



Dear Parents and Carers

HAPPY CHRISTMAS EVERYONE!

Congratulations with those of you who managed to keep up with our many exciting activities in the final fortnight of term! The Nativity play last week was an absolute joy. Many thanks to the children, and staff for all their hard work.



The children had great fun at the class parties and looked great in their Christmas jumpers whilst raising money for Save the Children.

Our thanks to Mrs Cauvin, Mrs Barron and Mrs Deverill for all the preparation that went into our delicious Christmas lunch. Thank you for all the contributions of foliage for the table decorations.

Many thanks for the many donations of food for the Hedge End Food centre from our Reverse Advent initiative. Each class and staff managed to collect well over 25 items thanks to your incredible generosity.

Christmas Fayre

A huge THANK YOU to everyone involved in this years Christmas fayre. We are still counting the money raised, but will let you know the outcome as soon as possible.

Durley Christmas Tree Festival

The children have very much enjoyed making Christmas tree decorations in school over the past couple of weeks in preparation for the Holy Cross Church, Durley Christmas Tree Festival. Please do pop into the church to see our display which will be over this weekend of Friday 15 (7:30-9:00pm) Saturday 16 (10am-4:00pm) and Sunday 17 December (10:00am-3:30pm). The church carol service will be on Sunday 17 December at 3:30pm.

Durley School Reading Challenge

Mr Firth has kindly set you all a **Christmas Reading Challenge** which will be emailed out to you today. You can also find it on Class Dojo and as a hard copy in book bags. He is offering an amazing 5 Dojos to every child who completes the challenge!



Governor News

This has also been a busy term for the Governing Body.

The team have been working on our school **vision statement**, which after many redrafts and deliberations will be found on our school website in the New Year.

Following the resignation of Tanya Metcalf earlier in the term, The Governing Body Co-opted parent new Governor James Irving onto the committee.

Sadly, the Chair of our premises Committee Dan Oldroyd felt he had to step down due to increasing work commitments. We are very grateful to Dan for all his support and hard work over the past years, particularly in his dedication to ensure we improved our outdoor facilities with the installation of the MUGA on the school field. We wish Dan and his family well.

As a result of Dan's resignation, we have a **vacancy for a parent Governor**. If you think you might be interested in the position or wish to find out more about the role, please do not hesitate to contact Chair of Governors Jenny Carkeet or myself before **Friday 19 January**.

Safeguarding is always an important topic with the Governing Body ensuring we are fully up to date with training and understanding of how policy is reflected in our everyday work. At each Governing Body meeting we discuss different scenarios involving children, and how the school should respond to any concerns. All Governors have completed additional safeguarding online training. This term we have been raising awareness of the PREVENT duty and what this means to us as a small village primary school.

In line with our **school improvement plan**, the curriculum committee have been listening to children's views on reading stories and reading for pleasure which we continue to promote. Even our most reluctant readers owned up to their love of listening to stories despite not being overly willing to do it for themselves.

Community Carol Singing

If you would like to start your festive break with some carol singing, please remember to join the Durley Village Carol Singers outside the Thresher Room at the Sawmills today Friday 15 December at 5:30pm and on Thursday 21 December 6:00pm at the Robin Hood or 8:00pm at the Farmers Home in Durley. No singing skills needed! All welcome and proceeds go towards the Durley Diamonds Lunch in the Spring.

Finally, our thanks for all the cards and generous gifts from you all as well as your tremendous support throughout this term. I am sure that you would also like me to thank the staff on your behalf who have worked tirelessly to ensure your children receive the best possible education.

We wish you all a festive Christmas and peaceful New Year and look forward to seeing you all safely back in school on **Tuesday 2 January 2024** at 8:45am.

Wishing you all a safe and restful break.

Kirstie Baines

Kirstie Baines - **Headteacher**



DIARY DATES

IN-SERVICE TRAINING DAYS (School Closures) for academic year 2023-2024

Monday 3 June 2024

Monday 22 July 2024

Tuesday 23 July 2024

Diary Dates for the 2023-2024 school year – all dates can be subject to changes. All changes and new dates in the diary will appear in red.

SPRING TERM 2024

Tuesday 2 January

8:50 school opens for the Spring Term

Thursday 18 January

Y3, 4 and 5 music concert in Southampton Central Hall

Monday 22 January

No Gymnastics

Friday 2 February

2:45pm Christingle service in Holy Cross Church– all welcome

Friday 9 February

5:30-6:30 Family Reading Night

12-16 February

HALF TERM

Tuesday 20 February

3:00-6:00pm Parents Meetings

Thursday 22 February

4:00-7:00pm Parents Meetings

Thursday 14 March

Y5 and Y6 vocal festival in Thornden Hall (15 places only)

Sunday 25 February

10:00am Church in School

18-22 March

Year 5 and 6 Residential visit to Isle of Wight

Sunday 24 March

10:00am Palm Sunday church in school.

Thursday 28 March

1:30pm School Easter service Holy Cross Church. All welcome

3:30pm school closes for Easter break. No after school club.

SUMMER TERM 2024

Monday 15 April

8:50am School re-opens for the summer term

13-16 May

Year 6 National SATs week

Monday 20 May

School photographer –class and whole school photos

27-31 May

HALF TERM

Thursday 13 June

7:30-8:30 new parents meeting

Saturday 15 June

Church Fete

Wednesday 19 June

1:30pm SPORTS DAY all welcome

Saturday 29 June

School Summer Fayre

Tuesday 2 July

Year 6 Wyvern Induction day

Tuesday 9 July

1:30pm KS2 school play

Wednesday 10 July

6:00pm KS2 school play

Thursday 11 July

6:00pm KS2 school play

Friday 12 July

1:00pm Y6 Leaver's service Portsmouth Cathedral (children only)

Friday 19 July

1:30pm Leavers service Holy Cross Church

School ends for the summer break. No after school club.

Monday 22 July

School closed for IN-SERVICE TRAINING DAYS

Tuesday 23 July

School closed for IN-SERVICE TRAINING DAYS