

## Dunmow St Mary's Primary School

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17<sup>th</sup> November 2017

Dear Parents



### **Pudsey surprises our children!**

We were delighted today to surprise our children following their fundraising for Children in Need with a visit from Pudsey Bear himself. The children who had laughed their way through a hilarious assembly presented by 'The Laughter Specialists' couldn't believe their eyes when Pudsey came to join them in the playground. We are so proud to have presented Pudsey with a cheque for £1,319.40 raised between the school and Containerlift who matched our donation.

The BBC were here and footage will be shown during tonight's appeal show where 'The Laughter Specialists' will be interviewed. We may also appear on the 6.30 Look East montage.

### **Concert of Remembrance**

Last Saturday night our choir took part in a concert of remembrance. Led by Mr Heath the children sang beautifully and we are so proud of the way they represented our school. Well done to everyone who took part.

### **Christmas Performances**

The Christmas performances are on the following dates and times:

#### **YR/1/2**

Tuesday 12<sup>th</sup> December 9.20am  
 Tuesday 12<sup>th</sup> December 2.30pm  
 Wednesday 13<sup>th</sup> December 9.20am

#### **Y3/4/5**

Monday 18<sup>th</sup> December 7pm  
 Tuesday 19<sup>th</sup> December 9.20am  
 Tuesday 19<sup>th</sup> December 7.00pm

There will be enough tickets for each family to have 2 tickets. This could be 2 tickets at the same performance or one ticket for one performance and one ticket for another performance.

If you require tickets for the **YR/1/2** performance please fill out the slip at the bottom of this newsletter. In the next couple of weeks you will then receive a programme which will be your ticket for your seat. We will not be able to allow you into the hall without your programme until everyone else is seated. **Please note that in all these performances people will need to remain seated so as not to block fire exits and push chairs and buggies will need to be left outside the hall.** Reply slips for the Y3/4/5 performances will be sent out at a later date as the show is later in the term.

### **Carol Service in Church**

This will take place on Monday 11<sup>th</sup> December as soon as all the children are in church. Hopefully, we will start by 9.45am. As always, parents are welcome to attend.

### **Live Nativity**

St Mary's have a live nativity taking place on Sunday 10<sup>th</sup> December. The event starts in the town square at 3 pm and the procession will make its way to the church.

### **School Awards**

The following children received our 'Learner of the Week' awards on Monday:

Charley Jeakins 6 <sup>TH</sup>	Lily Gaunt 3SJ
Luke Howells 6BH	Archie Frew 3LW
Freya Horrocks 5LO	Quinn Wilby 2BR
Carrie Amott 5NT	Annie Ramage 2NT
Lily Sargeant 4RB	Poppy Jaggard 1LB
Ella Hawkins 4CJ/AC	Mia Clayton 1SH

### **PTA**

This year the PTA Xmas Bazaar Raffle gives you two chances of winning a prize as there will be a School Draw at the Friday Bazaar and another on the 5th January. This is because we have joined forces with other PTA's for The Big PTA Raffle. You could even win a car! Check out the raffle tickets coming home with your child today for details of all the amazing prizes. Your child is being sent home with one book of 5 £1 tickets for the draws. Any ticket that wins a prize provided by our PTA at the bazaar will be re-entered into the Big Draw in January. Please sell what you can and return the stubs with money to the School Office. The Office will have spares if you need more tickets. Please remember to write all your details on the stub as we will not be able to do this for you.

We are also running our popular 'Turkey Raffle' to have a chance to win your Sweetlands Christmas turkey. Tickets are £1 a strip and will be available to buy at Tesco on Sunday 26th November and at the Bazaar on Friday 1st December. The winner will be drawn at the Bazaar so we have plenty of time to organise how and when you want to collect your turkey from the butcher.

### **Photos/Videos at Sports Events**

Please be aware that you are not able to take photos/videos of children at sports events. Teachers and TAs from each school can take photos of their own children but not parents. This is so we don't infringe other schools' photo permission policies. All local schools are sending this message to parents.

### **Assessment Week**

This year we are introducing a week of assessments each term from Y2 – Y6 so that we can back up our teacher assessments with some more formal results. Next week the children will be carrying out these assessments in Reading, Writing and Maths and also in Spelling and Grammar in Y3 – 6. There is no reason for the children to be worried by these tests – they are purely for us to track progress and set targets. Some year groups will not have homework next week.

**St Mary's Church Nursery**

The Nursery are celebrating their 20<sup>th</sup> anniversary. A number of our existing and former pupils have attended the nursery and are welcome to join their celebrations. Please see the attached flyer.

**Parents of children due to start school in September 2018**

Parents of children born between 1.9.13 and 31.8.14 should apply for Primary School places between 13<sup>th</sup> November 2017 and 15<sup>th</sup> January 2018. Further information is available on the website:

[www.essex.gov.uk/admissions](http://www.essex.gov.uk/admissions)

**Term Dates Next Year 2018/2019**

Alongside this letter are the term dates for the next academic year (2018/2019) as I know some families are thinking about booking their summer holiday. Term starts on Tuesday 4<sup>th</sup> September but this will be a non-pupil day and the children will be back in school on Wednesday 5<sup>th</sup> September. The other non-pupil days will be set and confirmed at a later date.

**Upcoming events**

<b>Week commencing Monday 20th November</b>	
Tuesday 2pm	Prospective Parents welcome in school for a teddy bears picnic and tour
Wednesday 10.45am	4CJ/AC Class Assembly – parents please arrive at 10.40am

Yours sincerely  
Clare Griffiths

**Tickets for YR/1/2 Christmas Performance**

Two tickets are available for each family. This could be two tickets for the same performance or one ticket for one and one ticket for another performance. We are afraid that each family is limited to two tickets. If there are spare tickets, we will let you know when these are in the office and they will be allocated on a first come first served basis.

Child's name \_\_\_\_\_ Class \_\_\_\_\_

I would like the following tickets (please circle as appropriate)

1      2      for Tuesday 12<sup>th</sup> December at 9.20am

1      2      for Tuesday 12<sup>th</sup> December at 2.3 0pm

1      2      for Thursday 13<sup>th</sup> December at 9.20am

Signed \_\_\_\_\_