



Monday 16 November 2020

Dear Parents and Carers

In school, we have been learning about the bravery of servicemen and women who keep our country safe, and within our school Remembrance Service last week we were able to think about the families effected by war particularly the men from Durley who gave their lives in World Wars 1 and 2. This was the first time since 20 March that we have been able to bring the whole school together (still with socially distanced bubbles) within our school Memorial Garden for a Service of Remembrance. The eldest girl and boy in the school laid our poppy cross; whilst two of our talented trumpeters played the Last Post before the 2 minutes silence and Year 6 recited the John McCrae poem in Flanders Fields before singing the song of Remembrance accompanied by the flute and recorder. I am very grateful to Commander Steve May who was able to join us for the service and read the Naval prayer. It was sad that we were unable to invite visitors to join us for the service, however thanks to the wonders of technology and expertise of Mr Male you can see it on ClassDojo.



I have been astounded at the generosity of our families this weekend as the collection for Children in Need has grown to over £1 000! It is an extremely worthy cause which like many other charities has suffered this year due to the pandemic at a time where we have heard that children are extremely vulnerable. We have had a donation of over £100 which was not allocated to a class. If you think this might be your donation, please could you contact the school office to let us know. At the moment we have two winning classes - the first is the class who donated the most money, but to make it fair, the second prize goes to the class who donated the most when divided by the number of pupils in the class. We will announce the winners on Thursday 19 November.

A reminder that the school will be closed for staff training on **Friday 4 December**. The remaining training days are: **Monday 7 June** and **Friday 23 July 2021**. **Thursday 2 and Friday 3 September 2021** will also be staff training days, the remaining dates in 2021/22 will follow.

Christmas

As always, we are determined to make Christmas in school a fun experience with all our usual events. We are putting together a DVD for you all to purchase at a small cost, which will include our **KS1 Nativity, Music Concert** (for all pupils who have peripatetic music lessons) and **Key Stage 2 Carol Service**. We hope this will be completed and with you by the final week of this term.

Christmas dinner will be on 2 days this term **Tuesday 15 December for Key Stage 1**, which includes Christmas Jumper day and a small donation to Save the Children and **Thursday 17 December** for Key Stage 2 Christmas dinner (and Christmas Jumper day). While one Key Stage is having lunch in the hall, the other Key Stage will be eating either packed lunch or a lunch bag from the kitchen in the classroom. The rather complicated arrangement is in place to ensure neither bubble will have to rush their lunchtime. We will still make our table decorations so will need garden foliage from you all for your child's decoration.

Christmas class parties will be on **Wednesday 16 December** in the afternoon. We will be once again asking for food donations for the party, but kindly request that this year the food is not home made, but in sealed shop bought packets. Children can bring in a change of clothes in a named carrier bag.

DSA

The DSA have been very hard at work this month organising all sorts of fundraising opportunities for the much needed Chrome Books. We were delighted with the beautiful Christmas cards, bags and mugs which raised £435. Instead of our very popular Christmas Fayre this year, the DSA have put together a number of smaller events which should give you that all important Christmas feel and opportunity to donate to the school in support of your children. The DSA handmade Christmas online market is already open and has many exciting gifts for Christmas. It can be found on the Durley School Association facebook page www.Facebook.com/durleyschoolassociation.

Here are a few more dates for your diary:

Friday 20 November – Non-uniform day for £2.00 donation for raffle hamper prizes.

Saturday 21 November – Durley Village Lights opens. Donations at <https://gf.me/u/y44fvw>

Monday 23 November – Prize Draw tickets available, to be drawn on Tuesday 15 Dec

Friday 27 November – Bags 2 School – drop off at **Memorial Hall** (see flier for more information)

Friday 27 November – Christmas Tree Photos to be sent by email to DurleySchoolAssociation@outlook.com Fabulous prizes on offer. Closing date Thursday 10 December. Entry to the competition is by donation of at least £3.00.

Tuesday 15 December – Children's Christmas gift shop open in the school hall for children to buy Christmas presents for adults. Shop to be run by school staff. All gifts are £2.50.

Finally, throughout lockdown, I have been joining the Botley, Curdrige and Durley 10:00am Church service on Zoom and would highly recommend it. If you would like to be sent a zoom link, please email the school office.

Yours sincerely,

Kirstie Baines
Headteacher