



Dear Parents and Carers

This week we have been taking delight in watching the fantastic EYFS/KS1 nativity play and extremely grateful that our children have been able to safely perform to a live audience. The children were all able to confidently take to the stage, singing and remembering their lines. An enormous thank you to all of the staff for their hard work and enthusiasm.



A reminder that any nativity photos you wish to purchase from the selection advertised on the board in the school hall need to be ordered and paid for by the end of the day on Monday 13 December to ensure they reach you by the end of term.

Thank you to all of you who have been observing the updated request for all visitors to the school site to wear a face mask at drop off and collection. We are continuing to remain vigilant in school with all staff lateral flow testing twice a week and PCR testing if they have any of the recognised symptoms of COVID.



We had a very successful INSET Day last week, as we were able to make considerable progress with current projects. Key Stage 1 staff have now been able to reorganise our early reading books into phonics phases and remove many books which do not fit into the phased model. We are hoping to fill in the gaps and gradually purchase more reading material particularly to support children learning to read in EYFS and Year 1 now that we know the gaps. Key Stage 2 staff spent a busy morning culling our old topic resources and clearing out

the disused IT suite as we would like to extend our current library and make it a more useable space for learning. Governors and staff spent time during the day working together on designs for the school playground to more effectively support the school curriculum.

Church Colour by Numbers

Holy Cross Church, Durley have designed a wonderful Christmas activity for the children to complete over Christmas holiday. They are currently selling pictures of Holy Cross Church as a colour by numbers pack complete with crayons (metallic or watercolour) for £3.00. Please notify the school office or Gill (01489 860587) if you would like to purchase one.

DSA

Sadly, our DSA Chair Naomi Onisemo will be stepping down from the Durley School Association at the end of this term and will be hugely missed by the team for her energy, fundraising and creative ideas. The committee will not only be losing its chair but Secretary Heidi Hedges-Edginton who has done a fantastic job on the committee over the past twelve months. I am sure you would all like to join me in thanking them both.

Next year (2022) will be an important year in the school's history as we will be commemorating our 150 year birthday. We are also keeping our fingers crossed that we will be able to hold a summer fayre on the school field in July, so we will need a big committee of volunteers to help us bring together these two events. I will be writing to you in the New Year looking for support and ideas.

Children's Christmas Fayre



An enormous thank you to everyone who has donated to our Children's Christmas Fayre. It has been a huge success raising over £1000 and enjoyed by all of the children running the stalls and taking part.

Reminders



The children's Christmas **posting box** is open for delivery until Thursday 16 December. Please ensure your cards are named with the child's first and last name as well as their class.

The children will be having their **Christmas parties** on the afternoon of Tuesday 14 December. Please could your child bring their own named plate of food on a disposable plate which he/she can eat later in the afternoon. If you need a disposable plate, please either ask your child's class teacher or email the school office by Monday 13 December. Please ensure any change of clothing is brought in a named bag also.

The children at Key Stage 2 will be **singing carols to the Luncheon Club** on Thursday 16 December at 11.00am in the Memorial Hall. The children will be on the stage and well away from the club members. They will walk up to the hall, so please can you ensure that they are smartly dressed and wearing a coat.



We still have some families in the school who have not signed up to ClassDojo. This is a closed site which is great for communication between yourselves and your child's class teacher. We upload events, photos, film clips and reminders to keep you up to date with everything happening in school. If you need any help getting onto the site, please do not hesitate to contact the school office. You will need to sign up for each of your children.

A reminder that contributions to **Miss Baldwin's** leaving gift and/or message for her card needs to be sent to the school office as soon as possible but by Monday 13 December at the latest.

The current arrangement is that the whole school will be walking up to Durley Church for our **school carol service** on Friday 17 December leaving school at 1:00pm and returning before the end of the school day. Sadly we are only able to invite parents of pupils in years 5 and 6 due to limited space in the church. In line with current guidelines, those attending will also be required to wear a face covering throughout the service and we would be very grateful if you could take a LFT prior to arrival.

Pop up Shop

The DSA are organising a Christmas pop up shop for the children to purchase Christmas presents for the family on the afternoon of **Thursday 16 December**. Please can you make sure you send in money for your child in a named envelope and provide a carrier bag to take the present home so not to spoil the surprise! Gifts are £2.50 each and there will be a limit of 2 gifts per child. Please ensure you send in the correct money.

Diary Dates

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| Tuesday 14 December | pm Xmas parties – please send in a plate of party food for your child's afternoon party snack. Party clothes should be in a named carrier bag. |
| Wednesday 15 December | Xmas Lunch & Xmas Jumper Day (for Save the Children). Please bring in green garden foliage for our table decorations. |
| Thursday 16 December | 11:00am Key Stage 2 singing to the Luncheon Club in the Memorial Hall
pm Pop up Christmas shop for Children. Presents £2.50 each. Exact money to be brought in on the day in a named envelope |
| Friday 17 December | 1:15pm Carol Service in Holy Cross Church, Durley. Sadly invitation is for parents of pupils in Years 5 and 6 only due to lack of space. |

Please can we remind you that if you need to contact your child's teacher or somebody in the school office that you do so using the adminoffice@durley.hants.sch.uk email in the first instance.

Wishing you all a safe and restful weekend.

Kirstie Baines

Headteacher