

St. John the Baptist R.C. Primary School
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Newsletter 04-12-20

Attendance figures for week ending Friday 4th December are as follows:

Year R 100%	Year 1 97.1%	Year 2 100%	Year 3 100%
Year 4 100%	Year 5 100%	Year 6 95%	99%

Well done to Years R, 2, 3, 4 and 5 for 100% attendance.

Whole school attendance this academic year: 97.4%

SCHOOL CHAPLAIN'S PRAYER

Dear Jesus

Help us to be strong like St John the Baptist.

Let us show love, peace and kindness to all.

Encourage us to be the best that we can be and always show your love.

Amen

GIVE A GIFT FOR BEACON HOUSE RESIDENTS

This year Christmas will be very different for us, especially for the residents of Beacon House who will not be allowed visitors. If you would like to donate a little gift for their residents then please drop it into reception. Thank you.

NATIVITY PLAY BY CLASS 1

Unfortunately this year there will be no Nativity play in the church, however we will be dressing up and performing this as a Class only. This will form part of their learning in RE and Drama. We have all the costumes already in school and we will add the pictures to our website for you to view.

CHRISTMAS SHOEBOXES

Thank you everyone for your Christmas shoeboxes. They have been safely delivered to their drop-off point by our Chair of Governors. Thank you Laura! They will now be shipped around the world to children who would otherwise have nothing. Thank you again for your generosity.



TOYS

We are collecting good quality toys. We will isolate these for 72 hours and then pass them onto the Community Chest to help families who are struggling this Christmas. If you are having any clear-outs, please consider donating them. Thank you for all your donations so far.

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).

CHRISTMAS JUMPER DAY – FRIDAY 11TH DECEMBER

We are not collecting any money before Christmas, but if your child would like to wear a Christmas Jumper to celebrate the day then they may wear one if they would like to.

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>

DECEMBER FOREST SCHOOL SESSIONS (WEATHER PERMITTING)

Thurs 10th Year 4 / Year 5
Fri 11th Year 1 / Year 3
Thurs 17th Year 6

CHRISTMAS DINNER

On Wednesday 16th 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!

BAG2SCHOOL

Thank you to everyone who brought in their bags. The Friends raised £105 for the school.

DARTMOUTH LIBRARY – HELP CREATE A NEW READING CHALLENGE!

Book Track is the reading challenge for primary-aged children run by Libraries Unlimited through your local public library. Lots of children enjoy taking part, earning badges and stickers as a reward for reading lots of books and talking about them. Now Libraries Unlimited has received some funding, from Tesco Bags of Help, to create a brand new reading challenge to replace Book Track. This is where you can help. Before making any changes or creating something new, Libraries Unlimited would like to find out what you think. They are interested in the views of all parents and children that are interested in books and reading.

Please follow [this link](#) to a short survey that is designed for children aged 5+ and a parent/carer to complete together. It won't take long to complete, and you could win a fantastic prize. The survey is open until Friday 11th December 2020 and all entries submitted before then will be entered into a prize draw to win a Samsung Galaxy Tablet! (T&Cs apply)

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. 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.

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) in the New Year. There will be certificates and rewards for those who take part.

FRIENDS NEWS

If you are taking part in the colouring competition, please could your entries be returned by Monday 7th December. You should also have received your Christmas raffle tickets. Please could these be returned by Monday 14th December (even if you haven't sold any). Thank you.

GOODBYE MISS DUKE AND HELLO MRS WALLACE

We say a fond farewell to Miss Duke today who was covering Mrs Lang's maternity leave. She has secured a permanent job at Dartmouth Academy. We welcome Kate Wallace who will start with Class 2 next Monday. Kate who is a Mum of two currently works at Blackawton and will join us until Mrs Lang returns.

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:	Urgent Referral Form - Under 5's
School aged Children (5-18):	School Aged Children
NHS/Health/Care workers:	NHS/Health/Care Professionals
All other individuals:	Urgent Referral Form - Adults