

Dunmow St Mary's Primary School

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16th December 2016

Dear Parents,

YR/1/2 Show and Carol Service

Well done to all the children for the excellent performances of Prickly Hay. The singing, dancing and acting was a very high quality. Thank you as well to all the staff who worked so hard in preparing the children. Thank you also to the parents who supported our Carol Service in church and to the children who sang and gave readings. It was lovely to hear the school choir and the steel band performing.

Christmas Performances Y3,4,5

Just a reminder about the performances in the last week:

- The performances are 7.00pm Monday 19th December, 9.30am Tuesday 20th December, and 7.00pm Tuesday 20th December.
- We are sending home programmes with the children today for every chair in the hall so **if you arrive without your programme you will need to wait until everyone is seated** so we can be sure there is a seat for you. The programmes are colour coded and have the date on.
- Due to fire regulations and also because children move around the sides and back of the hall **people will need to remain seated and push chairs and buggies will need to be left outside the hall.**
- You are welcome to take photos but please remember that these must not be uploaded to social media platforms.
- The school will be unlocked at 6.30 and children should not arrive before then.
- There will be a few extra programmes available for the 9.30am performance on Tuesday only. Please call into the school office in person on Monday if you would like one. Unfortunately we cannot reserve programmes over the telephone.

Christmas Dinner

An enormous thank you and well done to Mrs Tyrell and all of her team in the kitchen for a fantastic Christmas dinner. Also thank you to Mrs Golding for all her wonderful organisation of the event.

Outstanding Dinner Money

Please settle any outstanding dinner money on Monday. Please include any meals to be taken to 21/12 with your payment.

PTA Christmas Bazaar

Thank you to the PTA, volunteers and members of staff who helped to make the Christmas Bazaar a great success. £2,300 was raised. Thank you to everyone who supported this event.

PTA Tea Towels

The PTA have a small extra number of KS1 tea towels available for £6 on a first come first serve basis if anyone wants more. Please contact Sarah McCarthy on 07984 258982.

Parent Governor Election

Following the recent election, Liz Wilson has been appointed as the new parent governor. Thank you to all 3 candidates who put themselves forward for this important role.

Poppy Appeal

We raised £116.07 for the poppy appeal. Thank you to all the children who brought money in to buy a poppy to support this appeal.

Childhood illnesses

Please see the message below from the NHS

We are now pleased to inform you that our Common Childhood Illnesses & Wellbeing guide for local parents, grandparents and carers across mid Essex is now available to download from our website.

<http://midessexccg.nhs.uk/your-health-services/your-health/childhood-illnesses>

The handbook is an extensive and informative guide for anyone who cares for a child aged from birth to 11 years old. It gives advice on how to spot signs of illness and what to do for minor conditions such as coughs and colds, fever, dry skin and rashes, chicken pox, bumps and bruises. Information on mental health and wellbeing, healthy lifestyles and advice on some more serious conditions like meningitis and sepsis is also covered in the booklet. There's also a handy section on when parents should keep your child home from school. Physical copies are also available to pick from local libraries, children centres, GPs and community pharmacists.

11 plus Meeting

We are holding a meeting at school for anyone who would like to find out more about the 11plus. 11-plus or Eleven plus is an examination administered to some students in their last year of primary education, governing admission to various types of selective secondary schools. Parents have to enter their children for, and take them to, the exam. As some of the areas covered in the exam e.g. verbal and nonverbal reasoning are not part of the National Curriculum, we offer an after school session through the Spring and Summer of Y5. The meeting which will talk about the 11 plus in more detail will be at 6pm on Tuesday 10th January. Please fill out the sign up slip at the bottom of this letter and return to school if you would like to attend the meeting. We anticipate that the meeting will last about half an hour and we will be able to offer a crèche if you need to bring children. The meeting will be suitable for Y4 and Y5 parents who are considering their options for secondary school.

School Target Awards

There were none due to the Carol Service.

Class Assemblies

Thank you for the many responses to the questionnaire about class assemblies. The majority view was that the class assemblies were a good thing and should carry on. There were valid points raised about the difficulty of the timings and that it would be better at the beginning of the school day or at the end of the school day but not in the classrooms. Whilst we understand this viewpoint completely, we made a conscious decision not to have an assembly at the beginning of the day in prime learning time when children's concentration is at its best. We also have sports in the halls in the afternoons so the hall is not available for assemblies then.

We have been really pleased that the assemblies have proved so popular. However, these assemblies are primarily for the children to show the other children what they have been learning, they are not put on specifically for the parents. Please don't feel obliged to come or to take time off work. We will talk to the children and explain this. We will also make sure that we put on special events for children to share their work and, at these events, it would be lovely if parents could attend and see what the children have been doing.

Goodbyes

At the end of term we will be saying goodbye to two members of staff who have been at the school for 16 years. Mrs Beecroft has worked with many different year groups and has also supported children with one to one tutoring and 11+. Mrs Collings has inspired many children to take part in sports clubs and competitions and has supported them to realise their many talents. We would like to say thank you to them both for all their many contributions to Dunmow St Mary's over the years. We will miss them and wish them all the best as they leave to spend more time with their families, and in Mrs Collings' case, a new granddaughter.

Mrs Sarah Wills will be taking over from Mrs Beecroft in Miss Oggelsby's class and Miss Emily Brown and Mrs Laura Hague will be organising sporting competitions.

Non uniform Day

Wednesday 21st December will be a non uniform day as the children have their Christmas parties.

Parking

Please can everyone's New Year Resolution be to park considerately in High Stile, remembering not to park on yellow lines or to block residents' driveways, not to drive on the pavements and to keep speed to a safe level given that children are crossing the road.

We hope you have a wonderful Christmas and New Year and we will see everyone back on **Thursday 5th January.**

Yours sincerely

Clare Griffiths

I would like to attend the 11 plus meeting at 6.00pm on Tuesday 10th January.

Name of Child _____

Class _____

I have _____ children I would like to be looked after in the crèche.

Signed _____