



# SCISSETT MIDDLE SCHOOL

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Headteacher: Mrs N. Greenough

21<sup>st</sup> March 2017

Dear Parent/Carer,

As we move to the end of the Spring term, I wanted to write to parents to keep you informed of events in school.

## **SATs and end of Year 8 tests:**

Our Year 6 pupils have been working incredibly hard improving their numeracy and literacy skills and we are incredibly proud of each and every one of them. They have proven themselves to be a very hard working and committed year group with a thirst for knowledge and a real Growth Mindset, where mistakes are opportunities for learning. The Statutory tests for Year 6 begin on the 8<sup>th</sup> May and proceed for the full week. They will be done in classrooms and, for the most part, with normal subject teachers to allow pupils to feel as relaxed as possible. We want to support pupils to do as well as they can and there are lots of extra sessions going on to finely tune their skill sets. We know that pupils can get anxious about SATs but they represent just a small part of the wonderfully talented individuals we have here at Scissett Middle School. We have many talented sports men and women of the future; pupils with real artistic flair and pupils who show kindness and consideration day in, day out, for others. These are skills and qualities we value enormously here at Scissett Middle School.

Year 8 will be leaving us to start at Shelley College on 7<sup>th</sup> July. Pupils will complete an assessment at Shelley College as part of their transition. The assessment will be a Maths and English paper.

## **Events in School:**

We have the Science Fayre on Tuesday 21<sup>st</sup> March and Year 8 have gone on a trip to the Yorkshire Wildlife Park this week. Pupils have competed in a Literature quiz as part of World Book Day and represented the school incredibly well. We have also had pupils out at STEM competitions and some pupils have done visits to college to taste vocational courses such as bricklaying and plumbing. We also have groups of pupils going out soon to try courses in farming and catering. The clubs we run continue to be popular and I had the pleasure of attending a celebration session for pupils in the Musical Theatre group; Catering group and Craft groups ran by some of our ETAs.

We would continue to encourage pupils to try something new from the extensive list of clubs available every week. We have recently added a Drama club after school on a Wednesday which is being run by Year 12 pupils from Shelley College. Pupils interested in joining can collect a letter from Mrs Large.

## **Sporting successes:**

Year 6 boys and girls cross country teams progressed through the partnership and Kirklees finals, qualifying to represent Kirklees at the West Yorkshire winter games later this month at Temple Newsome.



Year 6, 7 and 8 boys and girls all progressed through the partnership Sports hall athletics finals, qualifying for the Kirklees final. Year 6 placed 5th. The Year 8 boys won gold and the Year 7 girls won the silver medal, both qualifying to represent Kirklees at the West Yorkshire final. The Year 8 girls just missed out on the West Yorkshire final winning the bronze medal.

The Year 8 table tennis team won the Kirklees final and will represent Kirklees in the West Yorkshire school games at Leeds Beckett University on Saturday 25th March and one pupil finished 2nd in the Huddersfield Schools individual Table Tennis competition

Three pupils qualified at the Huddersfield Schools cross county final to represent Kirklees at the West Yorkshire Final, with one pupil placing first as the West Yorkshire champion.

### **Parents' Evening Booking System:**

As parents will be aware we have been trialling a new booking system for Parents Evening. Thank you to the parents who have contacted us with feedback. There have been a few teething problems but for the most part, it seems to have worked much more efficiently than the previous system. A small number of parents have fed back that they have had difficulty making appointments with all the teachers they wanted to see. As we are a relatively small school (in Secondary terms), we have some staff who teach every pupil in school and so ,without closing school, we would struggle to make enough spaces for everyone to be seen as we already run each Parents Evening over two nights. However, we can guarantee every parent the opportunity to meet with their child's English, Maths and Science teacher. If there is another teacher that you wanted to speak to, but were unable to make an appointment with, we can arrange a phone call so please contact school and ask for Sally Booth who will make arrangements for you. She can be contacted via: [sbooth@scissett.com](mailto:sbooth@scissett.com) or on the school number: 01484 865444.

### **World Book Day:**

A huge thank you to all the parents and pupils who supported school during the week of World Book Day. We had a large donation of books from home which have already been processed and are now available in the school library and we raised over £1000 in sales from the Book Club. This has given us £600 in commission to purchase even more books for the Library. Thanks to the support of our parents, we will have managed to get an additional 150-200 new books for the Library which will benefit all of our pupils. If families do have a 'clear out' of books in the future, which may be appropriate for school, we would be very grateful for any more future donations. As a school, we place great value on reading as a skill for life but also as a source of relaxation and enjoyment and are always looking for ways to keep our stock replenished and up-to-date for pupils of all ages, abilities and interests.

### **Uniform:**

A reminder that after Easter, pupils may wear shorts and do not need to wear jumpers at school when the weather is hot. This was agreed following a consultation with parents last year. 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 canvass shoes are not permitted and pupils are expected to wear leather or leatherette shoes (below the ankle) as part of the school uniform. Trainers and canvass are not formal for school and are prone to letting in moisture which can cause damage to children's feet. We always have a stock of shoes which we can lend to pupils if for any reason they need



to borrow some as we are aware that shoes break or become outgrown. We regularly replenish our stock of shoes and many of them are brand new.

### **Homework:**

Over the last half term, I have had the pleasure of working with some Year 7 boys to look at homework in school. As parents will be aware, we place great emphasis on homework, not just as a school, but also as part of a Pyramid of schools. However, we wanted to explore with parents the best ways to support pupils with the management of homework. Consequently, we have sent out a link to a survey for parents and a separate one for pupils which will be completed in school. This will close on Monday 27<sup>th</sup> March and I would be grateful if parents could take the time to provide some feedback whatever your view of homework.

### **Staffing Updates:**

Val Sutcliffe, who worked at school as Assistant Caretaker and Lunchtime lead supervisor has left us to pursue new opportunities elsewhere. Sarah Wilkinson has replaced Val as Lead Lunchtime Supervisor. Miss Hampson is leaving us on Friday 24<sup>th</sup> March to commence her maternity leave. We have interim arrangements in place for Miss Hampson's Year 6 pupils in the run up to the SATs and then the class will be taken by Miss Reininger who is returning from maternity leave at Easter. Miss Hampson's Year 7 Maths class will also be covered internally. Miss Threlfall who is currently teaching French will continue with us until the end of the academic year to ensure continuity for pupils.

### **Dates for your dairy:**

**Tuesday 4<sup>th</sup> April:** Year 7 Parents' Evening: 7MO; 7NR; 7RJ; 7RP.

**Wednesday 5<sup>th</sup> April:** Year 7 Parents' Evening: 7SB; 7SJ; 7TM.

The online booking system will open today at 3pm.

**Friday 31<sup>st</sup> March: Family Film Night** –'Fantastic Beasts and Where to Find Them'. Tickets will be on sale one week before the event from the Art room at break times. For new parents, this is an event whereby we watch a film in the hall on the big screen. Refreshments are available (popcorn; hotdogs; wine; beer and soft drinks) and families can sit around a table together to enjoy a film. There is always a raffle and the winning ticket wins the DVD of the film shown.

**Friday 24<sup>th</sup> March: Red Nose Day** – lots of events happening in school and a non-school uniform day (£1 donation).

**Friday 28<sup>th</sup> April:** Assertive Mentoring records home to parents.

Thank you to all parents for your continued support of Scissett Middle School. I wish you a relaxing Easter break.

Yours sincerely



Mrs N Greenough  
Headteacher

