



DANESHOLME JUNIOR ACADEMY

6th September 2019

Welcome back!

It has been a busy start to the new school year and we are really pleased to welcome the children back to school. We have had 89 children joining us in year 3 this September as well as a large number of children joining other year groups across the school. The children have settled in well to their new classes and made a really positive start to the new academic year.

Class Names

For those of you new to the school, our class names follow a Viking or Norse mythology theme in keeping with Danesholme's heritage as a Viking settlement area. Put together, the initials of the class names spell out 'DANESHOLME J A'; with our twelve classes together making our Academy community. The classes are:

Year 3 DELLING – God of the Dawn

ASBRU – Rainbow Bridge

NICOR – God of the Sea

Year 4 ELLI – Goddess of Ageing

SOL – Goddess of the Sun

HERMOTH – Messenger of the Gods

Year 5 QLLER – God of Frost Glitter

LOKI – God of Mischief

MANI – God of the Moon

Year 6 EMBLA – First tree made human by Odin

JOTNAR – Ice giants

ASGARD – Mythical place



Lunchtimes

Our lunchtime is staggered with the lower school (years 3 and 4) having lunch from 12:00-1:00pm and the upper school (years 5&6) having lunch from 12:15-1:15pm. This enables us to have fewer children in the hall and also means there is more space on the playgrounds for our playleaders to run games at lunchtime.

Attendance

Our whole school attendance target remains at 96%, in line with national expectations. Although attendance did rise slightly overall in 2018-19, unfortunately we did not meet our target.

2018-2019 Attendance	
WHOLE SCHOOL	94.98%
Year 3	94.31%
Year 4	95.70%
Year 5	95.28%
Year 6	94.65%

Consequently, improving attendance continues to be a key focus for us. Department for Education research has shown a clear link between poor attendance at school and lower academic achievement. There are only 190 days where children MUST, by law, be in school. This means that if a child misses just 8 school days - they are out of school for more days of the year than they are in school. There are 175 days of breaks and weekends every year.

Diary Dates

Next week we will send home our diary dates for parents, to give you the key dates for the next academic year. We will again be holding 'Parent Pop-Ins' through the year; these are a chance for you to spend half an hour in the class with your child and then stay for a cup of coffee and a chat.

The upcoming dates that you need to be aware of are:

Tuesday 24th September 3:30-4:15pm – whole school parent drop in. This is a chance for your child to show you around their new classroom and year group. Class teachers will be available to talk informally about how your child has settled and to answer any questions you may have.

Wednesday 25th September 9:00-9:30am – Year 3&4 Parent Pop-In

Wednesday 2nd October 9:00-9:30am – Year 5&6 Parent Pop-In

Thursday 24th October – Halloween Disco

Wednesday 13th November – Parents' Evening 5:00-7:00pm

Thursday 14th November – Parents' Evening 3:45-5:30pm.

Regular Communication

Our weekly newsletter, The Danesholme Digest, is sent by email every Friday – with the first issue being sent on Friday 13th September. Please make sure that we have up to date contact information, including email addresses, for you throughout the school year. You can also follow us on Twitter - @DanesholmeJun and access our website to find out what is happening at school.

Roald Dahl Day/World Book Day

Although we will be celebrating Roald Dahl and World Book Days in school, we will not be dressing up for these days this year. Instead we will be promoting and selling books, in the hope that any money that you might have spent on a costume can be spent on books for your child instead. We want to encourage our children to read for pleasure and to develop a lifelong love of reading. There will be plenty of other opportunities for us to dress up throughout the school year!

And finally

I am privileged to work with a very dedicated staff team at Danesholme Junior Academy and we all look forward to working in partnership with you and your child/ren throughout the academic year.



Mrs K Rolf
Principal

