



Parent Link

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Issue 6
6th December
2019

Dear Parents and Carers,

We had a hugely successful Christmas Bazaar almost two weeks ago now, with a lot of enjoyment, fun, and fundraising. Thank you so much to everyone who came along and supported the event, and especially to those who helped man a stall or contribute to the day's success. A special highlight for me personally was seeing so many children at the school with their families, enjoying the activities that we had put on. The buzz around our Downley site was wonderful, and that buzz translated to our **record** takings. Including some donations we had been given to help establish the Bazaar, we raised a whopping **£6,700.**

Massive thanks to Sharon, Sara, Lynn and all those involved with setting up the day, plus all those who have contributed to the FCWS meetings in the weeks leading up to it. We'll enjoy the break and then think about what we'll tackle in the new year.

As we head into the last couple of weeks before Christmas there are a wealth of Christmas related activities taking place. We hope you'll make it into school at some point to join us with celebrations.

Bradley Taylor (Headteacher)

Autumn Term 2019 dates

Monday 4th November – Thursday 19th December

Dates for Parents:

Tuesday 10th December pm – Coppice Christmas celebration

Wednesday 11th December - Christmas Lunch for pupils

Thursday 12th December, 10 am – Gemstone Christmas production

Friday 13th December – Treetops Christmas celebration

Monday 16th December – 10.00am - Woodland Christmas Assembly

Tuesday 17th December – 1.15-2.30pm - Little Wings Stay and Play with Santa's Grotto

Gemstones and Coppice pantomime trip

Spring Term 2020

Monday 6th January – INSET day

Pupils back Tuesday 7th January

Further dates to follow in the end of term newsletter

SCHOOL COUNCIL



The Downley site School Council



News from around the school

Rainbow

We have had another great couple of weeks in Rainbow and there has been some lovely activities linked to our fairy tales topic. This is now drawing to an end and each class will be finishing the term on a final story linked with some Christmas themed activities. So much to still look forward to including seeing Father Christmas, our cinema trip and we will be having a department Christmas party. Have a wonderful weekend, Hannah

Little Wings

A big thank you to all the parents who contributed to the cost of Little Wing's trip to Playtrain. The children had a fantastic time climbing, sliding and hiding in the ball pit! A trip to an unfamiliar location like this can be hugely stressful to some children, but with your support, and that of the class team, all children made it to the venue and all had a brilliant time. Class teacher's will send some photos home on dojo or in diaries.

As the weather gets colder, please ensure your child is sent in with suitable winter wear (gloves, scarf, hat, thick coat etc) as the classes will still be exploring the outside areas over the winter months. You will receive a letter shortly regarding a Christmas Stay and Play on Tuesday 17th December from 1.15-2.30pm. More details to come! Claire

Treetops

The last couple of weeks have been very busy with classes working hard on various functional life skill tasks. Hawk class have been working hard on developing their cooking skills and enjoyed going to Burnham Beeches on Tuesday. Kestrel class have also been cooking and making stir fry and banoffee pie. We also enjoyed our trip to TVAP on Tuesday. Owl class have been working on their turn taking and listening skills in English and are looking forward to their trip to TVAP soon. Eagle class have been learning about how clocks work and understanding what time important events happen. We are all looking forward to our parent event on the 13th December at 1.30pm where the students will be doing some tasks in class and then having a party all together after. We hope we will see you there wearing your Christmas jumpers! Have a good weekend. David

Coppice

We have unfortunately had to say goodbye to 2 students, Rohith and Freddie, in the last couple of weeks from our department, who have moved abroad with their families. We have had some very sad goodbyes.

Some highlights from the last couple of weeks!

Red Kite class have been busy making shopping lists and buying ingredients to cook for community cafe. Thank you to all those parents that made it to Community Cafe on Thursday - If you didn't make it we hope you can make it to the next one!

Squirrel class have been on the hunt for 2D shapes. Falcon class and Deer class have had the school nurses in classes teaching us all about how to wash our hands properly.

Once again we have had some lovely volunteers in from the Charity REMAP. This time Chris installed a low rail on the stairs to help improve access on the stairs for our department.

Next week is our Coppice Department Christmas Celebration. We will be performing a song and then parents and children will have the opportunity to do some fun Christmas activities in classes. Please come along on Tuesday 10th December at 1.30 pm if you are able to. Salma

Woodlands

What super learning I have seen taking place across the department over the last fortnight. Here are some of the highlights:

A young lady independently turning around in her 'walker'.

Active exploration of messy play resources. 'Fruity Slime' was a favourite and smelt amazing!

The Meadow Class boys vocalising during pauses in their 'Mighty Meadow' chant.

Excellent curiosity demonstrated while using Christmas crackers.

Communication boards being used effectively to support the making of biscuits. One 'star baker' even has her own biscuit jar at home for her bakes! Amanda

Gemstones

It was a joy to look around at the children's faces this morning and see them all confidently rehearsing their lines and learning songs.

Charlie and the Christmas factory promises to be a fabulous Christmas production.

We had a very successful visit from two pets as therapy dogs this week, Doug the Pug and Billi the Labrador. I know my class were completely smitten with both dogs and wrote them lovely letters to say Thank you.

We look forward to seeing you at the performance next Thursday. Sarah

Support Staff

Challenging time of year for everyone with lots of sickness around. Even so Christmas festivities are well underway.

Susana is settling in well and already proving to be an asset to the school.

Caroline has picked up the Lettings and as always doing a sterling job getting it organised and building positive relationships with our hirers.

We all wish everyone a lovely Christmas holiday and Happy New Year. Vicky

Doug and Billi's visit to the Downley site

