



Dear Parents

Wow! What a busy final 3 weeks to the end of the Autumn term. Many thanks to all of you who came out to support the community bonfire night and carol singing evening last week which raised well over £500 for the Durley Diamond's lunch in January. It was a treat to have so many of our ex-pupils returning to join in with the singing and playing instruments as well as our own pupils joining in with the carols. Our thanks to everyone involved for their hard work and to you for your support.

I am particularly pleased to see so many children learning to play musical instruments over their time at Durley and continue with this skill whilst at secondary school as well as having the pleasure of playing with orchestras and school bands. For those of you who haven't seen it, Hampshire Music Service used a video of our tuba Listen2me lessons to advertise their work in Hampshire. <https://www.facebook.com/hantsconnect/videos/1632087480145906/> or <https://youtu.be/BwxTs9FOSwU>

The Key Stage 1 Christmas nativity play this year was a delight and such a joy to see so many confident children singing and performing to a large group of adults. It is lovely to hear our young children singing all the words to many of the traditional carols as they make their way around the school. Our thanks to all the staff involved for all their hard work.



Our thanks also to the school council who organised the reverse advent collection for the food bank at Hedge End and to all of you who sent in food to enable more people to enjoy this festive time of year. We collected twice as much food as food last year.

Thanks you to everyone who took part in our Christmas jumper day today and for your generous donations to Save the Children which raised over £100. Our Christmas dinner was a delight with the children in mixed age groups across the school and a Year 6 pupil in charge of each table. The children made table decorations, place mats etc in preparation for the big meal which they all really enjoyed. Our thanks to Paula, Sarah and Lisa in the kitchen for making this a very special event.

CONGRATULATIONS

It all seems a long time ago now, but the primary schools data analysis for July 2017 was in the National newspapers last week. We were delighted to see that Durley's test results at the end of Key Stage 2 in English and maths placed us 4th in Hampshire and 98th in the country. Over the past 5 years, despite the change to a more challenging curriculum and small cohorts with each child representing over 6% of the data, we have managed to maintain incredibly high standards across the school. This is undoubtedly due to the diligence of your children, inspiration, dedication and hard work of staff and continued support from yourselves.

SPORT

Despite approaching the end of term, we sent a team to the area schools swimming competition at Wildern School. I was extremely proud of our swimming team who behaved impeccably and cheered each other on enthusiastically. We narrowly missed 4th place out of the 8 teams which was quite an achievement for a school without a pool!

ATTENDANCE

Congratulations to all the pupils who have managed to dodge the bugs and maintained 100% attendance over the Autumn term. **Blue class:** 7 pupils. **Yellow Class:** 10 pupils. **Red Class:** 7 pupils. **Green Class:** 9 pupils.

A REMINDER

The school will re-open after the Christmas break on **Thursday 4 January 2018** at 8:50am.

As the Autumn term draws to a close, I would like to thank you all for the tremendous support you have given to the school and staff this term. I am once again indebted to the staff for their dedication and support of the school, making the many events and Christmas festivities possible for your children.

Finally, I would like to thank you for the many presents and cards your children have kindly given to the school staff. We wish you a festive Christmas and every happiness in the coming year.

Kirstie Baines - Headteacher