



Dunster First School

Headteacher: Peter Hoyland

Newsletter No 7



BBC Songs of Praise comes to Dunster First School

Tel: 01643 821254 Fax: 01643 821243

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www.dunsterfirstschool.org.uk

13 St Georges Street
Dunster, Minehead
TA24 6RX



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07 December 2016

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Dear Parents,
May I please bring the following to your attention:

Diary Dates

Thursday December 8 th	Key Stage 2 Nativity Play in St George's Church, Dunster - 2.00pm
Friday December 9 th	Christingle Service (children and staff only)
Friday December 9 th	Reception Class and Key Stage 1 Nativity Play in St George's Church, Dunster - 2.00pm
Wednesday December 14 th	Reception Class and Key Stage 1 Christmas Party - 2.00pm to 4.00pm (further details to follow)
Thursday December 15 th	Key Stage 2 Christmas Party - 2.00pm to 4.00pm (further details to follow)
Friday December 16 th	Last day of Autumn Term Christmas Post-box Christmas Dinner Carol Service
Saturday December 17 th to Monday December 2 nd	Christmas Holiday
Tuesday December 3 rd	First day of Spring Term 2017

Songs of Praise comes to Dunster (and Dunster First School)

On Friday July 2nd the children in Year 4 spent part of the day filming with the BBC for the programme Songs of Praise. In the morning some of the children spent time making a lantern with Songs of Praise presenter, David Grant. He interviewed several of the children, asking them about what Christmas meant to them and how they celebrated it.



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In the afternoon the whole of the Year 4 class went up the Tenants Hall at Dunster Castle where they joined the Dunster Carollers to sing the "Dunster Carol".



In the evening some of the children from Year 3 and Year 4 (and some of their younger brothers and sisters) joined the lantern procession that traditionally opens Dunster by Candlelight. This was again filmed for Songs of Praise.



All in all it was a very exciting day and everyone is looking forward to seeing the Songs of Praise edition that will be shown on BBC 1 on Sunday December 18th.

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Advent Fair

A great big thank you to everyone who supported this year's Advent Fair. The fantastic support that the school received from parents, carers, grandparents, governors, past parents and pupils, friends of the school and local businesses meant that this year's Advent Fair raised over £4756 for Friends of Dunster First School funds.

This is a huge amount of money to raise for a school of our size and is due not only to the hard work of all those parents, members of staff and friends who gave so willingly of their time but also to everyone who came along and supported us on the evening.

On behalf of all those associated with the school... thank you!



Advent Fair Competition Results

The results of the various children's games and competitions that took place during Advent Fair week were as follows:

Christmas Decorations



Florence Twiss (Year R)
Gabriel James (Year 1)
Esme Priddle (Year 2)
Emily Johnson (Year 3)
Lexie Webber (Year 4)

Thank you to all those children who entered a star. They were all beautiful and it was very hard for the judge to pick five winners. All of the wonderful decorations are currently on display on the Christmas tree in the hall.



Number of Treats in the Jar (180)

Astral-May Margison (Year 4)

Lucky Squares Winner

Rose Worley (Year 2)

Staff Childhood Toy Photo Competition

Albert Vickery (Year 3) and family

Guess the Bear's Birthday (October 6th)

Katy-Lou Bretherton (Year 4)

Dunster Treasure Hunt

William Bishop

Raffle Ticket Raffle

Lyla Rose Stevens (Year 3) and family

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Letters to Father Christmas

All of the letters that were given to Father Christmas at this year's Advent Fair have now been posted, so look out for a reply in the post over the coming weeks.



Reverse Auction Result

Thank you to everyone who entered the Advent Fair's Reverse Auction for a holiday for 6 at a top Cornwall resort. The winner, with a lowest unique bid of **18p** (plus their £3 entry fee), was the Strong Family.

Missing Rabbit - Can You Help?

Unfortunately in all the excitement of Advent Fair Day one of the children in the Reception Class lost her favourite toy rabbit. The rabbit may well have made their way up to the Toy Fair and been sold or he might just have got accidentally picked up amongst the many toys that were taken home that day.

Could I therefore ask parents if they could check at home to see if they have our missing rabbit? There is a reward for his safe return. Thank you for your help with this.

This is **Carrotty Bunny**. The rabbit in the picture is not exactly the same as Carrotty Bunny but it will give you a good idea of what he looks like.

If you do find him please return him to school as Rebecca is missing him.



Christmas Nativity Performances - Thursday December 8th and Friday December 9th

A reminder that the children in Year 3 and Year 4 will be performing "Rock Around the Flock" in St George's Church, Dunster at 2.00pm on Thursday December 8th.

On Friday December 9th the children in the Reception Class, Year 1 and Year 2 will be performing a traditional Nativity Play. This performance will also be in St George's Church, Dunster and again will start at 2.00pm.

A collection will be taken at the end of both performances with the proceeds being shared between St George's Church and the Shackleford family.



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To make sure that everyone is able to enjoy these performances, we will be providing a crèche in the Monstas After School Club room on both Thursday and Friday. The crèche, which is for younger brothers and sisters, will be available from 1.35pm. If you would like your child to attend the crèche please complete the slip at the end of the newsletter and return it to the school office as soon as possible.

Will parents with children who normally travel home on the bus please fill in the slip at the end of the newsletter to let us know if they will be picked up from school or whether they will be travelling home by bus after the performance. These slips should be returned to your child's class teacher.



If you are coming to watch the Nativity Plays please park considerately and responsibly. Please avoid parking in front of or on local residents' driveways. If time permits please consider parking in the Dunster Steep Car Park and walking to and from the church.

Car Parking outside Dunster Tithe Barn

I have been approached by the manager of Dunster Tithe Barn to ask parents not to park and leave their cars outside the Tithe Barn gates. Over the past few weeks there have been two occasions where a delivery to the Tithe Barn was not able to be made because the entrance was blocked.



Collection for the West Somerset Food Cupboard

Over the next two weeks Monstas After School Club will be making a collection for the **West Somerset Food Cupboard**.

Any donations for the West Somerset Food Cupboard can be left in the Monstas After School Club room.

Film Club's Christmas Film Night

Thank you to our Film Club and Mrs Vickery for organising the "Christmas Film Night" that took place on Thursday December 1st. Thank you also to everyone who came along to support this event. We hope you enjoyed the evening.

The evening raised a wonderful £181 for Friends of Dunster First School Funds.



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Christmas Post-box

For those parents and carers who are new to the school, one of our most popular traditions is the Christmas Post-box where children are invited to send cards to all of their friends through the school's internal mail system.

To take part, your child will need to write cards to their friends making sure that on the envelope they put their friend's full name and the class or year group that they are in. Cards can then be posted in the post-box in the main cloakroom.



On the last day of term the whole school gathers in the hall and the cards are tipped out (into a huge pile) and given out by school staff. It would be helpful if children could bring a named carrier bag to school on the last day of term so that their cards can be kept safe.

Christmas Parties

This year's Christmas Parties will be held on the following dates.

**Reception Class, Year 1 and Year 2
Year 3 and Year 4**

**Wednesday December 14th
Thursday December 15th**

Both parties will start at 2.00pm and will finish at approximately 4.00pm. Please complete the party reply slip at the end of this letter to let us know if your child will be staying until the end of the party and return it to your child's teacher.

To help us prepare for the parties this year and to try and cut down on the amount of food that gets wasted, we are asking parents and carers to make a donation of £1.00 per child. This will make sure that the Friends of Dunster First School only get the food and drink for the party that we need. Please send in your donation with the reply slip for the party.



If your child has any special dietary needs please make sure that you inform your child's class teacher.

On the day of the party, children are welcome to bring in party clothes to get changed into. Please send in any clothes in a named carrier bag. Parents or carers with a DBS check who would like to help with the parties should contact their child's teacher.

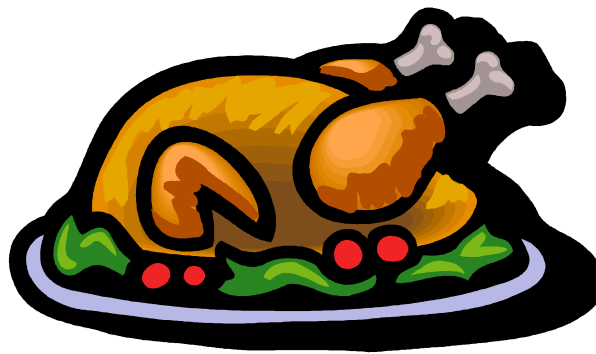
The Friends of Dunster First School have kindly made the arrangements for a visit by Father Christmas.

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Christmas Dinner

Information about this year's Christmas Dinner was sent home on the school's menu slips on Friday December 2nd. Thank you to all those parents and carers who have submitted their orders. **We are unable to take orders for Christmas dinners after Wednesday 7th December.**



Parents and Carers who have not ordered a meal will need to ensure that their children bring in a packed lunch on the last day of term.

All of the children will be provided with a cracker.

Schools Complaints Procedure

At a recent meeting of the Board of Governors the Local Authority's updated Complaints Procedure and Guidance were adopted. A copy of the Complaints Procedure and Guidance is available from the school office and has also been added to the Policy section of the school website at www.dunsterfirstschool.org.uk.

Inclement Weather Procedures

As a school, we will always aim to keep the school open and will only close when to remain open could endanger children and staff. Any decision to close the school will be made by myself in conjunction with the school's Chair of Governors. If we have to close the school we will aim to make the decision by 8.00am.



In the event of severe weather conditions preventing the school from opening, we are grateful to the following people for agreeing to be contact points for parents to ring.

Minehead	Anne Leworthy	07783 569959 (unable to respond to texts)
Carhampton	Greta Thrush	01643 821670
Luxborough	Elizabeth Worley	01984 640307

In order to keep the school telephone lines free for essential calls, parents enquiring about possible school closure should contact one of the above volunteers. Should computer links allow, we will endeavour to contact those parents who have registered their mobile numbers with the school by text message and will also post closure details on the news page of the school website, www.dunsterfirstschool.org.uk.

To enable information to be circulated as early as possible, and to reduce the burden on the school's systems, School Transport will notify those parents who have provided up

to date contact details if school buses are running late, have broken down or are not running due to poor weather conditions.

Information about closures will be broadcast by the following local radio stations:

BBC Somerset	95.5FM and 1566MHz
Heart Somerset FM	102.6FM, 96.5FM and 97.1FM
Breeze FM	107.2FM

Poppy Collection

Thank you to everyone who contributed to this year's Poppy Collection for the Royal British Legion. This year our school raised £43.30.



Yours truly,

Peter Hoyland
Headteacher

Crèches for Nativity Plays

Name of child Class

I would like to use the crèche facilities for my child(ren) during the performance on

Thursday December 8th

Friday December 9th



Name of child

Age

.....

.....

.....

.....

Signature of parent



Christmas Nativity Plays - Children Travelling by Bus Thursday December 8th and Friday December 9th

(Please complete this slip if your child normally travels by bus)



Name of child Class

I will be collecting my child after the performance on

Thursday December 8th

Friday December 9th

My child will be travelling home on the bus on

Thursday December 8th

Friday December 9th

(please tick as appropriate)

Signature of parent

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Christmas Party (Reception, Year 1 and Year 2)
Wednesday 14th December

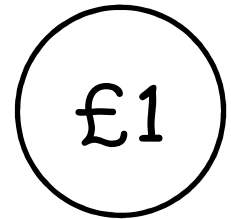


Name of child/children

My child will be staying until 4.00pm and will be collected by me after the party

My child will go home on the bus

I have enclosed a £1.00 donation for party food



Signed

Please return to your child's teacher



Christmas Party (Year 3 and Year 4)
Thursday 15th December

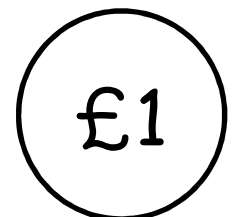


Name of child/children
.....

My child will be staying until 4.00pm and will be collected by me after the party

My child will go home on the bus

I have enclosed a £1.00 donation for party food



Signed

Please return to your child's teacher