



St Dubricius C of E First School
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15th December 2016

Christmas Newsletter 2016



Dear Parents

The end of the year is nearly here and a quick look back over the school calendar has shown how busy 2016 has been! In January our Year 3s, along with others from our partner schools, visited Bristol. February was a busy month too - some of our older children took part in the *Porlock Oyster Art Project* and attended a concert at Minehead Middle School; meanwhile, our Nursery held a *stay and play* session. Our youngest children also decided to build a pirate ship in the Nursery. At the end of February all of the main school children took part in a very enjoyable *Sing-Up Day*. In March our Year 4s went to Wells Cathedral for a *Pilgrims' Day* and at the end of the month we held our Easter Service in the Church. In the summer term our Year 4s went on their Pinkery Trip; this was followed by our Safety Week - much to the children's delight, *Dasher* from the Air Ambulance Service was a special guest. In early May some of the children had the chance to meet an author during a story telling session. In June we held a highly successful *Purple Day* to raise funds for Asthma UK, and later in the term, some of our pupils joined children from other local schools to take part in a *Big Asthma Walk*, which raised over £3,000. During June/July our children also took part Sports Day, inter-school galas and other activities such as swimming and orienteering. Our Year 4s went to see *Aladdin* at Minehead Middle School and in the same week had a session with local poet, Chris Jelley. On the last day of term we said a fond farewell to our Year 4s at the Leavers' Service. In September and October we were very busy with our harvest celebrations and collecting, and then distributing, our traditional harvest boxes within the local community. The children also attended a church-led *Harvest Experience Day*. Class 3 were also out and about on their River Study walks. In the Autumn we were advised that we had achieved a Silver Games Award for 2015-16. In late October the children all took part in another highly enjoyable *Sing-Up* session. Class 3 took part in our Remembrance-on-the-Marsh Service on 11th November and the younger children held their own special service back in school. On 18th November everyone "went spotty" for *Children in Need*. Later in the month, all of the children took part in a "Dragon Who Never Got Cross" storytelling/performance. December has been filled with Christmas events including (messy!) art days, nativity plays, singing at the Porlock Late Night Shopping evening and of course the Christmas Party is yet to come.

Reminder: Children please remember to wear your party clothes/Christmas jumpers (and a festive hat) on Friday for the Christmas Party!! No football kits please.



Christmas Lunch Party

A HUGE THANK YOU in advance to our fantastic team of parent volunteers who are helping to decorate the Village Hall and serve the Christmas lunch. I would also like to thank Mr Mike Rowe for making *multiple* shopping trips to get various “Christmas items”. Our Christmas lunch party remains an eagerly anticipated event for the children and provides a rare chance for governors, staff and pupils to sit down together and share a formal meal. I would like to thank the many parents who so very kindly made a financial contribution towards the cost of the party this year, it was much appreciated. I would also like to thank a local (individual) donor who also kindly stepped in, once again, to help with the costs. My thanks go also to the **Ship Inn** (Top Ship) and their team for agreeing to cater for us.



PE & Swimming Kits

Please could we also remind everyone to make sure that all of the children have a full (named) PE kit in school; this will avoid wasting time trying to locate appropriate spare items. A full kit is essential for the delivery of the PE/Sporting Curriculum. A reminder also that **Class 2** Swimming lessons begin on **Friday 6th January**.



Sporting Excellence

Congratulations to Louis for winning first place in the Seafront Races, so far (only 3 more races to go!). Well done to Sovereign, Myles and Bonita for being awarded Blue Belts in martial arts.



Fundraising - Autumn 2016

I would like to thank everyone who has supported our school's fund-raising efforts over the year. In November we raised £53.24 for the *Poppy Appeal*. Our nativity play retiring collections raised around £80.00 (we are still counting) for *Children in Need*; and we raised £100 on the actual day. The school also *received* £180.11 from Tempest Photographers as a commission for parent photo-day orders, which were valued at about £800. Thank you to everyone who placed an order. We are also grateful to *Porlock Horse Show* who very kindly donated £200.00 to the school which we used to partly pay for the November “Dragon Literacy Day”. Thanks also to the Porlock Costcutters team who generated £113.00 for us via their “Local Pride” community programme.



FROSTS

This year our FROSTS team, so competently led by Lisa Lothian and then Lizzi Pravato, continued to raise much needed funds for our school. Fundraisers devised by the team have included a Movie Night, Bags-2-School, school T-Towels and who could forget the Great Porlock Bake Off! In December Mrs Lambert also sourced some excellent Christmas trees as a special FROSTS parent purchase. A great time was had by all at the Christmas Fete, which raised over £800. The group has just funded 16 new iPADS which are due to arrive soon. FROSTS are a friendly team and are always ready to welcome new members. FROSTS' funding provides lots of extra items for our classrooms as well as funding to support trips and other events. Thank you to *everyone* who supports this hard-working and highly innovative team!

Local In-School Volunteers

A big thank you to our wonderful in-school volunteers. Without you we would have no reader-helpers, no Forest School, no swimming, school trips or volunteer-escorts for sports



fixtures, no governors, no ministry and no fund-raisers. You are ALL very important to us.

On behalf of all the pupils, staff and governors, may I wish you all a very happy and peaceful Christmas; and thank you to everyone who left cards, sweets and cakes for the Staff Room, they were really appreciated!

Chris Blazey - Head Teacher

After School Clubs: Hedgehogs Club will begin again on Tuesday 3rd January. **Teacher Led Clubs** will begin later in the term – from 9th January - please watch out for the booking letter



See you on Tuesday 3rd January 2017!

Dates for Diaries – 2016-2017 – Spring Term

January 2017

Monday 2 nd January	Public Holiday	School Closed
Friday 6 th January	Class 2 Swimming Begins	Minehead
Monday 9 th January	Teacher-Led Clubs Begin	School
Wednesday 18 th January 2017	Full Governing Body Meeting	7.00pm
Wednesday 25 th January 2017	ECF School Council Meeting	MMS
26 th & 27 th January	Year 3 Residential Trip	Bristol

February

Wednesday 7 th February	Class Photo Day	School Hall
Friday 10 th February	INSET Day	School Closed

Monday 13th Feb to Friday 17th Feb Half Term Week

Wednesday 22 nd February	Parents' Evening (1)	4.00 to 6.00 pm
Friday 24 th February	Outreach Drop-in Session	Oak Wing - 9-10 am
Monday 27 th February	Parents' Evening (2)	4.00 to 6.00 pm

March

Wednesday 1 st March	Parents' Evening (3)	4.00 to 5.00 pm
Monday 6 th March	Year 4 Pilgrims' Trip	Wells Cathedral
7 th & 8 th March	ECF Musical	MMS - TBC
Wednesday 15 th March	Full Governing Body Meeting	7.00 pm
Friday 24 th March	Outreach Drop-in Session	Oak Wing 9-10 am
Friday 24 th March	Teacher-Led Clubs Stop	School
Monday 27 th March	Easter Event	TBC
Friday 31 st March	Easter Service	2.15 pm - St Dubricius Church

End of Term – School Back on Tuesday 18th April

