



DEVONSHIRE DISPATCH

www.devonshireprimary.org

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21st December 2018

Christmas at Devonshire

Over the last couple of weeks, Devonshire has been getting very 'Christmassy'. There have been a total of 9 Christmas performances to Devonshire families, the choir have visited 3 local old people's homes to sing carols to them, 596 Christmas dinners were cooked for children and staff and every child at Devonshire has made a Christmas card that has been delivered to our neighbours.

On behalf of the staff, governors and children at Devonshire, we wish you all a very happy Christmas and new year. We look forward to seeing you all on Tuesday 8th January.

Devonshire Diary

Friday 21st December (1.20pm Reception and Key Stage 1 and 1.30pm Key Stage 2) end of term

Monday 7th January – INSET day (school closed for children)

Tuesday 8th January – term starts

Thursday 10th January – Year 3 swimming starts

Wednesday 16th January (2pm) – parent workshop about the teaching of PSHE

Friday 18th January – Year 2 local area walk

Monday 4th February (6.30 – 7.30pm) – parent workshop 'Knowing the dangers that children face on line'

Monday 18th – Friday 22nd February – half term

Friday 5th April – last day of spring term

Wednesday 24th April – first day of summer term

Our PSA

The Christmas fayre was very successful and raised £2500.

Thank you to everyone who came to our fayre, parents and family members who helped out at the event and of course the PSA team who co-ordinated it.

On the 30th November, the PSA had their annual general meeting. This was a good opportunity to celebrate the work of the PSA and the events that they have organised to raise funds for our school. This term alone they have:

- made a significant contribution to the Reception fencing,
- paid for the school mosaic,
- paid for all children to have a Christmas cracker at the Christmas meal,
- paid for all Nursery children to have a book,
- paid for all children from Reception upwards to see a pantomime,
- given each class £20 for Christmas craft activities

All of these would not be possible without your kind donations and support of the PSA; whether it be by attending or helping out at events or donating money or items as part of our mufti days.

We have a very enthusiastic PSA. There is currently a vacancy on our team; we need a vice chair. If you would be interested in joining our PSA team, please speak to a member of our senior leadership team or a member of the PSA. It is a very worthwhile and rewarding role, helping organise activities that raise money for our children.

Attendance

Attendance for the school as a whole is 96.5%

This term 16 classes have attendance that is above our school target of 96% - Robins, Wrens, Woodpeckers, Nightingales, Eagles, Chaffinches, Larks, Ash, Birch, Cedar, Chestnut, Cherry, Holly, Hazel, Willow and Oak. Birch class have the highest overall attendance of the term with 98.5%.

Working together

We spend a lot of time in the Autumn term celebrating differences and recognising that we are all unique. Together, we make up the Devonshire community. We have wonderful children who we are incredibly proud of. However, children can react to situations in different ways. Reactions can also be different if children are unwell, tired, worried or excited. This is something that every parent will appreciate and have encountered. Please refrain from commenting on a child's behaviour and/or reaction to a situation and most importantly, the way that it is being handled. This can cause upset at a time that can be stressful for parents.

On a similar note, if something has happened in school that you would like further clarification about, please talk to your child's class teacher and do not attempt to address it yourself with other parents. If something has happened, school staff will be able to talk to all of the children and get a full picture. Staff are best placed to resolve any issues and find a way forward.

Parent workshops

We have received very positive feedback from our recent parent work shop (How children may challenge us and what we can do to respond) and would like to invite all parents to the next work shop which will be taking place on Wednesday 16th January at 2pm. At this session, Mrs Harrison and Mrs Green will be joined by Mrs Rouse, our PSHE leader, who will be discussing PSHE teaching in school and in particular our new scheme of work which is called Jigsaw and how this can be of equal benefit at home. If you would like to join us at this interesting and informative afternoon, please leave your name at the office.

School photos

You will by now have received the school photos that you have ordered. Thank you to Miss Whittaker, who each year co-ordinates the school photos and with the help of Miss Campkin ensured that every child was at the right place and at the right time to have their photo taken.

Lost property

Please ensure that if your child has lost anything this term, that you check lost property before the end of the term. It has a variety of garments in it which need to be reunited with their owners.

Anything that is found and has a name in it, is returned to the relevant child but if it doesn't have a name in it then it gets taken to lost property which is sadly getting fuller and fuller. Any unclaimed lost property will be recycled at the end of term.

Chess News from Mr Buckley

Our chess club have been running their own internal tournament this term.

In division 1, Didi was in 1st place, Stefan in 2nd place and Daniel in 3rd place.

In division 2, Tom was in 1st place.

Well done to all our players this term, everyone is improving and enjoying themselves whilst doing so.

Lego

If you have any Lego that you no longer need, we would be more than happy to utilise it in school. Children love playing with Lego and creating Lego structures so we are always keen to add to our stock of Lego.

Christmas Jumper Day

Many thanks for your kind donations on Christmas Jumper day; we raised £314.71.

Thank you

Thank you to all Devonshire families for your support this term. A special thank you to the parents and grandparents who have helped in school this term. Your support is very much appreciated and enables us to provide additional opportunities for the children.

"This is a good school...Pupils of all abilities achieve well." Ofsted 2015