

Autumn  
Term

# Durley CE Primary School

Newsletter 5

10 December 2020



Dear Parents and Carers

As we come to the end of the penultimate week before we finish for the Christmas break, I would just like to confirm that the school will be open all next week including Friday 18 December. Listening to the news this week, there has been a lot of talk of schools taking the final day of this term as a staff training day. I would like to clarify that this is **not** something that we intend to do as we have already mapped out staff training for the coming year and consider it to be very inconvenient to parents work patterns to have to organise child care at such short notice.



Many thanks to the Reeves family for providing us with our outside tree this year which we have decorated with Christmas angels handmade by every child in the school and to the Brewer family for the tree standing in our school hall and decorated with a named Christmas bauble for every child. They have both helped us to get into the Christmas spirit.



Please can I remind you all that we have a healthy eating school policy that snacks brought in for children to eat during morning playtime should be either fruit or vegetables only.

## Change to Drop Off Time

From Monday 14 December we will be trialling shorter drop off time slots to enable us to start the school day by 9:00am prompt. The timings are as follows: **A-H 8:45 to 8:55 I-Z 8:50 to 9:00am.** Please can you ensure your child is in school by 9:00am each day. Collection arrangements will remain the same.

## Christmas Recordings

This week in school has been 'filming week'! An enormous thank you to Mr Male for his support across the school in the recording of our three Christmas events, and to staff and children for all their hard work – the Key Stage 2 carol service, Key Stage 2 music concert (for children who have music lessons) and Key Stage 1 nativity.

For those of you who have ordered a DVD, it will contain all three Christmas events on one disc and can be played on a games console / playstation, as well as through the usual channels of DVD player or laptop. We hope to send it off to a company for duplicating this Friday and will have it back in school before the end of this term. We will also be uploading all three onto Google Classrooms for you to watch but not download. Please let us know over the coming days if you are having any problems signing into the site to enable us to support you with access before the end of term.

## **Christmas Lunch**

Christmas lunch will be this Tuesday for Key Stage 1 and Key Stage 2 this Thursday. We are asking for children to wear Christmas jumpers on their lunch day for a small donation to the Save the Children. On the Tuesday/Thursday when it is not their Christmas lunch day, the children will eat in their classroom either a packed lunch or school picnic lunch of vegetarian or meat hotdog to be ordered in the usual way. The children will have their Christmas dinner in mixed groups within their bubble, and as in previous years, make table decorations before going into the hall for lunch. We would be very grateful for donations of foliage (evergreen leaves) on the day.

## **Christmas Parties**

Christmas parties for all classes will be on Wednesday 16 December in the afternoon. A reminder that children may bring a change of clothes for the party in a named carrier bag. This year we would also like children to bring their own plate of food. Please can you ensure that the food does not need to be re-refrigerated and that the paper plate is named and covered with cling film.

## **DSA**

An enormous thank you to our Durley School Association and all of you who have donated so generously this term. Their recent events have really helped to make us all feel a bit more Christmasy! Donations to the gofundme page for the **Christmas village lights** has reached an amazing £1492. <https://uk.gofundme.com/f/naomi039s-campaign-for-durley-school-association>.

We still have **Prize Draw tickets** available for sale by emailing the school office and some incredible prizes on offer. The Draw will be at 1;30pm on Tuesday 15 December just before we open our **Christmas shop** to be run by our lunchtime staff. A reminder that all presents are £2:50 with a maximum of 2 presents per child. Please send in a named carrier bag to enable your child to carry it home safely. The exact money should be sent in on the day in a named envelope to be given to your child's class teacher for safe keeping.

Thank you for all the photos of **Christmas trees**. The competition closes tomorrow so if you would like to put in a last minute entry we would be very pleased to receive it. A reminder that the competition entry fee is a minimum donation of £3.00.

After Christmas, Mrs Fealy will be spending the first half of the spring term working at Wellow Primary School as part of her current training programme, and yellow Class will be joined by exchange student Mr Jonathan Jones. Mr Jones met the children and staff during a (socially distanced) visit to Durley School yesterday. We look forward to welcoming him to our team in January.

Finally, I finish my part-time secondment to Twyford St Mary's Primary School next Wednesday and although I have enjoyed my time there, I am very much looking forward to my return to Durley and spending more time with children across our school.

**Kirstie Baines**

**Headteacher**