

Downs Infant School Newsletter

December 8th 2017

School is a riot of red and green today as we welcomed all the little elves making money for the Rockinghorse Appeal. Thank you as always for your kindness and generosity.

Rehearsals are also underway for the performances next week. *Please remember your tickets when you come*, as we will not be able to let you in without your ticket and you will have to wait until everyone else is in to ensure we don't over-fill the hall.

Dr Mitchell



Learning Round Up

This week Year 1 used the story of 'Traction Man' to inspire their own stories. They wrote about his adventures with 'Scrubbing Brush' and their teachers were so proud of the way that they used all the skills they have been working on this term: full stops, capital letters, 'wow words', their phonics knowledge and more. Well done Year 1! Some children even had their stories 'tweeted' – even better than a sticker! (@DownsInfants)



Year 2 went to the Synagogue this week and found it very interesting. They asked good questions, looked carefully at what they saw, listened to what they were told and came back to school with lots of new learning. Their behaviour was also excellent – great ambassadors for the school.

Reception have been hard at work in Santa's grotto: decorating, making presents, writing letters and cards; and also reading the



story of 'Stickman'. They have measured and compared sticks, used them to make things and written about Stickman.





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!?

A big thank you to our kitchen staff for putting on such a fabulous Christmas lunch this week!

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

- 13, 14 and 15 December, Christmas Performances – Dress rehearsal all year groups, Tuesday 12th; R and Y1 Wednesday 13th, R and Y2 Thursday 14th; Y1 and Y2 Friday 15th.
- Week beg 18 Dec Christmas parties – Year 1 & 2 on Monday 18th, Reception on Tuesday 19th
- **Tuesday 19th December, Year 2 Choir out to sing at nursing home** 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
- **Monday 12 – Friday 16th February, Half Term**

Social Media

We have been informed that there is an unpleasant video making the rounds on 'Snapchat'. Hopefully this has not been viewed by any of our pupils but you may have older children who use Snapchat. The police are involved and support for children who have viewed it is available from YMCA WISE. Please be aware of what your children are accessing online.

Values Learning

School council met this week to review the children's understanding of our values. They talked about the importance of going in the 'Learning Pit' and about Busy and Buzz and collaborative learning, but they were not so sure about Boggle the Better Bear and Wonder the Meercat. They have decided to become 'Boggle and Wonder Ambassadors'. Miss Cornish and Ms Derecourt will be doing some training with them so that they can help the children in their classes know more about our learning heroes.

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