

Downs Infant School Newsletter

December 1st 2017

Thank you for all your support for the Christmas Fair last week. We made over £4,000, some of which will go to increase the range of reading books available to the children.

As is usual this time of year we have lots of illnesses and absence. Please respect a 48 hour rule for vomiting and diarrhoea to help prevent infection, and encourage good hand-washing and tissue hygiene. Hopefully we can keep absences to a minimum!

Dr Mitchell



Learning Round Up

This week everyone started rehearsals for the Christmas performances. The singing is sounding lovely, and the children and teachers are working hard on the staging. Tickets can be requested by returning the ticket order form – it is important that you bring these tickets with you on the day – forgotten tickets will need to wait until all ticket holders have been seated to ensure we don't go over safe numbers.

In year 1 the children were exploring numbers and using a range of apparatus to help them understand the relative sizes of different numbers.

Across the school children have been talking about how they are improving their learning in response to feedback from their teachers. Year 2 have made moving vehicle in DT this week and were keen to evaluate and improve their own work.



Values Learning

Reception celebrated Busy and Buzz's birthday this week. The children played some lovely games, including 'Pass the Sound' (based on 'Pass the Parcel'!). We have all been practicing collaboration in preparing our Christmas presentations, and in our classroom activities.

For more information about all our values go to <http://downsinf.schooljotter2.com/>



Lost Property

We have a HUGE amount of lost property in the hall – please check at home to see if your child has mislaid any items of clothing, lunch-boxes etc.



While we are rehearsing for our Christmas performances, the 'Bench of Brilliance' will be taking a break. We will return to it in the New Year.

Thank you for your responses to the Sussex University Gender Research Project. The project has started and we hope that our children will benefit from reflecting on voice and gender stereotypes as well as contributing to this importance research.

Dates for your diary (New/changed dates in red)

- 6/12 School Christmas dinner
- 7 December Y2 trip to the synagogue
- **8 December 'Dress Yourself as an Elf' for our Christmas Charity Day**
- 13, 14 and 15 December, Christmas Performances – details to follow
- **Week beg 18 Dec Christmas parties – Year 1 & 2 on Monday 18th, Reception on Tuesday 19th**
- **Tuesday 19th December, Year 2 Choir out (TBC) and Year 2 to watch Year 3 performance at the Juniors**
- 20/12 last day of term
- 2/1/18 INSET – school closed to children
- Return to school Wednesday 3 January
- **6 and 7 March Year 2 trips to Lewes Castle**



You may know children's songwriter Al from our reception Pirate Show or local music events and Brighton Festival shows. As a school we have joined her new School Music Membership and now have access to loads of Al's topic-related songs and teaching materials so your children can learn in a fun, creative and musical way.

Al has a special offer for you - her online **Go Kid Music Club** for children who love to sing with weekly music videos teaching her songs with Makaton signing.

For every family that joins the membership for 6 months, Go Kid Music will donate £2 back to the school to put back into our Arts Fund. This means we will create a sustainable model for our music provision and we can do it together!

Sign up and find out more at:
club.gokidmusic.com

Get 1/3 off when you use the code **DINF** at checkout. The membership will cost you just £3.30/month or there are offers for 6 months/annual subscription. There is also a great **Christmas Gift special offer** - a great one for Grandparents if they are looking for a wonderful present idea!?

We have had a number of reports from parents concerned about the behaviour of certain individuals outside school. We have been advised that you should make reports of anything that concerns you directly to the police so that reports are first-hand.

Punctuality and Attendance

It is horrid to have to nag about this, but I arrived later than usual to school this morning, and at 9am, there were still children walking along the pavement towards school. There were too many to count! **By 9am children need to be in their classroom.** Five minutes lost time every day adds up to a whole day per term! If mornings are always difficult or a rush for you, please engage your child in collaboratively working out solutions to try and let's see if we can get a more settled start to the school day.

Thank you, from Dr Mitchell