



## Dorchester Primary School

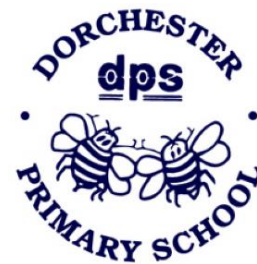
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# WEEKLY NEWSLETTER

Week 14 – 15<sup>th</sup> December 2023

## Message from Mr Mills

Dear Parents/Carers,

As we come to the end of our penultimate week of term, it has been great to see our children remaining focused and 'give their all'.

Our KS1 children performed their Christmas nativity to three audiences and they really did shine. The confidence that all of them showed and the number of songs they had to learn was brilliant! They were real ambassadors for our school and if you attended one of the performances – we hope you enjoyed it!

EYFS children had a special visitor yesterday, as Santa popped by to join them for breakfast and deliver them presents. They were so surprised and the joy on their faces was lovely to see.

Today was our Christmas dinner and jumper day. Thank you to our catering team, led by our cook Jenny, who did a great job in making sure all children (and staff) were able to have an early 'turkey dinner' – it certainly went down well.

Have a great weekend!

Stuart Mills

## Key Reminders

### Uniform and Jewellery

As we head into the final week, please ensure that your children continue to attend school in the correct uniform. We have had a few children arriving at school in sports wear on non-PE days as well as with inappropriate earrings and nails/nail varnish. Our policy is very clear on what is permitted and unless there are exceptional circumstances, we expect our families to support our policies. If children do come to school in inappropriate clothing without good reason, then they will be provided with uniform from our spare supplies. Thanks for your help with this.



*"Working together in a safe and inclusive environment, to develop creative, disciplined and aspirational pupils."*

Attendance	
Whole-school weekly attendance	94.3% - below our target of 96%
Class with the best attendance	6T with 99% 😊
<i>Please ensure your child is at school on time, every day. If you are having any difficulties with getting your child to school, please contact our attendance officers: Mrs Gasparelli or Mrs Steer.</i>	

Upcoming events	
Monday 18 <sup>th</sup> December	EYFS Xmas sing-a-long with parents (9:30am and 2:30pm)
Tuesday 19 <sup>th</sup> December	New nursery starters 'stay and play'
Wednesday 20 <sup>th</sup> December	KS1 at Theatre to watch Panto
Thursday 21 <sup>st</sup> December	Last Day for pupils and class Christmas parties
Tuesday 9 <sup>th</sup> December	Children return to school
<i>All of our key dates for this term are on our website or you can find them on Dojo</i> <a href="https://dorchesterprimary.org.uk/calendar/">https://dorchesterprimary.org.uk/calendar/</a>	

Messages
<p><b><u>From the Office</u></b></p> <p>As we come to the end of the term, could we please ask all parents to check Parent Pay and clear any outstanding balances that may be on there. These are usually payments for school dinners and/or school visits. This will allow us to begin next term without having to chase up payments. Thanks.</p> <p><b><u>Reporting Incidents</u></b></p> <p>When we held our 'House' meetings with children a couple of weeks ago, it was worrying to hear that some children said they would not report an incident of 'bullying' out of fear of it getting worse. There seems to be a phrase that some of our older children are using, "Snitch is a stitch", which we need to address immediately. Whilst we have spoken about this in school, we are asking that you please also speak to your children about this at home. We need our children to feel confident that when they report incidents of unkind behaviour, that adults will sort it and that it will not continue. We absolutely will not tolerate children worrying about reporting an incident because they fear that it may become worse. If you are aware of any incidents, please let an adult at the school know.</p>

What's been happening in school this week?	
EYFS	Year 1/2
Nursery have had yet another busy week. Lots of excited children with the run up to Christmas. Children, parents and carers enjoyed the Christmas 'stay and play' activities. Lots of wonderful creative things were made. Santa paid us a visit on Thursday as the children had Breakfast with Santa. Pure joy on their faces made the adults eyes twinkle! Even with all this excitement the children have listened well in phonics, learning the sound 'n'. The children have used lots of maths language in their play, this is fantastic to see that this is transferring in to their own learning in	<p>This week the children have shown just how hard they have all worked in preparing for their nativity performance. The children have blown everyone away and have been really exceptional throughout all of their performances, with superb narrators, fantastic singing and amazing actions making it a very enjoyable performance for all. All of the KS1 team are incredibly proud of all the children.</p> <p>In year 1 Maths we have been looking at Shape. The children have learnt the name and properties of many</p>

<p>continuous provision.</p> <p>Reception have had an exciting week this week! Parents came in on Tuesday to make Christmas decorations galore which now festoon our classrooms. So many wonderful decorations of snowmen, stockings, Christmas trees, angels and so much more. A good time was had by all.</p> <p>On Thursday, they had breakfast at school and it was delicious with toast and hot chocolate. Just as they finished, a face appeared at the window dressed in red and with a beard too. It was Santa coming to check if they were all on the good list (of course they were!) AND he brought presents for everyone! What lucky children. On top of all that excitement, Reception have been lucky enough to have sessions with Chris 'the dance man' who is just amazing. They had so much fun with musical instruments, scarves and so much more. They are so excited to have another session, later on this week. Cycling finished today and the instructors were so pleased with the amount of confidence and progress made over the last 6 weeks.</p> <p>A general reminder, it's the EYFS performance on Monday at 9.30 am and 2.30pm. Come to one or both! Tickets are on Parent Pay.</p>	<p>2D and 3D shapes. They have used the environment to explore, find and recognise a variety of different shapes. In addition to this, the children have also been using different shapes to complete and make their own repeating patterns.</p> <p>In year 2 Maths the children have begun looking at multiplication of 2, 5 and 10. The children have worked really hard practicing counting in multiples of 2s, 5s and 10s, as well as learning and recalling whole multiplication facts.</p> <p>In writing we have been using conjunctions and ambitious vocabulary to create expanded noun phrases in our sentences, when reporting on our mischievous elf in preparation to write a letter to Father Christmas explaining what our elf has been getting up to in our classroom.</p>
Year 3/4	Year 5
<p>Years 3/4 have worked hard to write their persuasive advert to sell a Christmas truffle. They enjoyed tasting some truffles and developing vocabulary to describe and sell the truffle to the public.</p> <p>In RE, they have studied the epiphany of the Christian Christmas story. They have also continued to learn about the gospels and what they suggest about Mary as a significant figure in the Christian festival.</p> <p>Within their Geography lessons, they have labelled a world map, identified the continents, hemispheres and equator as well as explored the Arctic and Antarctica.</p>	<p>This week was a really busy week in year 5 in the run up to Christmas. We have completed our maths unit on tables and graphs. learning how to check timetables and find the right bus to get to places on time.</p> <p>In reading, we have finished the novel 'The Nowhere Emporium' and in writing we have polished our final pieces of writing using our editing skills to make sure it was the best it could be.</p> <p>In our afternoons, we have completed our learning about healthy eating, researching different food</p>

	groups and identifying what they provide our body with. We then used this to create a final design for a healthy pizza with a variety of toppings. Finally, we have continued to look at the Anglo-Saxons and Vikings in our history lessons.
<b>Year 6</b>	<b>Hive</b>
<p>It's been a busy week in Y6 as we've completed our 'mock SATs'. The children have tried incredibly hard and they should feel very proud of their efforts – we certainly do!</p> <p>We've begun our Design &amp; Technology topic by designing a 'light-up' Christmas card and are looking forward to making it next week! Mrs Crosby has also taught us how to play 'Mary had a Little Lamb' on the recorders!</p>	<p>It has been a very exciting week in the Hive. We were very lucky to have Chris from Children's University in doing some amazing drama and music sessions with the children. They have been practicing their Christmas dance moves – all the children had the best time full of lots giggles and laughter.</p> <p>It has been a creative and festive week for us all making Christmas cards out of hand prints and glitter. The children created their own reindeer food mixing oats, glitter and a little bit of magic together.</p> <p>The children designed their own placemats for their Christmas lunch at school and will be bringing this home for you to keep.</p>

Next Week's Menu				
<i>Monday</i>	<i>Tuesday</i>	<i>Wednesday</i>	<i>Thursday</i>	<i>Friday</i>
Pasta bake with garlic bread	Sausages with mashed potato	Chicken curry with rice and naan	Fish Friday with chips	
Tomato pasta (V)	Vegetarian sausages (V)	Vegetable curry (V)	Homemade Hull Pattie (V)	
Plus, a selection of sandwiches (ham, cheese or tuna) and jacket potatoes (tuna, cheese or beans)				