

Dunmow St Mary's Primary School

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Friday 2nd November 2018

Dear Parents

I hope you all had a lovely half term break. The children are already enjoying their new topics and are looking forward to the remainder of this busy term.

Congratulations to the following children who all gained Headteacher Awards on Monday:

6BH	Jamie Bibb	3SJ	Finley Sladden
6TH	Sadie France	3RB	Poppy Wright
5LH	Oliver Snell	2BR	Liam Twiname
5NR	Maisie-Mae Turner	2NT	Joe Tyler
4LW	George LaFleur	1BI	Tobias Gibbs
4LRW	Amelie Maguire	1SH	D'arcy Kelly

Playleaders

Year 6 are trained as Playleaders and co-ordinate games with the younger children during lunch times. They all take their responsibilities seriously and the younger children like the interaction with them. Congratulations to our recent Playleaders of the month:

<i>September</i>	Ayden Saltmarsh – Reception	Emilka Turek – KS1
<i>October</i>	Finn Newman – Reception	Amelie Watts – KS1

Firework Safety

The Fire Safety Officer was in assembly recently talking about the dangers of fireworks and how children and their families can keep themselves safe around fireworks. If you are having any fireworks at home over the weekend or on Monday please do ensure you keep safe.

Cold weather

Now that the weather is turning colder could I please remind you that novelty hats, especially the animal ones with long scarves attached, are not part of the uniform and should not be worn in school. Also when it is cold children need a winter coat otherwise they will not be allowed out in the playground.

PE Kits reminder

Every child needs to have a full PE kit in school at all times. Please talk to your child about whether they do. The office is inundated every afternoon with children requesting specific items and we suspect parents may not be aware that their child has misplaced a top/shorts or trainers. Unfortunately a large amount of children are missing part or all of their lessons as a result of this and with so few opportunities for the children to be physically active this is a real shame. It is of course also a requirement of the curriculum that they participate in PE. If your child does a sports club after school please encourage them to get changed

and leave their PE kit in school at the end of the club or alternatively help them to remember to return it the following morning.

Operation Christmas Child

Some of you were busy over the half term filling your shoeboxes but we would like to donate a lot more to children who are less fortunate than ours. If you are able to put together a shoebox before Monday it would be much appreciated. Monday morning is the deadline for bringing them in so please could you place your shoebox in your child's classroom by no later than then. Please follow the link to see ideas of what can go in the boxes as well as further details about the joy they bring: <https://www.samaritans-purse.org.uk/what-we-do/operation-christmas-child/>

Library update

Book Sale

Next week the library will be doing a book sale for the children at lunchtimes. There will be loads of nearly new books at 30p each or 4 for a £1. Please make sure children bring any money in a named purse or envelope.

Book Fair

Thank you to all those who made it to the recent book fair. The school earned around £160 to spend on books for our library. If you are planning on some online Christmas shopping you may also be interested in the discount code attached. This gives you £5 off when you spend £25 and earns the school 10% commission on any sales once you enter the code.

Library closing

Please note that the library will now be closing at 3.30pm on a Thursday and remains open until 4pm on a Monday should you wish to come in with your child.

Poppy Appeal

Poppies are on sale at the office and via classes. The plastic keyfob poppies have a suggested donation of 50p each but any donation amount would be gratefully accepted. The poppies will be on sale until next Friday, 9th November.

Friendship week and Children In Need

During the week of the 12th November, we will be focusing on a theme of 'friendship' as this encompasses the ideas and messages of anti-bullying week, Children in Need and our term value that is compassion. Children will do various activities in their classes to explore the idea of being a good friend, how to resolve friendship issues, being generous to others and being a friend to everyone.

On the Friday of that week (16th November) we are inviting the children to wear odd socks and/or odd shoes to school and to contribute a £1 towards Children in Need; odd shoes/socks symbolises we are all unique, we should be accepting of everyone and we need to celebrate our differences. Please bring your donations in on Friday 16th November.

Although the children will still be in school uniform, they may also wear other Children in Need merchandise such as ears/badges/headbands. Please remember that your child's choice of odd footwear still needs to be practical for them to play outside at playtime and take part in lessons!

Essex Police

Essex Police have launched a new Parent/Carers Hotline number – 01245 452058. Additional information on sexual and criminal exploitation is attached together with details of their new helpline.

Events

Week commencing Monday 5 th November	
MONDAY 4.30	Y4 Firework Evening
WEDNESDAY 10.40	3RB Class Assembly
THURSDAY 9.15	Prospective Reception 2019 parent tour
THURSDAY 1.30	Y6 Remembrance Day performance at Great Dunmow Primary
SATURDAY 6.00	Y6 Remembrance Day performance at Foakes Hall

Other events

The Dunmow Players Youth Theatre are putting on a play in April 2019. It's called Play On and is a comedy - a play within a play along the lines of The Play That Went Wrong. They are looking to attract students from the area (aged 8-18) who might be looking to get involved in local theatre. Please see the attached flyer for more details.

Yours sincerely

Clare Griffiths