



## Carfield Newsletter January 2025

We have had a wonderful start to 2025 regardless of the snow and wind! The children have been resilient and have taken any changes in their stride!

In response to the feedback from the parent survey and speaking to parents at the gates, we will only be using Emails and Texts to communicate to parents. Whilst we appreciate that on some days you may get more than one message or email, it is important parents do read their emails. Unless, it is something completely unavoidable, we always give at least 5 weeks notice for any events that require dress-up, payments of some-kind or authorisation. We are indicating which ones require an action in the title of the email. We are also monitoring the volume of communication that goes out to ensure that it is reasonable and that you only get emails relevant to your child. We will only use SeeSaw for sharing children's work and homework. You can still contact your child's class teacher via SeeSaw if necessary.

We appreciate your support in this matter.

Attendance: Whole School attendance 94.1%



Attendance at school is really important. If a child has an attendance below 90%, they are classed as persistently absent. This will also have triggered a meeting with a member of the attendance team or Senior Leadership Team. In some cases, children's attendance will have been affected by medical appointments during school time. Whilst some hospital appointments cannot be helped, do try and book dentists, doctors and opticians appointments outside of the school day.

We have also noticed that we have a large number of children arriving to school after 9.00am and after 9.30am. Anything after 9.30am, is classed as late after the register has closed and this counts as an absence which also impact your child's attendance.

Any family holidays taken during term time, will continue to be unauthorised and at a risk of fine.

We are here to help and ensure that the children are getting the full education that they are entitled to. The meetings we are holding, will continue to be a supportive measure to support you and your child.

Here is the link to our policy. If you have any concerns, do let us know.

## SEND



It has been a busy half term for SEND at Carfield Primary School; a SEND review was conducted by our school improvement partner where our provision and offer for Special Educational Needs was scrutinised.

Here are some key points from the review:

- "Senior leaders have a clear vision for pupils with SEND. Leaders have a culture of high aspirations for all pupils irrespective of the complexity of need. Thus, supporting pupils with SEND is a high priority at Carfield Primary, which is aligned with the school's vision. "
- "The SEND team provides ongoing training for staff, and they are working with teachers and teaching assistants to further develop staff skills in supporting pupils with SEND. These include adaptive teaching, visual timetables, autism friendly classroom and Trauma Informed. Also, staff in the early years have received additional training such as communication and language skills. Weekly SEND

supervision meetings are held with teachers by the SEND team to help them provide the precise support for pupils with SEND in their class."

- "The school collaborates with a wide range of outside agencies to meet the needs of pupils with SEND. These include educational psychologists, occupational therapists, autism team, attendance and inclusion and the complex needs team."
- "The SEND team uses the school assessment system to monitor pupils' progress and respond to pupils who are off track. Monitoring is multi-layered and is implemented at senior leadership, curriculum and class level. "

We will continue to ensure that teachers know pupils' individual targets and how best to support pupils in the classroom. In addition, we will continue with our offer of providing training for teachers and teaching assistants on communication and interaction- specifically speech and language training.

We are very proud of our SEND offer at Carfield and are pleased that what we provide for our children with SEN is being recognised by outside professionals.

## Carfield ELSAs- What is ELSA?





*1 - Miss Maciol- our ELSA*



*2 - Mrs Heatley- our ELSA*

An ELSA (**Emotional Literacy Support Assistant**) is a trained support role in school, designed to help children develop their emotional literacy and well-being. The primary focus of an ELSA is to work with students who may be experiencing emotional difficulties, helping them to understand and manage their emotions in a healthy way.

**Key Responsibilities of an ELSA:**

1. **Emotional Support:** An ELSA works with children on a one-to-one basis or in small groups to help them develop emotional awareness. This can involve teaching children how to recognize their feelings, express them appropriately, and understand how emotions affect behavior.
2. **Building Emotional Skills:** ELSAs use various activities and interventions to help children improve emotional resilience, self-regulation, and social interactions. This might include role-playing, games, art activities, and discussions that promote problem-solving and self-awareness.
3. **Supporting Mental Health:** ELSAs help children cope with emotional challenges such as anxiety, stress, loss, or difficult family situations. They create a safe, supportive space where children can talk about their feelings and work through emotional issues.

4. **Developing Social Skills:** ELSAs may help children improve their social skills by supporting them in building positive relationships, managing conflict, and increasing their confidence in social settings.
5. **Working with Teachers and Parents:** ELSAs collaborate closely with teachers and parents to ensure a holistic approach to supporting a child's emotional needs. They may provide feedback on a child's progress and offer guidance on how to further support the child in the classroom or at home.

#### **Training and Qualifications:**

ELSA roles typically require specific training in emotional literacy and supporting children with emotional or behavioral difficulties. The training, which has been provided by Sheffield Educational Psychology Services, covers areas such as:

- **Emotional regulation techniques**
- **Building self-esteem and resilience**
- **Supporting children with anxiety, trauma, or bereavement**
- **Developing communication skills**

While ELSAs are not trained therapists, they provide vital early intervention and support to help children build the emotional skills they need to thrive in school and in life.

#### **The Role of ELSA in Schools:**

ELSA support is an invaluable resource for helping children manage their emotions, which in turn can improve their ability to learn, interact with peers, and cope with challenges. By addressing emotional issues early, ELSAs contribute to creating a positive and inclusive school environment where children feel supported and understood.

## Curriculum



In this half term's learning, our students have been on exciting educational journeys across a variety of topics. In Nursery, the children have been discovering the important roles of people who help us, from doctors to firefighters. Reception have set off on an adventure around the world, exploring different places and cultures. Year 1 have travelled back in time to learn about life in a nursery from the past, while Year 2 have been inspired by famous explorers and their thrilling discoveries. Year 3 have delved into the fascinating world of the Roman Empire, and Year 4 have uncovered the wonders of Ancient Egypt. Year 5 have been immersed in the rich history of the Mayan civilisation, while Year 6 have been discovering the legacy of Ancient Greece.

The knowledge organisers that go home to parents at the start of each half term contain all the crucial knowledge and key vocabulary for each History, Science and Art unit. We hope these are useful to parents and would welcome your feedback around this (please direct any feedback to Miss Saunders and Mrs Gregory).

We really look forward to being able to share the children's work with you at parents' evening next week.

Alongside these exciting topics, students have been developing key skills across the core subjects.



The year four children are preparing for their Dearne Valley residential just before half term and are very excited! We look forward to reporting back on all the exciting activities such as Nightline, Zipwire, Campfire and Leap of Faith!

## Carfield Friends



At the start of this new year we are delighted to welcome Miss Vickers as our new staff link. She's already bringing great ideas to the committee!

More exciting news - the quiz is back! Bella and Jim will be testing our knowledge again in the Top Hall on Friday 28 February from 7.30pm. Tickets are £6 per person, and teams can be 4-6 people. Platters are again available for £15. We'll also be holding a bottle raffle - please take donations to the office. Get your tickets at [www.pta-events.co.uk/carfieldfriends](http://www.pta-events.co.uk/carfieldfriends)

Save the date for the Y1/Y2 Disco on Wednesday 19 March 5pm - 6.30pm. Tickets will be on sale soon!

A couple of requests for help. Firstly, we need some new bunting to replace the current bunch which is now past its best. If you have any fabric to donate or can sew, please get in touch at [carfieldfriends@outlook.com](mailto:carfieldfriends@outlook.com).

We also need some help with sprucing up the sensory corridor in the top building. If you're handy with a glue gun, we'd love your help!

The committee is always looking for more people to get involved. Particularly parents of children in nursery, reception, and Y2 as these years are not currently represented on the committee. If you can help, please email [carfieldfriend@outlook.com](mailto:carfieldfriend@outlook.com).

Follow Carfield Friends on Facebook

(<https://www.facebook.com/share/vTf8x72XjoTDPRdR/?mibextid=LQQJ4d>) and Instagram ([https://www.instagram.com/carfieldfriends?igsh=MXBhejF1cnVsNnQyYQ%3D%3D&utm\\_source=qr](https://www.instagram.com/carfieldfriends?igsh=MXBhejF1cnVsNnQyYQ%3D%3D&utm_source=qr)) for all the latest news and events.

## Personal Development



At Carfield Primary School, physical and mental wellbeing will always be paramount. This term we have conducted a whole school pupil wellbeing survey. In response to the feedback we will now create more quiet spaces at lunchtimes including quiet clubs, expand our

already extensive extra-curricular sport programme, increase the amount of playground equipment (look out for the new giant Jenga and Connect 4) and offer a wider range of healthy snacks . The Junior leadership team have conducted their own survey around healthy eating with a plan to launch a healthy snack tuck shop – watch this space.

You may have noticed the new road safety signs on Argyle Close. Our two road safety officers have been working hard to ensure the roads around school are as safe as possible. If any pupils would like to submit their 1-minute video for the road safety competition, they have until 14th February to do so (please see original email).

Times table rock star day is due 31st January, with teachers and pupils dressing up as rockstars and completing many different times table activities. We celebrated Chinese New Year with a special lesson explaining the festival "Xīnnián hǎo". On the 5th February, we celebrate World Read Aloud Day with some of our amazing parents coming into school and reading in their home language. At the end of this half term, year 4 will be attending the new residential site to take part in a huge range of outdoor adventurous activities. The eco squad are now 3 weeks into their climate control extracurricular club. Pupils have tested insulation using different materials and explored renewable wind energy through making land yachts.

## Dates for your Diary



Friday 31st January: Time Table Rock Stars Day- Children to dress up

Tuesday 11th February: Safer Internet day: No actions for parents

Wednesday 12th-14th February: Y4 at Kingswood: See original letters

Monday 17th February- Friday 21st February: Half term

Monday 24th February: School closed to the children: INSET day

Friday 28th February: Carfield Friends Quiz Night

Thursday 6th March: World Book Day: Children to dress up: See original Letter