and will have some time the week before with English and Maths teachers to prepare. They have all 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 kindness, 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.

## **Staffing update:**

We have successfully recruited a new Head of Department for English. Emily Cronin worked for many years as leader of KS4 English at Salendine Nook and most recently, as Head of Department at Huddersfield Grammar School. She is also a GCSE marker. Ms Cronin started with us on 5<sup>th</sup> March.

We also have 2 staff members returning from maternity leave. Beth Hampson and Elaine Dacres will return on 26<sup>th</sup> March. Miss Hampson is coming back three days a week until the Summer. She will be supporting Year 6 in the run up to SATs as an extra member of staff. Mrs Dacres returns full time and will take over the timetable currently taught by Mrs O'Neill. She will also have some capacity to provide support for Year 6 in the run up to the SATs and then KS3 pupils.

Mrs Roper, who provides support in Technology lessons, is retiring in April. Mrs Roper has worked at Scissett Middle School for a number of years and will be sadly missed, but she is looking forward to



spending more time with her family, especially her grandchildren. We wish her well. We will also say goodbye to Alison O'Neil who has been a fantastic member of staff covering during Mrs Dacres' maternity leave.

To replace Mrs Roper, we have advertised for a Technology Technician. This vacancy will be displayed on our Website and Twitter and Facebook.

### Community:

Our pupils continue to work tirelessly to support people less fortunate than themselves through charity work. The following monies have been raised by staff and pupils this academic year:

McMillan Coffee Morning:	£532.60
Mission Christmas Toy Collection:	£287.30 plus over 200 gifts
Poppy Appeal:	£139
Children in Need Bun Sale:	£383
Family in Need Bun Sale:	£251
Dukem (Ethiopian school)Easter Raffle:	£116

Thursday 29<sup>th</sup> March is also 'Wear a Hat Day' for Brain Tumour Research. As a school we support a range of charities and all of them are causes which are close to the heart of our school community. By supporting charity work and learning about the work of charities operating on both a National and a local front, our pupils have a greater understanding of what it means to be a responsible citizen and learn to develop empathy and care and consideration for others – crucial skills in early adolescence. We appreciate the support families offer by giving children money to buy buns or wear alternative dress in school as this really does make a difference.

### Drop Down days:

Wednesday 7<sup>th</sup> March was our Well Being Day. There were a large number of events taking place in school to educate pupils about mental health issues and also to explore with them different ways of establishing a positive mind-set and coping with stress or anxiety. We had Pop Pilates; Smoothie bikes; a talk on social media and mental health; Emoji making; Lego and Art sessions as well as a whole school mile at the beginning of the day. All pupils wrote their own positive affirmations on a paper apple and these were hung on a wooden tree in reception. Special thanks must go to Miss Crossley who organised and resourced the day but all of the staff pulled together to make it a truly amazing experience for our children. There are lots of pictures on our social media pages for those who follow.

On May 9<sup>th</sup>, 10<sup>th</sup> and 11<sup>th</sup>, we will have a careers 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 and I must extend our thanks to all the parents who have kindly volunteered to come and talk about their jobs and careers to open our pupils' minds to possibilities they may never have considered before. All pupils will have the chance to learn about a range of career options and will have access to an online portal which will help them understand the different routes into specific careers. We also hope to help pupils understand how income tax works and what the earning power is within different work sectors. This all sits alongside the trips which have been happening for Year 8 pupils with taster experiences at local colleges in sectors such as building; plumbing and electrical work as well as trips to universities. All pupils in Year 8 will have had the opportunity to attend at least one of these trips by the end of the academic year.

### Other events:

There is always a wealth of activities happening in school. We put as much as we can on Facebook and Twitter, but here are just a few of the recent events and successes:



- Year 8 Girls' Sports Hall Athletics team represented Kirklees in the West Yorkshire Winter Games Finals
- Year 6 Girls' Cross Country team represented Kirklees in the West Yorkshire Winter Games Finals
- Year 7 Girls' Sports Hall Athletics team represented Kirklees and came a superb 2nd place in West Yorkshire in the West Yorkshire Winter Games Finals
- Two pupils represented Kirklees as part of the year 8 and 9 Girls Cross Country team in the West Yorkshire Winter Games Finals. One of these pupils, Elena, also qualified to run for West Yorkshire in the National Finals.
- Arts Award Exhibit - 65 pupils took part in the Year 8 Arts Award this year. All produced stunning pieces of Art and successfully passed it - achieving points (UCAS) towards future University Applications. Much of the work was displayed on Twitter and retweeted Nationally by the Arts Award as they were very impressed by the standard.
- On the evening of Saturday 27th January the Pop Choir and String Ensemble played at a concert at St Aidan's Church, Skelmanthorpe to help raise money for the UN Food Programme. The students performed superbly and drew considerable praise for the quality of the performance and the professionalism and maturity with which they represented Scissett Middle. Over £1000 was raised, and a CD of the evening is soon to be released for sale on ParentPay for £5, to raise further money for the Programme.
- We fielded two teams at the National Book Day Literacy Quiz hosted by Booksplus at Huddersfield Town Hall. Around 50 other teams from primary and secondary schools attended. Although we weren't placed, our Y6 team won one of the rounds and were awarded book prizes.

These are just some of the activities over the last term. For fuller information, please follow us on Twitter and Facebook where we also highlight the personal successes of our individual pupils who demonstrate that when we put our minds to achieving, we can realise our ambitions and dream big. We are very proud of all of them.

#### Community:

Once again I must extend my thanks to Miss Crossley for organising a fantastic community event for families within our Pyramid of Schools around child mental health. This follows the previous event we ran around online safety. The event was well attended by families from a range of schools and was a great success. There was a talk in the main hall and experts from CAMHS (Child and Adolescent Mental Health Services.) There were also family sessions of Yoga as well as lots of the activities around creative and artistic therapies.

#### Up-coming events:

Thursday 26 <sup>th</sup> April	Junior Maths Challenge (100 pupils from all year groups) in lessons
Friday 4 <sup>th</sup> May	Dress Differently Day for Yorkshire Air Ambulance
Wednesday 9 <sup>th</sup> to Friday 11 <sup>th</sup> May	Careers Event for Year 7 and 8
Thursday 7 <sup>th</sup> June	French Trip departs (Year 8)
Monday 11 <sup>th</sup> June	Kingswood Trip departs (Year 8)
Friday 6 <sup>th</sup> July	Year 8 leave school (starting at Shelley College the following week)

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

Kind Regards

*N Greenough*



Mrs N Greenough  
Headteacher

