

Newsletter - September 2026

Welcome back to school after the summer holidays. I hope you have all enjoyed a wonderful and restful break.

A very warm welcome to the families who have recently joined our Two-Year-Old, Nursery and Reception provisions, as well as those who have joined us in other year groups.

This newsletter contains important reminders and key dates for the upcoming half term. I would also like to take this opportunity to thank you for your continued support.

Staff News

Royd Nursery Infant

There were two weddings over the summer holidays, and I am sure you will join me in congratulating our staff members.

- Miss Payne is now **Mrs Sidebottom**.
- Miss Aldam is now **Mrs Aldam-Lowe**.

We are also delighted to share that **Mrs Bradshaw and her husband have welcomed twins**. The names of the children are Noah and Hattie. Mum and babies are doing well.

Deepcar St John's

We are pleased to welcome two new Teaching Assistants who will be working across the school:

- **Miss Chloe Grace**, who completed a placement with us last year.
- **Mrs Elmie Moore**.

We are also delighted that **Mr Harry Shaw from Sheffield Wednesday** will be joining us full-time.

Building Works

Royd

Unfortunately, the planned window replacement programme was delayed due to issues with the contractor during the summer holidays. The work is now scheduled to take place during the October half-term break.

However, we have successfully completed:

- The replacement of two floors.
- Installation of a new visitor sign-in system.

Deepcar St John's

Over the summer, several improvements were completed, including:

- Refurbishment of all pupil toilets and cloakrooms.
- Installation of new toilet systems.
- New door entry systems.
- A new visitor sign-in system.
- New carpets in two classrooms.

The new climbing frames at St John's are due to be installed at the beginning of November.

I would like to thank both of our caretakers for all their hard work during the summer holidays.

Punctuality

School officially starts at **8:50am**.

At both schools, doors will open at **8:40am**, and registration will take place at **8:50am**.

For children attending Royd, if they arrive between 8:40am and 8:50am, parents/carers must remain with them until the bell sounds.

Both schools finish at 3:20pm.

Two and Three-Year-Old Provision

We still have a limited number of places available within our two and three-year-old provisions. If you know of anyone looking for a childcare setting, please encourage them to contact us so that we can arrange a visit.

We are also beginning the process of allocating places for **January 2027**.

INSET Days

The remaining INSET days for this academic year are:

- **Friday 23 October 2026**
- **Monday 12 April 2027**
- **Friday 28 May 2027**

Where possible, these days have been scheduled immediately before or after school holidays to help families take advantage of lower travel costs.

Uniform

Children should attend school each day wearing the correct school uniform.

Please ensure that **all clothing is clearly labelled with your child's name** and refer to your school's website for full uniform expectations.

Toys from Home

Please keep toys, comforters and cuddly toys at home. Children should not bring these items into school.

We have a range of comfort items available in school should a child require one.

This also includes fidget toys. Where it is felt that a child would benefit from a fidget toy, one will be provided from the school's resources.

Jewellery

Children may wear:

- One pair of stud earrings (no hoops).
- A wristwatch.

No other jewellery is permitted.

Please note that **smart watches capable of connecting to phones or the internet are not allowed.**

Staff will be monitoring adherence to the policy and parents/carers will be contacted if necessary.

PE

For health and safety reasons, all jewellery must be removed before PE lessons.

Parents/carers of younger children should remove earrings before school on PE days. Older children may remove their own stud earrings.

If ears have been recently pierced and earrings cannot be removed, tape may be worn over them. **This must be applied before school by parents/carers.**

If the tape becomes loose or falls off before the PE lesson, staff will carry out a risk assessment and adapt activities where necessary. In these circumstances, children may be unable to take part in contact sports.

Towards the end of the summer term, a number of children were regularly attending school without their PE kit. If this continues, staff will contact families to discuss the issue.

Hair Ties

Children with long hair must have it tied back for PE lessons. Please ensure your child brings a hair bobble and leaves it in school for future PE sessions.

PE Kit for Extra-Curricular Clubs

If your child attends an extra-curricular sports club, please ensure they bring their PE kit to school on the relevant day.

For children attending Royd, both indoor and outdoor PE kits should remain on their peg throughout the school week to ensure they are always available when needed.

Thank you for your continued support and cooperation. We look forward to another successful and enjoyable term ahead.

PE Days

Please ensure your child comes to school with the correct PE kit on their allocated PE days.

Year Group/Class	PE Days
Reception	Monday and Friday
Year 1 – Class 7, 8 and 9	Tuesday (indoor and outdoor PE)
Year 2 - Class 7	Tuesday Swimming (an additional PE session is included within the timetable)
Year 2 - Class 8 and 9	Tuesday (indoor and outdoor PE)
Year 3/4	Wednesday
Year 5/6	Tuesday and Friday

Healthy Snacks

Children attending Royd are provided with a healthy snack each day through the School Fruit and Vegetable Scheme (SFVS). This is funded by the Department of Health and Social Care plus the Department for Education.

At Deepcar St John's, children should bring a healthy snack from home. Suitable snacks include a piece of fruit, yoghurt or another healthy option.

Our Snack Shack is also available. Children can bring **£1 on a Monday** to purchase snack tickets, which can then be exchanged for snacks throughout the week.

ParentPay

All new parents and carers should register for ParentPay. Parents at Deepcar St Johns should have already received their letter. Should you have misplaced this or are having difficulty registering, please contact the relevant school office.

Any outstanding ParentPay debts for Year 6 leavers will be transferred to younger siblings. There are also a number of outstanding balances across both schools. Please ensure your account is up to date as we begin the new school year.

Dinner Charges

The Local Authority has increased the cost of school meals for children at Deepcar St John's to **£3.15 per meal**.

For children attending Royd's Two-Year-Old Provision or Nursery, the cost of a school meal is **£2.65**.

Donations of Uniform

Thank you to all the parents and carers who have donated pre-loved school uniform. These donations are greatly appreciated and help support families within our school community.

Raffle Donations

Our parent fundraising group, **PODS**, is currently seeking donations for future raffles.

If you own a business, work for a company that may be able to donate a prize, or have a contact who could help, please get in touch with PODS or the school office. Any support would be greatly appreciated.

Mobile Phones

Children at Deepcar St John's should only bring a mobile phone to school if it is necessary, for example if they are walking to and from school independently.

Towards the end of last year, we noticed a significant increase in the number of children bringing mobile phones into school, often when there was no genuine need. The school cannot accept responsibility for lost, stolen or damaged devices.

We would strongly encourage phones to be left at home wherever possible. We also experienced issues with children using phones to watch videos before the start of the school day, creating additional safeguarding and behaviour concerns. We appreciate your support in ensuring that phones are only brought to school when absolutely necessary.

Bikes and Scooters

We encourage children to travel actively to and from school by using bikes and scooters.

However, for everyone's safety, children must dismount and walk as soon as they enter the school site. We experienced several near misses last year and would appreciate your support in helping us keep all members of our school community safe.

Dates for Diary

Royd Nursery Infant

September

23 - Flu vaccination FS2-Y2

October

13 - Individual Photographs

22 - 'wear it pink' - fundraising for breast
cancer (Thursday)

23 - Curriculum Day- school closed to
children

November

11 - Remembrance Day

13 - Children In Need

Deepcar St John's

October

2 - Individual Photographs

19 – Bikeability for Y6

20 - Y6 weighing and measuring

22 - 'wear it pink'- fundraising for breast
cancer (Thursday)

23- Curriculum Day – school closed to
children

November

11 - Remembrance Day

13 - Children In Need

18 - Flu Vaccinations