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**Newsletter 11-12-20**

**WE HAVE MADE THE DECISION TO REMAIN OPEN FOR PUPILS ON  
FRIDAY 18<sup>TH</sup> DECEMBER AS WE FEEL THAT IT WOULD BE TOO  
DIFFICULT FOR WORKING PARENTS**

Attendance figures for week ending Friday 11<sup>th</sup> December are as follows:

|             |             |              |              |
|-------------|-------------|--------------|--------------|
| Year R 100% | Year 1 100% | Year 2 93.8% | Year 3 97.6% |
| Year 4 100% | Year 5 100% | Year 6 97.5% | <b>98.3%</b> |

Well done to Years R, 1, 4 and 5 for 100% attendance.  
**Whole school attendance this academic year: 97.4%**

**ADVENT PRAYER**

God Our Father,  
as we look forward to Christmas  
the excitement is growing.  
just as the light from the Advent wreath  
grows brighter,  
we pray that the light of Jesus  
will grow brighter in our lives too.  
Amen

**CLASS 1 CHRISTINGLES**

Thank you for helping your child create these beautiful Christingles.  
We had a Christingle service in each class to mark the start of Advent when we prepare for the birth of Jesus.



## NATIVITY BY CLASS 1



## BEACON COURT

Class 3 will be visiting Beacon Court next Thursday. They will be singing outside the residential home to cheer up the residents. We are hoping that they will be able to watch from the windows. The children have made Christmas cards which we have delivered to the home this week so they can be isolated. Many thanks for your fantastic generosity with the Beacon Court gifts which are being wrapped and isolated this week. They will be very much appreciated.

## TOYS

Thank you for all the wonderful toys and gifts that you have donated for the Community Chest. They will bring a lot of joy to children who may not have had anything this year.

## CHRISTMAS DINNER

On Wednesday 16<sup>th</sup> December the children will be having their own Class Christmas dinner and bubble parties. The children can wear their party clothes for the day. The Friends are very kindly paying for all the children and staff to eat, so thank you Friends!

## SCHOOL WEBSITE

Please don't forget to visit the School website for the dinner menus, term dates, latest newsletter etc. all this information is on the bottom of the home page.

<http://www.st-johns-dartmouth.devon.sch.uk>

## THE FRIEND'S CHRISTMAS COLOURING COMPETITION

Well done to everyone who took part in the Christmas Colouring Competition. The winners were chosen by an impartial judge; Mrs Dillon.

|              | <b>Class1</b> | <b>Class 2</b> | <b>Class3</b> |
|--------------|---------------|----------------|---------------|
| First place  | Chase         | Isla           | Lilly         |
| Second place | Esmee         | Riley          | Zuzia         |
| Third place  | Michalina     | Joshua         | Jensen        |

## DECEMBER FOREST SCHOOL SESSIONS (WEATHER PERMITTING)

Thurs 17<sup>th</sup> Year 6

## CHRISTMAS READING CHALLENGE

It is really important that children are reading daily and develop a love of Reading. How many books can your children read before the New Year? Children can read books from home or e-books (Oxford Owl link on website). When they have a read a book record it on the sheet attached and email it to Mrs Waiters ([dwaiters@st-johns-dartmouth.devon.sch.uk](mailto:dwaiters@st-johns-dartmouth.devon.sch.uk)) in the New Year. There will be certificates and rewards for those who take part.

## FREE SCHOOL MEALS OVER THE CHRISTMAS HOLIDAYS

DCC have now put in place arrangements to provide supermarket vouchers to children across Devon who currently receive free school meals. The vouchers are for £30 per child (£15 per week) and can be used in a variety of supermarkets including Sainsburys, Tesco, Morrisons, Asda, M&S Food and Waitrose. Anyone who is eligible should ensure they look out for a letter or email from Devon County Council next week for details about how to access your vouchers or an alternative food box.

If you think you may be eligible due to a change in circumstance then please apply online through the [Devon Citizen's Portal](#) to check if you are eligible as soon as possible. This is the quickest and easiest way for your eligibility to be assessed and they will give you an instant decision. Alternatively, you can call the education helpline on **0345 155 1019**. To ensure that you receive the free school meals holiday vouchers for this Christmas period you must apply by Friday 18 December 2020.

Please note that this is a different arrangement to the Universal Free School Meals scheme where the children get a free meal in school years Reception, 1 and 2 because of age (not income).

## DARTMOUTH LIBRARY – WINTER MINI CHALLENGE

The Winter Mini Challenge launched on Tuesday 1st December and runs until Friday 15th January 2021. To take part in the Winter Mini Challenge online, simply read any books (including eBooks and audiobooks) of your choice, then rate and review them at [www.wintermini.org.uk](http://www.wintermini.org.uk). Books added to the website during the six-week Mini Challenge period will count towards unlocking special rewards including a certificate and a virtual badge. The website will feature activities, recommendations for great winter reads, and competitions. The theme for this year's Challenge is Everyone Is A Hero, to champion a diversity of perspectives across children's books and encourage everyone to nominate their own personal reading heroes – whether it's a librarian, a teacher, a family member, a carer or a friend. Nominate your Reading Heroes on social media using the hashtags #WMC2020 and #ReadingHero. At the end of the Challenge all the entries will go into a prize draw – and the winning hero will receive the Winter Mini Challenge booklist bundle.

## FRIENDS NEWS

Don't forget your raffle tickets. Please could these be returned by Monday 14<sup>th</sup> December (even if you haven't sold any). Thank you.

## **COVID 19 TESTING**

We are aware that there have been some significant problems with access to COVID-19 testing. You will have seen on the news that this is not unique to Devon but none the less is of significant concern. DCC and PHE have escalated this regionally and nationally but it is unlikely we will see a rapid improvement.

Individuals should only get tested if they have symptoms of coronavirus which are:

- A high temperature (feeling hot to touch on your chest or back)
- A new continuous cough (coughing a lot, for more than an hour or 3 or more coughing episodes in 24 hours or if you usually have a cough, it may be worse than usual)
- A loss or change to their sense of smell or taste (noticing you cannot smell or taste anything or things smell or taste different to normal)

Parents or carers of children attending school or school staff with symptoms of coronavirus should book a test as normal via the government website or by calling 119.

If they are unable to book a local testing slot then individuals should complete the appropriate forms by following the links below:

|                              |  |
|------------------------------|--|
| Children under the age of 5: | <a href="#">Urgent Referral Form - Under 5's</a> |
| School aged Children (5-18): | <a href="#">School Aged Children</a>             |
| NHS/Health/Care workers:     | <a href="#">NHS/Health/Care Professionals</a>    |
| All other individuals:       | <a href="#">Urgent Referral Form - Adults</a>    |