



Dobcroft Newsletter

18th September 2026



[Click here for dates for your diary](#)

[Click here for school dinners](#)

Dobcroft Infant School, Sheffield, S7 2LN • Tel: 0114 236 8099 • Email: enquiries@dobcroft-inf.sheffield.sch.uk

Website: <https://www.dobcroft-inf.sheffield.sch.uk>



Whole school news [Y2 news](#) [Y1 news](#) [Foundation Stage 2 News](#) [Ladybirds News](#)



Voluntary contribution for enrichment opportunities

As shared in last week's newsletter, like many schools, we continue to face significant financial pressures. While government funding covers our statutory responsibilities, it does not always meet the full cost of the wider opportunities and enrichment experiences that we believe greatly enhance children's education. We work hard to manage our budget responsibly and carefully prioritise spending, but our financial position remains very challenging.

We know from our parent/carer feedback that some families would like the opportunity to support the school in offering these enrichment experiences. For this reason, we are inviting parents and carers to make a **voluntary** contribution to help us continue providing a broad and enriching range of activities for all children.

Any contribution is entirely optional.

If you would like to contribute, you can do so on ParentPay under the heading **"Voluntary Contribution for Enrichment Opportunities"**. There is an option to pay between £1-£250 (if you would like to contribute, please choose an amount that you think is appropriate)

Voluntary contributions help us provide opportunities and resources such as:

- Visiting artists and specialist practitioners working with children in school
- Whole-school projects, such as collaborative eco-opportunities
- Specialist sports and enrichment activities, such as skateboarding lessons and violin tuition
- Practical curriculum experiences in art, design technology and food technology
- Materials and resources used in creative and hands-on learning
- Special events such as having hatching ducklings in Ladybirds

We are incredibly grateful for any support families choose to provide. Every contribution, no matter the amount, helps us continue to offer the enrichment opportunities, experiences and resources that make Dobcroft such a vibrant place for children to learn and grow.

Thank you, as always, for your continued support of our school community.

DASH October holiday play care bookings

[Click here for information about DASH October holiday play care](#)

Individual school photographs

Individual school photos will be taken on the 29th Sept during school hours. Any siblings in school on this day will have their photos taken together. Ladybirds who attend at the beginning of the week can come at 8.50am.

Dogs on school site – please clean up poo

We have had a couple of incidents this week where dog owners have not cleaned up their dog's poo. Please could you keep a close eye on your dog and ensure that any poo is cleaned up immediately. Thanks for your support with this so that we can continue to allow dogs on the school site.

[Click here for term dates 25–26](#)

Sept 2026

Week commencing 21st

Harvest festival food collection

23rd

Whole school
Share a story
8.50am

(Ladybirds 9am or 3pm)

29th

Individual School Photos

29th

Y1 Walk around the local area
(parent helpers requested)

Share a story – Wed 23rd Sept, 8:50–9:15am

Parents and carers are invited to come into your child's classroom and read a story with your child or a group of children. You can bring your favourite book or read one from the selection in the classroom. This is a lovely event that encourages a love of reading and helps us to celebrate books as a community. We look forward to welcoming you. Please arrive at 8:50am and go straight to your child's classroom.

Ladybirds have slightly different timings, please note these below:

Ladybirds, beginning of the week – 9.00 – 9.20am

Ladybirds, end of the week – 3.00 – 3.20pm

Full time Ladybirds can choose which sessions to attend.

Ladybird children with siblings in other year groups are welcome to share a story in their classrooms and drop off to Ladybirds after.

Larks and Owls Wraparound – how to book on Parent Pay

Please see information below (you can click on the image to access links) about how to book onto Larks and Owls. Please be aware that if your child is not booked on, they may not be allowed entry to the session. If you are paying with Tax Free Childcare, you must pay within one week (bank details can be found in the terms and conditions).



Booking Larks and Owls



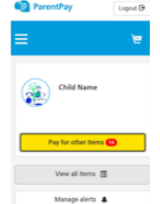
- 1**

Sign into Parent Pay

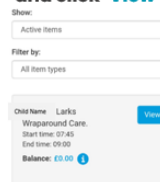
via the app or by following [this link](#).


- 2**

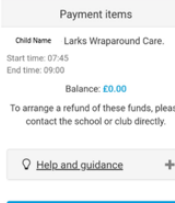
Select 'Pay for Other Items'


- 3**

Scroll to 'Larks Wraparound Care' or 'Owls Wraparound Care' and click 'View'


- 4**

Select 'Book Sessions'


- 5**

Select sessions

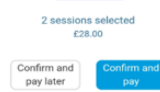
Only sessions with availability will be shown. Select the sessions you require, then click 'Book Selected Sessions'


- 6**

Confirm and Pay

If you are paying now, click 'Confirm and Pay'.

If you are paying using Tax Free Childcare, click 'Confirm and Pay Later'. You must pay within one week as per the [Terms and Conditions](#).



Music opportunities from the Sheffield Music Hub

The Sheffield Music Hub has a range of exciting opportunities on offer for children to get involved with. Follow the links below for more information.

MINI MUSIC MAKERS

A Music group for 5 – 7 year olds [Mini Music Makers! | Sheffield Music Hub](#)

MINI VOICES

A choir for Y1 and Y2 [Mini Voices | Sheffield Music Hub](#)

FREE MUSIC TASTER DAY FOR YOUNG MUSICIANS

On Saturday 10 October, 10:00am to 4:00pm, Sheffield Music Hub will be hosting Learn to Play 2026, a FREE music taster day at Red Tape Central, Sheffield.

Oct 2026

1st

CENSUS day

6th

Artist visit
James Brunt

SUNDAY 11th

10am–noon
Maintenance/
Gardening
Morning

THURSDAY

22nd

Dress down day
(Friday is an
INSET day)

22nd

Last day of half
term

Nov 2026

Mosque Trip

Kingfishers – Tues 3rd
Eagles – Wed 4th
Woodpeckers – Th 5th

(parent helpers are
requested)

The day includes:

- Free 20-minute one-to-one instrumental taster lessons with expert music teachers
- Free "Give it a Go" instrument stalls featuring brass, woodwind, strings, guitar, keyboard and percussion instruments
- Free group music taster sessions, including:
 - Mini Music Makers (ages 4 – 7)
 - Mini Voices Choir (Years 1 – 2)
 - Samba Music (Years 3 – 13)
 - Beginner Recorder Club (Years 2 – 4)

Please find full information here: [Learn To Play 2026 – FREE Music/Instrument Taster Day! | Sheffield Music Hub](#)

Spare Clothes Shout Out

If any parents across school have any old / spare items of clothing especially t-shirts and trousers or leggings in sizes from aged 2 to aged 5 that you are happy to donate to Ladybirds please drop them off at the office or one of the Ladybirds Rooms we would be very thankful.

We currently have no in school spares for our Ladybird Children.

Y1 Walk around the local area

On Tuesday 29th September, Y1 are going on a walk around the local area. The visit will take place during the afternoon and is weather dependent. We will need some parent volunteers to join us. If you are available and would like to come, please email your child's class teacher.

Y1 Geography – know your address

As part of our Y1 Geography, curriculum, children learn their home address. They need to know the first line, city and postcode. Please could you practise this at home. Teachers will check in with children to assess this knowledge. Thank you

Y2 Geography

In Eagles and Woodpeckers classroom, we are looking to add photographs to our Geography display. If you have visited a location in the UK over the summer holidays and would be happy to share a photograph on our classroom display, please send this in to your child's class teacher.

Attendance

Attendance target 2024–25: 97.5%. Currently school is at **97.6%**. Remember reduced % means 'Learning time lost'! A reminder that the chief medical officer encourages children to attend school if they have a cold, however if they have sickness, or diarrhoea, they need to remain absent for 48 hours after the last time this occurs. If your child has a temperature, they need to remain off school. Attendance as often as possible is important for your child.

Punctuality: It is important that you aim to be in school for the start time. This is 8.55am in Foundation Stage and 9am in Y1 and Y2. This is the time your child needs to be on the carpet, things put away ready for register and to learn, not when you are arriving at the entrance. Arriving late is disruptive to both your own child and the rest of the class. It is also likely your child will have missed some key learning for the day. This week **0.19%** of children were marked as late.

Ask me about...

Each week your class teacher will update this area with information about what your child has been learning during the week so that you can ask them questions about it.

Ladybirds

This week we have been further exploring our provision and our Ladybird routines. We have been to our Forest School and all really enjoyed using the resources we had available.

We have all made our own Ladybirds for our cloakroom display creating Ladybirds using our handprints.

Reminders:

Forest school on Mondays and Friday – we will be going whatever the weather so please send your child with appropriate clothing such as puddlesuit / waterproofs and wellies for rainy days. These can be kept in school on your child's peg.

PLEASE send your child with at least **two** full changes of clothes **each day**. We play outside no matter what the weather and this combined with lots of messy and water play and toilet accidents can mean children need changing in the day. We do not have the spare clothes in school to facilitate this many changes.

If you do have any old clothes that you are able to donate for us to have spare clothes in school that would be greatly appreciated.

Laura Hardwick – hardwickl@dobcroft-inf.sheffield.sch.uk

Vicky Blackburn – blackburnv@dobcroft-inf.sheffield.sch.uk

Lucy Brady – bradyl@dobcroft-inf.sheffield.sch.uk

Ellie Sutherland – sutherlande@dobcroft-inf.sheffield.sch.uk

Reception (Otters, Mice and Badgers)

Beth Cooke – cookeb@dobcroft-inf.sheffield.sch.uk

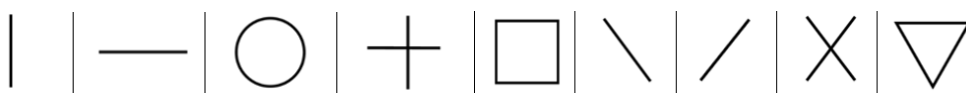
Shama Chaudhry – chaudhrys@dobcroft-inf.sheffield.sch.uk

Vikki Burgan – burganv@dobcroft-inf.sheffield.sch.uk

Helen Morris – morrish@dobcroft-inf.sheffield.sch.uk

Claire Pryce – prycec@dobcroft-inf.sheffield.sch.uk

This week we have been learning to join paper in different ways. The children have enjoyed using the split pins, treasury tags, hole punchers, glue, cellotape and staplers and are enjoying looking at their work on the display. We have enjoyed exploring and learning in our outdoor area, where we start each session with a sensory circuit to get the children ready for learning. We have also been focussing on our handwriting skills and practising the pre-handwriting shapes which can be seen below. If you can practise writing these shapes at home that would be great!



We are going to start sharing our scrapbooks during whole class learning next week so if your child hasn't brought theirs in yet can they bring it in next week please. We are also going to start our PE lessons where we have decided to gradually introduce getting changed independently in small steps. We will start by just taking off our shoes and socks and then gradually introduce trousers/skirts/dresses and putting our shorts on and then finally introduce the t-shirts. We are wanting the children to succeed with this and small steps will hopefully support all of the children and by the end of the year your child will be able to dress and undress for PE independently.

Reminder: The door will open at 8.45am and closed at 8.55am. If you arrive after 8.55am you will need to take your child to the school office.

The end of the school day for Reception children is 3.25pm. Your child's class teacher will need to see the adult collecting them before they can let your child go.

Y1 (Hedgehogs, Squirrels and Foxes)

English: Learnt about capital letters, finger spaces and full stops.

Maths: Counted on in ones.

Science: Explored how we see with our eyes.

Geography: Looked at human and physical geographical features.

Computing: Learnt what a computer is and some of its different parts (screen, keyboard, mouse and base unit)

Foxes – Mrs Granger & Miss Smith – grangerk@dobcroft-inf.sheffield.sch.uk & smithk@dobcroft-inf.sheffield.sch.uk

Hedgehogs – Mr Jones – jonesd@dobcroft-inf.sheffield.sch.uk

Squirrels – Miss Coldron – coldronp@dobcroft-inf.sheffield.sch.uk

Y2 (Woodpeckers, Kingfishers and Eagles)

English – we recapped what verbs are and learnt what an expanded noun phrase is (determiner, adjective, noun)

Maths – we located numbers using a number line and estimated where numbers would be (e.g. –42 being between 0 and 50).

Science – we looked at features of fish and what they need to survive

Art – we went up to Forest School and created pictures using natural resources

Computing – we named information technology in the world and how it helps us (e.g. – speed camera, laptop)

Woodpeckers – Mrs Holmes & Mrs Shepherd holmesk@dobcroft-inf.sheffield.sch.uk & shepherdjenni@dobcroft-inf.sheffield.sch.uk

Eagles – Mrs Fairfull – fairfullc@dobcroft-inf.sheffield.sch.uk

Kingfishers – Miss Clifffen – cliffena@dobcroft-inf.sheffield.sch.uk