

# DEBDEN PRIMARY ACADEMY NEWSLETTER

Friday 13 December 2019

Dear Parents,

As we rapidly approach Christmas, the school has transformed into a hub of festivity, with a number of Christmas-themed events and activities taking place across the school. It has been fantastic to watch the children's enthusiasm for the season gradually build as the weeks have gone on, yet to note their continued dedication to their learning in their classes. Before detailing some of the highlights from the past couple of weeks, I'd like to extend a special thank you to the little elves who put up Christmas decorations around the school over the weekend at the beginning of the December – the school looks fantastic! The little things can make a huge difference.

Last Friday, the Friends of Debden School held their annual Christmas Fayre. There were raffles, games and stalls, which proved to be hugely successful. We even had a visit from Santa, who transformed our Foundation Stage Wendy house into his own grotto! I know that the children really enjoyed meeting him and telling him what they would like for Christmas. Thank you to all the families who attended the event – your support for the school is invaluable. Thanks also to the staff, who stayed behind to help out with the event. However, the biggest thanks must go to our dedicated and conscientious team of FODs, who led all the planning and running of the event. You are a wonderful team of people who our school is lucky to have.



Fast-forwarding to this week – our Reception, Year 1 and Year 2 children performed beautifully in their Christmas nativity production: 'Prickly Hay.' I, like many others, was blown away by their enthusiasm, how well they had learned their lines, and their singing and dancing. To think that some of these children only started school a few weeks ago is astounding! We are very proud of all of them. I can imagine that getting the children so finely-tuned is no easy task, and so a big thank you to Ms Weetch, Mrs Murrell, Mrs Stoye, Mrs Cole, Mrs Cameron, Mrs Pargeter, Mrs Wheeler, Mrs Hare and Mrs Cox for all of their hard work in making the show such a success. I must admit that I have found myself humming to some of the soundtrack over the past few days!



We have several events still to come in the last week of term, in addition to those at the beginning of the next term, so please do take a look at the notices below. Our PSHE week is one of the big events at the start of the Spring term, and I know that Ms Weetch is still looking for some parent volunteers who would like to come in to talk to the children. She is particularly looking for those who have any training in Yoga or Mindfulness or have a job in a profession in which a consideration of wellbeing is imperative (e.g. doctors, nurses, police, dentists, etc.). If none of these apply to you, but you'd just really like to help support the week, please do get in touch with Ms Weetch. You can do this either catching her in person or emailing the admin team.

Just before I sign off, I'd like to thank you all (parents, staff and children alike) for helping me to feel so welcome and supported throughout my first term. It has sure been eventful! I am hugely proud to be the Head at this school, and one of its greatest assets is its close-knit and enthusiastic community. I am positive that we are destined for great things. If I do not see you beforehand, may I wish you and your family a very Merry Christmas and a Happy New Year, from all of us here at Debden.

We will see the children bright and early on Monday for the final week of term. Have a superb weekend.

Matt Hawley

Head of School

STARS of the WEEK	
<p><b>Ducklings</b></p>  <p><i>Sammy &amp; June</i></p>	<p><b>Minnows</b></p>  <p><i>Elora &amp; Andrew</i></p>
<p><b>Frogs</b></p>  <p><i>Rose &amp; Demi</i></p>	<p><b>Kingfishers</b></p>  <p><i>Curtis &amp; Jude</i></p>

### FODS News

Photographs of the Prickly Hay production, taken by Sara Platt, are available to view and purchase at the school office. There are some really lovely portraits of all of the children in the show. The digital images cost £5 for one and £10 for three and will be emailed to you. The raffles at the Prickly Hay shows raised an amazing £136.

Last week's Christmas Fayre raised a whopping £1,163.71 which is much more than recent years. Thank you to everyone for buying raffle tickets, eating cakes, playing the games, decorating biscuits, having their face painted and for all your donations. We're very grateful to all the volunteers who shopped, wrapped, decorated, baked, set up, manned stalls and helped clear up.

The wreath making classes organised and run by the talented Alison Hare were a huge success and 36 people made beautiful Christmas wreaths for their doors. Alison raised £230 each for FODS and the New Village Hall fund.

All of the money raised this term will be spent on buying things for the children and subsidising trips and visitors.

### Swimming (Frogs)

Swimming for Frogs started on Tuesday 17<sup>th</sup> September. Please ensure your child has their full swimming kit with them every Tuesday (costume, swimming hat, goggles and towel).

### Parking outside School

Please may we remind parents that parking outside the school is not allowed, particularly during pick up and drop off time. We have had reports of parents parking alongside the side gate, which makes crossing the road significantly more hazardous when the children are coming out of school.

### Music Lessons

If your child is interested in music lessons, please contact the school office. Instruments available for tuition are guitar, drums, piano, flute, clarinet and saxophone.

Dates for your Diary - please note, these may be subject to change if unavoidable circumstances happen.

Wednesday 18 December – Christmas lunch

Thursday 19 December – Carol Service 9.30 am at the church

Thursday 19 December – Break up 3 pm

Tuesday 7 January – Back to school

## Debden Church Calendar of Services and Events for 2019

### Services:

Sun 15 Dec	<b>Advent 3</b>	09.15	Holy Communion	J.Saxon
Sun 22 Dec	<b>Advent 4</b>	18.30	Carol Service	J.Saxon
Tue 24 Dec	<b>Christmas Eve</b>	17.00	Nativity Service	J.Saxon
Tue 24 Dec		23.00	Holy Communion	J.Saxon
Wed 25 Dec	<b>Christmas Day</b>	09.15	Holy Communion	J.Saxon
Sun 29 Dec	<b>Christmas 1</b>	11.00	Service at Wimbish only	

A short service (said) of Morning Prayer is usually held every Friday at 9.00am in the Chiswell Chapel in the Church.