



DPS News

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'Christmas doesn't come from a store, maybe Christmas perhaps means a little bit more'.
Dr Seuss, 'How the Grinch Stole Christmas'

10th December, 2021

Dear Parents and Carers

Things are feeling wonderfully festive around school now. I'm sure you will agree that our Christmas Fayre was a phenomenal success - the atmosphere was full of Christmas cheer and everyone seemed to be having a wonderful time. Not only that, the profit made from the event amounted to £3550; 30% of that money will go to each class that ran a stall (all but one class), and the rest will go towards the next exciting FODS project – watch this space, or come to the next meeting, for more details. Huge thanks to our FODS team and to everyone who volunteered to make the day so special – you are amazing. Thanks also go to everyone who came along to the Fayre – your support is very much appreciated.

It was fantastic to be able to welcome Nursery and Reception parents into school to share their children's performance of 'Our First Nativity' on Tuesday. The children acted and sang beautifully, the narrators were clear and the signing of the songs was incredible. There was so much for such young children to remember and they did amazingly well – we are so proud of each and every one of them. Well done children!

Today the children have arrived looking resplendent in their Christmas Jumpers. It has been lovely to see so many children making donations to Save the Children from their own pocket money, rather than relying on parents to provide them with money. A big thank you to Maddie in Red Class who organised her own fundraiser with her class; they have amassed an amazing £25 to add to the collection for Save the Children. Maddie showed amazing initiative and commitment in organising this – surely a leader of the future. Well done Maddie.

Please remember that the **last day of term for Nursery children is Thursday 16th December** and that **school finishes early on Friday 17th December** for children in Reception – Year 6. Reception children will finish at 1:20pm, Year 1 and 2 children will finish at 1:25pm and children in Years 3-6 finish at 1:30pm. School reopens to all children on Wednesday 5th January. **Please make sure that your child/ren are collected on time on the last day of term** – it is a very busy afternoon for already exhausted staff who need to get things ready for January – and the office ladies often end up having to spend too much time making several phone calls to parents who haven't remembered the early finish. Your support with this is much appreciated.

There is no After School Club running on the last day of term but do remember that our Holiday Club is running from Monday 20th until Wednesday 22nd December inclusive – so if you are working or just need a bit more time to get that last minute Christmas shopping done, you can book places for your child/ren by [visiting this page](#). Places are limited so do sign up as soon as possible if you would like a place.

Enjoy the weekend.

Cathy Bell
Headteacher



DPS Notices

CHRISTMAS LUNCH – HAT MAKING

Thank you to everyone who has signed up for Christmas lunch. All of the children (whether they are having packed lunch or school lunch) will be making a festive hat on Tuesday to wear to the event on Wednesday.

Please could you provide your child with some Christmassy bits and bobs (tinsel, cotton wool, bows, ribbon, Christmas stickers etc – no glitter please) to decorate their hats. We will provide sugar paper bands for the children to decorate. Please send the Christmas bits in on Monday or Tuesday. Thank you.

Fundraising – Royal British Legion Poppy Appeal

We heard this week from the Royal British Legion Poppy Appeal. In the run up to Armistice Day we raised a magnificent £776.99 through the sale of poppies and poppy products. Thanks so much for your support with this and a special thank you to Evie in Year 6 who arranged the delivery of children's poppy products to school and helped to sell them – and especially for the last minute extra delivery of slap bands – without which we might have had an uprising on our hands! Thank you Evie (and Evie's mum) for your support with this – and thanks to everyone who contributed.

ECO News

Thank you to everyone who took part in our Eco-Council 'Design a Poster' Competition. Everyone who entered will receive a certificate for your efforts. We received some fantastic entries. The posters had some excellent illustrations, they touched on all the important topics to do with the climate crisis and it was very difficult to choose a winner. The Eco council made their judgment based on what was informative and eye catching.

Congratulations to Summer in Blue Class in Y5 - You win a £15 Amazon voucher. Well done!

(Main picture – Summer, group picture - finalists)



Sports results

On Friday our boys football team attended the U11 Fulham Foundation Football Tournament. Our team qualified in their group, and got through to the semi-finals. They played a really challenging game but sadly did not win to go through to the finals. Huge congratulations must go to the team for all their efforts and great teamwork on what was a very exciting day.



Class Notes



What is your favourite part of preparing for Christmas?

With cold weather in the air and Christmas wishes in our hearts we have started to dream of a white Christmas. We got impatient waiting for the real thing, so the children in Nursery have enjoyed making their own snow to play in. It is incredible what you can do with a bit of hair conditioner and some cornflour! The children had a lovely time exploring the textures and making their own snow scenes. They were also very good at explaining the changes that they saw in the ingredients whilst it was being made. The children have been busy decorating our tree each day and making their own Christmas decorations. They have been developing their fine motor skills by cutting their own strips of paper to make paper chains. They have also been able to use their maths knowledge to make repeating patterns on baubles. We have enjoyed sharing the story *'Twas the night before Christmas'* and the children have all enjoyed talking about how they prepare for Christmas at home. At the beginning of the week we were very proud of all the children as they performed 'Our First Nativity' to their families. They all remembered the signs and words to all the songs and danced with confidence, gifting their families with memories to last a lifetime.



Why does St Nicholas leave treats in our shoes?

Well Wow Reception! What a start to the week! On Tuesday, both classes took part in two Nativity performances in front of their parents and other family members. The children were amazing! Some learned lines, they all signed and sang songs, some played instruments, and they gave two beautiful performances to two very happy audiences, along with our Nursery classes. We are so proud of them.

This week the children have been learning about two different celebrations. One is the festival of St Nicholas, which is celebrated in many European Countries and also by people from those Countries, who live here. We learned about the kindness and generosity of St Nicholas and how he secretly gave gifts to people who were in need. The children took part in the custom of cleaning a shoe and leaving it out by the door. They were very lucky because St Nicholas visited us and left a clementine and a chocolate coin for everyone.



Class Notes

What happens in Winter?

The children have had another busy week in Year 1 and have all been working very hard. Thank you to everyone who attended the Phonics workshop on Thursday. If you were unable to attend but would like to watch it, it will be downloaded into your child's google classroom by Monday.

In English, the children have completed their star writes (children's independent writing) and have worked incredibly hard to remember everything they have learnt. For their star write they had to retell the story of 'The Monkey Puzzle' and they did a fantastic job.

In Maths, we have been looking at subtraction and how we can use a part whole model to help us find the answer. The children have thought about the different words they can use for subtractions and how they can use objects to help them work out the answers.

In Science, we have looked at the four seasons and the changes we have noticed as we prepare for Winter. The children enjoyed looking at the different clothes and sorting them into the different seasons.

In Geography, we looked at the impact humans are having on the jungle and what we could do to help save the jungle. We looked at how it was affecting the animals that live there, the children spent time creating their own save the Orangutan posters.

What new facts have you learnt about penguins?

Year 2 have been working really hard practising our Nativity and can't wait to show their parents and carers next week!

This week we have also been writing non-chronological reports. The children have researched their own facts about penguins on the chromebooks and created fact files of what they found. They then used these to plan and write their own reports.

In Maths they have impressed our with their division skills and they are beginning to divide by 2 and 5. They are also starting to recognise the relationship between multiplication and division.

In Science we have been investigating which materials change through using forces and in Geography we have learnt compass directions.

Are robot teachers better than humans?

We have had a very exciting week in Year 3 and 4 this week. In English we have been writing a balanced argument about whether teachers should be replaced by Robots. Most of us decided that teachers are better than robots for many reasons, including the fact that robots can't laugh at all our bad jokes. This was a really great thing to be discussing because for the past few weeks one member of our year group has been able to join our lessons through their own robot called Astro. In Maths we have been continuing with our multiplication and division and learning more about how they are connected to each other. In RE we thought about how the different characters from the Christmas story would have felt. In Art we recreated our Pop Art volcanoes using collage, and we built spaghetti buildings to see the effects of Earthquakes on buildings and communities in Geography. We have learned so much, as well as having lots of fun.





Safeguarding

Supporting our children's safety

Christmas is such a wonderful time of year, excitable children and time to relax with family and friends. And of course, there are new toys to play with. With a huge increase in sales of devices (around 13 million people receive smartphones for Christmas each year) it is important to ensure that you and your children are safe when playing with new kit. To help, we've set out a few top tips to help keep your household safe online over the holidays.

The Tech: Learn your way around - Most devices have controls to ensure that kids can't access content you don't want them to. [Make sure your "in-app" purchases are disabled](#) to avoid a nightmare surprise in the new year.

Tablets - Tablets are really popular with younger children, and the market has several which are geared towards child friendly content. When it comes to using them, start slowly; only download games and apps you have checked out carefully (sites such as www.net-aware.org.uk, or www.common sense media.org provide useful advice!) and steer them towards age targeted content such as www.bbc.co.uk/iplayer/cbeebies/features/iplayer-kids or YouTube Kids.

Mobile devices - If you have older children, and are thinking about getting them a new phone for Christmas, this can pose its own challenges:

The old online safety message about having your home computer in a communal place becomes defunct, because phones are literally mobile computers and have the power of most traditional desktop PCs.

Set boundaries - Our advice is to set some ground rules, and ensure they understand them. For example:

Screen Time - Agree a time limit or number of games beforehand, to avoid repeated disagreements around how long they can spend online.

Sleep comes first - It is advisable that the phone stays out of the bedroom to avoid those night time interruptions.

Ask for access - If you're genuinely concerned about them, ask them to allow you access to the phone.

Monitoring vs having a conversation

It is possible to install software onto devices that monitors online activity, alerts you to inappropriate behaviour, and can block access to certain content. This type of software is becoming increasingly popular, but while this might sound tempting, it does pose a number of issues around your child's right to privacy & could have an impact upon your relationship with them. [SWGfL published this blog](#) earlier this year, which covers the subject in some detail and raises some interesting points. The best advice we can give is to talk to your child regularly and openly about behaviour and risk, so that they know they can come to you if something goes wrong. SWGfL also covered this in its Parenting in a Digital Age series earlier this year, in this [blog](#).

Consider setting parental controls on your Wi-Fi – you can block access to inappropriate or adult content, and set time limits which may help rein in those excessive Minecraft sessions. The UK Safer Internet Centre has advice on this here.

Gaming

Finally, a word about games. This year there are so many exciting games and consoles around, there is a good chance you might have one in your house. Whether a DS, Nintendo Switch or PS4, there is something for everyone, and every age. Consider whether your child is mature enough to join an online community, and whether the games they are playing are appropriate. For more advice on this visit www.pegi.info or www.askaboutgames.com. Our blog from earlier this year, ['The real cost of online gaming'](#) also gives an insight into the type of things to be aware of when it comes to gaming.

Finally, make sure you enjoy your tech together, it's the perfect time of year!

Are you regularly checking yours and your children's privacy settings and phone, device or gaming usage?

We encourage parents and carers to make regular use of the following websites with regards to keeping children safe online.

www.thinkuknow.co.uk/parents

www.childnet.com

www.saferinternet.org.uk

www.parentinfo.org

www.internetmatters.org

www.nspcc.org.uk/onlinesafety

www.common sense media.org



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

Payment link for school dinners and class trips

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>

The value for this half term is **Empathy.**

Empathy is the medicine the world needs.

JUDITH ORLOFF

		Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday
Week One	Option 1	Macaroni Cheese	Pork Sausages with Potato Wedges	Roast Chicken with Stuffing, Roast Potatoes and Gravy	Beef Lasagne with Garlic Bread	MSC Salmon Fish Fingers with Chips and Tomato Sauce
	Option 2	Vegetable and Bean Fajitas with 50/50 Rice	Vegan Sausage with Potato Wedges	Vegetable Wellington with Roast Potatoes and Gravy	Tomato and Lentil Pasta with Garlic Bread	Homily Pie with Chips
	Vegetables	Green Beans Carrots	Baked Tomatoes Sweetcorn	Cauliflower Broccoli	Roasted Vegetables Sweetcorn	Baked Beans Garden Peas
	Dessert	Sticky Toffee Apple Crumble with Custard	Oaty Cookie	Fruit and Yoghurt Station	Mandarin Jelly	Carrot & Courgette Cake with Custard
Week Two	Option 1	Cheese and Tomato Pizza with New Potatoes	Macaroni Beef Bake	Roast Gammon with Roast Potatoes and Gravy	Mediterranean Chicken with Rice	MSC Fish Fingers with Chips and Tomato Sauce
	Option 2	Vegetable Tagine with Couscous	Roasted Cauliflower Curry with Rice	Roasted Quorn with Roast Potatoes and Gravy	Vegetarian Lasagne	Mexican Bean Roll with Chips
	Vegetables	Sweetcorn Broccoli	Peppers Carrots	Carrots Cabbage	Green Beans Cauliflower	Baked Beans Garden Peas
	Dessert	Pear Crumble with Custard	Chocolate Shortbread	Fruit and Yoghurt Station	Peach Upside Down Cake with Custard	Apple Flapjack
Week Three	Option 1	Vegetarian Tortilla Stack with Rice	Beef Burger with Wedges	Roast Turkey with Roast Potatoes and Gravy	Chicken Arrabiata Pasta Bake	MSC Fish in Batter with Chips and Tomato Sauce
	Option 2	Vegan Meatballs in Tomato Sauce with Rice	Quorn Burger with jacket Wedges	Mixed Vegetable Loaf with Roast Potatoes and Gravy	Wholemeal Vegetable Pasta Bake	BBQ Quorn with Chips
	Vegetables	Broccoli Sweetcorn	Garden Peas Carrots	Carrot and Swede Mash Cabbage	Green Beans Cauliflower	Baked Beans Garden Peas
	Dessert	Rice Pudding with Mixed Berries	Apple Cake with Custard	Pinwheel Cookie	Chocolate Cake with Chocolate Sauce	Fresh Fruit Salad

- 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 a member of the catering team 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.

* HALAL OPTION AVAILABLE



DPS Diary

13 th December	Year 2 Nativity Dress Rehearsals
13 th December	Year 1 Hearing screening
14 th December	Year 2 Nativity 9.30am & 1.30pm
15 th December	Christmas Lunch
16 th December	Nursery end of term
17 th December	End of Autumn 2 term School Finishes at 1.30pm
20 th Dec – 3 rd Jan	Christmas Holidays
4 th January	INSET DAY
5 th January	First day of Spring 1 term
12 th January	Nursery Open Morning 10.30-11.30 and EYFS Open Afternoon 2-3pm
14 th January	Young Voices Choir
11 th February	Last day of Spring 1 term
14 th – 18 th Feb	Half term
21 st February	First day of Spring 2 term
30 th March	Nursery end of term
31 st March	End of Spring 2 term
1 st – 18 th April	Easter Holidays
Tuesday 19 th April	First day of Summer 1 term
9 th – 11 th May	SATS Week + Year 5 Residential
23 rd - 27 th May	Year 6 Residential
27 th May	Last day of term
30 th May – 3 rd June	Half term
6 th June	INSET DAY
7 th June	First day of Summer 2 term
19 th July	Nursery end of term
20 th July	End of Summer 2 term
21 st July	INSET Day