



# DPS News

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*"And she brought forth her firstborn Son, and wrapped Him in swaddling cloths, and laid Him in a manger, because there was no room for them in the inn." Luke 2:7*

16<sup>th</sup> December, 2022

Dear Parents and Carers,

As we reach the end of the Autumn Term, on behalf of the whole school community I want to express our thanks for all you do to support your child/ren's education and the school.

The amazing turnout at the Fair last week is testament to the caring community we belong to – so many volunteers running stalls, setting up, clearing down and doing a million other jobs in between, thank you. Thanks too to everyone who supported FODS with the children's discos and Teddy Bear's Picnic this week. And an especially big thank you to Lou (mum to Anya in Green Class) for acting as Event Organiser for both of these events – despite them being so close together – an amazing achievement.

It has also been lovely to welcome so many parents, carers and family members to share in our Nativity Plays over the last two weeks. Whatever your personal religious beliefs, the retelling of the historical account of that little baby, born in a stable and being visited by everyone from the lowly shepherds to the wealthy wise men, is one that always endures.

Thank you for the many kind messages that staff have received as the term draws to a close. We are so blessed that our staff show a commitment, over and above expectations, in order to provide the very best environment for your child/ren to thrive; it is always lovely for them to receive messages from parents acknowledging this. I am hugely grateful to the entire staff team for all they have given again this term – they are truly amazing, and have enabled the children to achieve excellence in so many ways.

I wish you all a very happy Christmas. May your holiday be filled with love, joy and peace.

Kind regards

Cathy Bell  
Headteacher

**Events which parents/carers may like to attend at school or be aware of**  
(see calendar at the end of the newsletter for full list of upcoming school events)

19 <sup>th</sup> Dec – Monday 2 <sup>nd</sup> Jan	CHRISTMAS HOLIDAYS
3 <sup>rd</sup> January 2023	FIRST DAY OF SPRING TERM 1 – Happy New Year! 2023
9 <sup>th</sup> January	Open Morning Event @9.30am



# FODS

## New Year New FODS!



We are seeking **4-5 Events Committee members for FODS and a new Treasurer**. We are saying farewell to our two amazing Events Committee members Emma and Lou, who have given so much creative thinking, time and effort over several years to FODS events and to Ritz who has been FODS Treasurer for many years looking after our income and spending. To ensure we can run events well, FODS needs new Events Committee members and a Treasurer to look after our accounts (accounting experience obviously a huge advantage for this role!).

The benefits to you are:

- enjoying planning and taking part in FODS events
- the satisfaction of giving your own new creative ideas to the team
- making new friends with other parents across the school
- adding value to your CV by evidencing your abilities with regard to: team work, fundraising initiatives, creative event planning & helping the community.

The commitment from you would be to attend an evening committee meeting once per month and to assist the team with the running of FODS events. This academic year FODS has a 2 new Co-Chairs, a new Secretary, new Comms Lead and we now need to recruit events members and treasurer who have such a crucial role. We welcome new ideas as well as the ability to reconsider existing events to improve what is working well. Please get in touch and email us to show your interest at [dorchesterpta@gmail.com](mailto:dorchesterpta@gmail.com).

## Thank You!



Thank you for everyone who has donated items, volunteered their time, given such effort and attended and supported our FODS events this year. We look forward to planning new events next year for the children and parents to enjoy and to help raise money for things the children can use in school as we want to help support the school in any way we can for our children. Finally, thank you also to the teachers and admin staff for helping at and accommodating FODS events!



# Class Notes

From everyone in Nursery and Reception, all the children have worked so hard these past few months, and we are so proud of them all. Enjoy your well earned break!



and...



## What did you enjoy most about the Christmas story?

Year 1 have all had a great half term and we have been very proud of their achievements. This week we have been learning about the Christmas Story. They have been retelling the story in English and are developing a good understanding of it. In Maths we been learning about 2D and 3D shapes and their properties. In PSHE we have been learning about the differences between bullying and teasing and in RE we have been learning about how birthdays are celebrated around the world. In Science and Geography we have been reviewing the children's knowledge in our topics and have been impressed with their understanding.

We wish you all a very merry Christmas and are looking forward to seeing you all in January!



# Class Notes

## How can you describe Moz the monster?

Wow, what a fantastic end to the term! The children have worked so hard for weeks on their Nativity, and we are so pleased that they 'shined' for you all on Monday and Tuesday. Thank you all for your hard work from home, it has really helped us in school.

Aside from the Nativity, we have been finishing off and getting ready to start our new topics. In Maths, we finished looking at money, and have started practising multiplication, understanding how to put numbers into different groups. In English, the children read about Moz the monster, who was keeping Joe awake all night! The children wrote some lovely character descriptions of Moz, using lots of expanded noun phrases which helped them add lots of detail. In Science, we finished looking at materials and have reviewed all the things we have learned. We did the same in Geography too, with the children exploring features of Worcester Park by drawing their own maps, before reviewing the key learning questions.

## What do you think the most important message of the Christmas story?

This week, we have finished learning about the Christmas story from different people's perspectives. We looked at the value of money in society in PSHE and the many different ways that we can make trades and transactions. In DT, we all finished and evaluated our castles which we built from nets. Year 4 ended the story of Ocean Meets Sky by writing about one of our own dreams. In Maths, we have been using our knowledge of multiplication and division to solve worded problems and find effective methods for multiplying 3 numbers together. Year 3 also finished reading The Lost Thing by designing their own lost thing and describing it. In Maths, we did problems solving using multiplication and division.

## What does the winter break symbolise for you?

Well done Year 5, we made it! We have had an extremely festive and fun last week of term, and are all really looking forward to the break over the Christmas holidays. We have been continuing with our fractions work in year 5, which children are really starting to get the hang of. Consider thinking about fractions over the holiday period, as we still have two weeks or so of fractions from January, so keeping the revision up by thinking about fractions in real life over the break will be super helpful! The children finished their poetry, which all turned out beautifully. We discussed the colours of Christmas and what they symbolise too, in RE. Whether you celebrate Christmas or not, we hope you have a well-deserved and restful break, and we will see you in the New Year!

## What aspect of sewing did you find challenging?

Our Design and Technology project has taken up a lot of our week and the children have had an opportunity to practise one of our school values - perseverance. Their task was to design and sew a waistcoat for either a person or a soft toy of their choice. Some chose to make a waistcoat for their friend and the discussion of England manager Gareth Southgate's waistcoats, has also featured heavily! For some, sewing was a relatively new skill, whilst some children are experienced sewers. They have all been able to develop new skills and many have learnt about sewing on buttons and making buttonholes. The need for consistency in size of stitch has been crucial to ensure their waistcoats are securely made. The children are proud of their achievements, as are the staff. In English, the children have been using the short film 'Prep and Landing' to write instructions for Santa's elves in the preparation of a house for the Big Guy's arrival.



# Safeguarding

## Stay safe this Christmas

We've put together some safety tips to help you step into Christmas safely.

Please look at the information below to ensure that you have a safe and happy Christmas.

**Fire safety** - Fire safety advice for staying safe this Christmas.

The most important thing you can do to stay safe over Christmas is check that your smoke alarms are working. If they don't work please contact the [Customer Care Line](#) straightaway.

Please also check your Christmas lights to make sure that they have the British Safety Kitemark and that there are no signs of burning around the plugs. Turn any lights off and unplug them when you go out or go to bed, and don't leave candles lit when you are not in the room. Please do not decorate communal areas.

### More safety tips

We really hope you enjoy your Christmas celebrations after what has been a very difficult year. The [Royal Society of the Prevention of Accidents](#) (RoSPA) has put together some useful advice:

- If you have old Christmas lights, consider replacing them with newer LED ones which meet much higher safety standards and don't get as hot. Don't let children play with lights as some have swallowed the bulbs.
- Keep decorations and cards away from fires and other heat sources such as light fittings.
- Don't leave burning candles unattended – make sure you put them out before going to bed – and do not put candles on Christmas trees.
- Check children's gifts are for the correct age group and from reputable retailers, and that they comply to safety standards. You can find more information [here](#)
- Check to see if toys need batteries, never use the batteries from a smoke alarm.
- Look out for small items that young children could choke on, including parts that have fallen off toys or from Christmas trees, button batteries, and burst balloons.
- Remember, Christmas decorations are not toys and do not have to comply with toy safety regulations. Think about where you place them, for example, place them high up on Christmas trees where they are out of the reach of young hands.
- Give yourself enough time to prepare and cook Christmas dinner to avoid hot fat, boiling water and sharp knife accidents that come from rushing, and keep anyone not helping with dinner out of the kitchen. Wipe up any spills quickly.
- Use scissors to open packaging and screwdrivers to put together toys. Do not use a knife.
- Watch out for trailing cables and wires when you connect new gadgets and appliances, and always read instructions.
- Falls are the most common accidents so try to keep clutter to a minimum. Make sure stairs are well-lit and free from obstacles, especially if you have guests.
- Do not drink and drive, and plan long journeys so you won't be driving tired.

### Are you worried about the welfare of a child or young person?

<https://www.nspcc.org.uk/what-is-child-abuse/spotting-signs-child-abuse/>

If you think a child could be at risk of significant harm, you can call the children's social care team at the council in Sutton ([Go to their website](#))

[020 8770 6001](tel:02087706001) (Monday to Friday, 9am and 5pm) [020 8770 5000](tel:02087705000) (out of hours)

**Always call 999 in an emergency**



# DPS Links

### School Nursing Duty Line

We have set up a duty School Nurse line to enable telephone contact for parents and young people to offer support to replace some current face-to-face contact at this time.

0208 770 5409

### Useful links

All school information and communication [www.classlist.com](http://www.classlist.com)

Payment link for school dinners and class trips

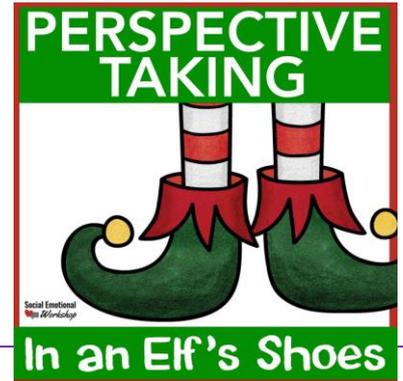
[www.pay360educationpayments.com/Home](http://www.pay360educationpayments.com/Home)

Our website <http://www.dorchesterprimary.com/>

Use the website for our Twitter @DorchesterP

Our Facebook page <https://www.facebook.com/dorchesterprimary>

Our overall value for the school is  
**Empathy**



**\*Please note- when we return in 2023 the first day back the menu will be: Tuesday 3<sup>rd</sup> Jan - Macaroni / Mexican Roll & Rice / Sweetcorn & peas / icecream / jacket potato**

**\*Please note- no GAMMON or BEEF on Wednesday it will always be CHICKEN**

		Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	
<b>WEEK ONE</b>	Option 1	Cheese & Tomato Pizza	Beef Lasagne* with Garlic Bread	Roast Gammon* with Roast New Potatoes & Gravy	BBQ or Lemon & Herb Chicken* with Potato Wedges	MSC Salmon Fish Fingers with Chips & Tomato Sauce	
	31 Oct 21 Nov 12 Dec	Option 2	Veggie Chilli with Rice	Mexican Bean Roll with Rice	Crunchy Top Veg Bake with Roast New Potatoes	Rice BBQ or Lemon & Herb Quorn Fillets with Potato Wedges or Rice	Cheese Quiche with Chips
	16 Jan 6 Feb	Vegetables	Carrots Green Beans	Broccoli Sweetcorn	Carrot & Swede Mash Cabbage	Sweetcorn Roasted Tomatoes	Garden Peas Baked Beans
	6 March 27 March	Dessert	Pear & Chocolate Crumble with Custard Yoghurt / Fresh Fruit	Raspberry Jelly with Peaches Yoghurt / Fresh Fruit	Vanilla Shortbread with Yoghurt Yoghurt / Fresh Fruit	Yoghurt & Raisin Cake Yoghurt / Fresh Fruit	Banana Sponge with Custard Yoghurt / Fresh Fruit
<b>WEEK TWO</b>	Option 1	Macaroni Cheese	Spaghetti Bolognese* with Garlic Bread	Roast Beef* with Roast Potatoes & Gravy	Chicken* Tikka Masala Curry with Rice	Pork Sausages* with Chips & Tomato Sauce	
	7 Nov 28 Nov 2 Jan 23 Jan 20 Feb 13 March	Option 2	Shepherdess Pie with Gravy	Lentil & Basil Whirl with New Potatoes	Cauliflower & Broccoli Cheese with Roast Potatoes	Vegetable Fajitas with Rice	Veggie Sausages with Chips & Tomato Sauce
	Vegetables	Green Beans Roasted Vegetables	Broccoli Sweetcorn	Carrots Roasted Butternut Squash	Cauliflower Green Beans	Garden Peas Baked Beans	
	Dessert	Fresh Fruit Salad Yoghurt / Fresh Fruit	Peach Upside Down Cake with Custard Yoghurt / Fresh Fruit	Oaty Cookie with Yoghurt Fruit & Yoghurt Station	Marble Cake with Custard Yoghurt / Fresh Fruit	Fruit with Ice Cream Yoghurt / Fresh Fruit	
<b>WEEK THREE</b>	Option 1	Cheese Swirls with New Potatoes	Beef Burger* in a Bun with Potato Wedges	Roast Chicken* with Stuffing, Roast Potatoes & Gravy	Sticky Chicken* Noodles or Rice	MSC Fish Fingers with Chips & Tomato Sauce	
	14 Nov 5 Dec 9 Jan 30 Jan 27 Feb 20 March	Option 2	Tomato Pasta	Quorn Burger in a Bun with Potato Wedges	Vegetarian Wellington with Roast Potatoes	Veggie Wrap Stack with Rice	Cheese Omelette with Chips
	Vegetables	Green Beans Carrots	Roasted Peppers Sweetcorn	Carrots Roasted Parsnips	Broccoli Sweetcorn	Garden Peas Baked Beans	
	Dessert	Rice Pudding with Berries Yoghurt / Fresh Fruit	Fresh Fruit Salad Yoghurt / Fresh Fruit	Orange Jelly with Mandarins Yoghurt / Fresh Fruit	Peach Crumble with Custard Yoghurt / Fresh Fruit	Chocolate & Apple Cake with Chocolate Sauce Yoghurt / Fresh Fruit	

- Added Plant Power
  - Vegan
  - Wholemeal
- Available Daily**
- Freshly cooked jacket potatoes with a choice of fillings (where advertised)
  - Bread freshly baked on site daily
  - Daily salad selection

**ALLERGY INFORMATION**

If your child has an allergy or intolerance, please ask the school for information. If your child has a school lunch and has a food allergy or intolerance, you will be asked to complete a form to ensure we have the necessary information to cater for your child. We use a large variety of ingredients in the preparation of our meals and due to the nature of our kitchens it is not possible to completely remove the risk of cross-contamination.

\* HALAL OPTION AVAILABLE



# DPS Diary of all events

19 <sup>th</sup> Dec – Monday 2 <sup>nd</sup> Jan	<b>CHRISTMAS HOLIDAYS</b>
3 <sup>rd</sup> January 2023	<b>FIRST DAY OF SPRING TERM 1</b>
9 <sup>th</sup> January	<b>Open Morning @0930</b>
10 <sup>th</sup> January	Year 4 trip to Horniman Museum
11 <sup>th</sup> January	Year 3 trip to Horniman Museum
24 <sup>th</sup> January	Amethyst Class to Wimbledon Synagogue
26 <sup>th</sup> January	Year 5 Trip to Hampton Court Palace
10 <sup>th</sup> February	<b>Last day of Spring 1 before half term break</b>
13 <sup>th</sup> – 17 <sup>th</sup> February	<b>HALF TERM</b>
20 <sup>th</sup> February	<b>FIRST DAY OF SPRING TERM 2</b>
28 <sup>th</sup> February	Lavendar Class to Wimbledon Synagogue
2 <sup>nd</sup> March	World Book Day
14 <sup>th</sup> March	Purple Class to Wimbledon Synagogue
22 <sup>nd</sup> – 23 <sup>rd</sup> March	Parent Consultations
30 <sup>th</sup> March	<b>Last day of term for Nursery</b>
31 <sup>st</sup> March	<b>LAST DAY OF SPRING 2 Term</b>
3 <sup>rd</sup> April – 14 <sup>th</sup> April	<b>EASTER HOLIDAYS</b>
17 <sup>th</sup> April	<b>First day of Summer 1 Term</b>
26 <sup>th</sup> May	<b>Last day of Summer 1 before Half term</b>
29 <sup>th</sup> May – 2 <sup>nd</sup> June	<b>HALF TERM</b>
Monday 5 <sup>th</sup> June	<b>INSET Day</b>
Tuesday 6 <sup>th</sup> June	<b>First day of Summer 2 term</b>
Wednesday 19 <sup>th</sup>	<b>Last day of term for Nursery</b>
Thursday 20 <sup>th</sup>	<b>Last day of term</b>
Friday 21 <sup>st</sup> July	<b>INSET Day</b>



The Willow Club our Wrap Around Care Provision, which includes Breakfast Club, Morning Club, After School Club and Holiday Club.

Places are available for after school club for the remainder of this term. Just visit The Willow Club Wrap Around Care page on the school website (<https://www.dorchesterprimary.com/page/?title=The+Willow+Club+Wrap%2Daround+Care&pid=64&action=saved>) to book.

The new contact number for the club is 07597-382949.

***Please note that bookings need to be made and paid for in advance of your child attending the sessions.*** We have had several children attending the club without bookings which means we may have insufficient food, staff or resources for them. Thank you for your understanding.