



# ‘THE DOZZY DETAIL’

## Message from the Head

Dear Parents/Carers,

The change in weather is certainly letting us know that Christmas is just around the corner! We have had a particularly busy month at Dorchester, with class visits and our ‘fundraising’ days.



I want to start this newsletter by letting you know how PROUD I am of our children. We identified at the start of the year that we had seen a decline in the standard of behaviour for some of our children. Since returning, they have risen to our high expectations, and behaviour in general has been excellent across the school. We know there is more to do, which is why this will be a key focus of ours this year (and beyond). Please help us by supporting our actions in dealing robustly with any behavioural incidents.

It is also extremely pleasing for us when we receive feedback from members of the public about our children and the below is an email received about some of our year 4 children, who went on a visit this week:

*“Good morning,*

*I had business to attend to in Hull City Centre yesterday. I feel I must comment on a group of your staff and children participating in a day trip. I witnessed the group as I walked along near Queens Gardens and again near Zebedee’s Yard.*

*All too often nowadays, young people seem to get noticed for all the wrong reasons but I would like to say that this particular group of children really made my day.*

*They were polite, engaging and well behaved. It was so lovely to see them taking an interest in their city and respecting other people at the same time. They are a credit to their parents and to your school.”*

Mr Stuart Mills & The Dorchester Team



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# Christmas Activities / Events in School

I am aware that some of you have asked questions about whether or not we will continue to hold our planned Christmas activities in light of the increased measures and restrictions implemented by the Government this week. At the moment, we are keen for all of our planned activities to go ahead — our children have already suffered significantly as a result of cancellations over the last two years. As it stands, and subject to things changing should further guidance be issued, the following applies:

- ◆ Both the EYFS 'Sing Along' and KS1 performance will go ahead as per the letter sent out by staff in those phases.
- ◆ All visitors that come in to school should wear a face covering.
- ◆ Social Distancing will, as far as possible, apply when watching performances.
- ◆ Numbers are limited to two adults per child for the performance and one adult for the classroom craft activities.

Please be aware that if we have a sudden increase in the number of positive COVID cases in our school community, then the above may have to be cancelled at short notice.



## Reading at Home



Reading is such an important skill that enables children to go on and be successful. It is a high-priority within our school and children access daily reading sessions.

We have recently invested in a new early reading scheme to enable our youngest and earliest readers to experience success quickly. When children bring their reading books home, we ask that you allow them to read to you at least three times a week to consolidate the skills they have learnt in class.

## What's Been Happening?



We kicked off November with our whole-school Times Tables Rock Stars Day. Children and staff came to school dressed as rock stars and spent the day re-invigorating our teaching of times tables!

We have had lots of class visits, with year 5 taking a trip to the City Centre to learn about Ambassadors of Hull and year 3 taking part in a visit to learn all about our trawling heritage. On all of the visits so far this year, the comments that have come back is that our children have been brilliant ambassadors and represented us brilliantly with their behaviour and engagement!



The whole-school took part in 'Anti-Bullying' week, learning about types of bullying and how they can help others.

We had our 'spotty' Children in Need day, raising £346.50 — thank you so much for your contributions!



This month, we also reintroduced our 'Character of the Week'. Each week, we choose a character (such as resilience) which we promote and encourage children to demonstrate. At the end of the week, 'character champions' are awarded certificates for demonstrating this.

It has also been wonderful to welcome parents/carers back to our Friday celebration assemblies — it's great to see you celebrating your child's success with us!

# Parent Forum

We have had a few queries about what the Parent Forum is so here is some clarification:

Essentially, the parent forum is simply an open, informal meeting for parents to attend to meet with leaders of the school to work together on making the school an even better place. It is an opportunity to find out in more detail about how the school works, why we do, and don't do, certain things and offer suggestions on how you think we could do a better job.

Meetings will be held once per term but there is no expectation that the same parents have to attend each meeting. You may choose to attend just one, or all of them — the choice is yours, but the more the merrier.

As key partners in our school, it is important that we hear your views — both positive and negative, as this is a school for you and your children.

If you are available, the first meeting will be at **2.00pm on Tuesday 7th December 2021. It should last around an hour. Hot drinks and cake/biscuits will be provided.**

Please attend at the school office no later than 1:55pm.

## Your Stories

We have our very own celebrity at Dorchester.

Poppie in year 3 has a small part in a Christmas film that has just been released on Netflix — 'Father Christmas is Back'.

If you get chance, watch the film and see if you can spot her. We are so proud that she is taking her talents to the next level — well done Poppie!

Remember — this section of the newsletter belongs to you so if your child has achieved anything outside of school — let us know so that we can recognise them and celebrate their success.

## COVID-19

As you will no doubt have heard, there is a new variant of the virus, which is more transmissible than other variants — Omicron. As such, it is even more important that everybody follows the below guidance:

- ◆ Good hygiene and regular handwashing.
- ◆ Face coverings and social distancing, where possible.
- ◆ If your child is symptomatic, take them for a PCR test (NOT AN LFT test). The main symptoms remain a temperature of 37.8 degrees or higher, a new, continuous cough and loss of taste and smell. More common symptoms of the new Delta variant include a headache, sore throat, tiredness and cold-like symptoms. If your child has any of these, please book a PCR test.

## Attendance

Our whole school attendance for November is: **94.4%**

Our target attendance is: **96%**

Class	Attendance
Rec	98.5
1LB	84.5
1CP	94.1
2KP	92.6
2CF	94.8
3ER	92.6
3SP	96.4
4AW	95.7
4MH	95.5
5LT	98.6
5EP	94.9
6AC	93.0
6MP	91.8



Well done to 5LT, our class winners for November.

As you can see, only 3 classes across the school met our attendance target. Please help us by ensuring your child comes to school on time every day.

If you need any help with your child's attendance, please contact the school office.

## Safety Online

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Branholme  
Hull  
HU7 6AH

Tel: 01482 825207

Website: [www.dorchesterprimary.org.uk](http://www.dorchesterprimary.org.uk)  
Email: [admin.dorchester@hcat.org.uk](mailto:admin.dorchester@hcat.org.uk)  
Twitter: @DorchesterHull

We know that children are spending more and more time online and there are risks associated with this. To help you keep your children safe, we advise you to make use of the following websites:

[www.internetmatters.org](http://www.internetmatters.org)  
[www.saferinternet.org.uk](http://www.saferinternet.org.uk)  
[www.nspcc.org.uk](http://www.nspcc.org.uk)  
[www.thinkuknow.co.uk](http://www.thinkuknow.co.uk)  
[www.childnet.com](http://www.childnet.com)  
[www.o2.co.uk/help.nspcc](http://www.o2.co.uk/help.nspcc)  
[www.safetynetkids.org.uk](http://www.safetynetkids.org.uk)



## Important Dates

*\*\*All of our key dates and events are on our online calendar, which you can find on our website\*\**



Tuesday 7th December	- Parent Forum
Friday 10th December	- Xmas Jumper Day - Whole School Panto (pm)
Tuesday 14th December	- Nursery sing along and craft session (10:00am) - Reception sing along and craft session (1:30pm)
Wednesday 15th December	- Years 1 and 2 at Hull Theatre (pm)
Thursday 16th December	- Xmas Dinner Day + Xmas Jumpers - Year 1/2 performance to Year 2 parents (9:30am)
Friday 17th December	- Year 1/2 performance to Year 1 parents (9:30am)
Tuesday 21st December	- Break off for Christmas
Wednesday 5th January	- Children return to school

## Free School Meals

If you are in receipt of any benefits and have not already done so, we would urge you to apply for free school meals. Not only does this cover the cost of lunches for your child(ren), for each child in receipt of free school meals, the school receives £1320, which can then be spent on resources for our children to use. To check whether you are eligible, contact the school office or visit:

[https://emsonline.hullcc.gov.uk/CitizenPortal\\_LIVE/Account/Login?ReturnUrl=/CitizenPortal\\_LIVE/](https://emsonline.hullcc.gov.uk/CitizenPortal_LIVE/Account/Login?ReturnUrl=/CitizenPortal_LIVE/)