

DUNSTER FIRST SCHOOL



Dunster First School

VOLUME 1, ISSUE 1

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KEY DATES/

QUICK REFERENCE

30th & 31st INSET days

1st November Welcome back to school for superhero dress up day, come as your superhero, idol, or even a super food!

10th November Remembrance Assembly at 10:45am at the Church

14th November Children in Need, wear something spotty, yellow or Bear like – fill a wellie!

17th November non school uniform FODS, bring a jar/ bottle.

17th November Community Awards assembly at 9:15am

24th November Advent Fair 6pm

30th November Christmas Film Night

1st December Community Awards Assembly at 9:30am

8th December Community Awards Assembly at 9:30am

14th December KS2 Nativity

15th December KS1 Nativity

19th & 20th December Santa visits us!

21st December Christmas Dinner Day

A super start to our school year...

What an amazing first half term as Head teacher of Dunster First School I have had! I truly have thoroughly enjoyed working with this supportive community, dedicated staff and amazing pupils. I hope you enjoy our first Newsletter of the year as you get to share in our events.

Our new Reception pupils are settling in well, enjoying their school life together. It has been lovely to see how they have engaged with all manner of school activities from PE, to assembly, to lunchtimes.

Year 4 have taken on lots of responsibility already, from being technical crews for assemblies, to break time supervisors working with the younger years, to midday supervisors handing out awards and helping to clear the hall. They are a truly brilliant team who are a real help to all of us adults. Great ambassadors for our school.

Year 3 have really taken on board the kindness awards, nominating each other very well and demonstrating a real commitment to 'calm and kind' social times.

Year 2 have risen to the challenge of being the oldest in Key Stage 1. Ensuring that others take responsibility for caring for our school environment.

Year 1 have amazed us with the calm transition from reception. They are taking good care of Mrs Hall and her growing bump!



When we return after the half term we are having a superhero



day, with all the pupils and staff dressing up to have a fun filled day. We don't mind if your child wants to dress as a superhero, their idol, a real life hero (forces, police, paramedic, nurse, fire fighter etc) or if they even want to come dressed as a super food! We just want them to come and have fun.



Outdoor Learning...



At Dunster First School we know how to make the most of our amazing area. Thanks to all our parents who help accompany us on our adventures so we can safely head out and engage in forest school activities.

while we enjoy the local area we think carefully about how best to look after it too.

This term we have been out and about in Dunster village learning about the history and geography of the area. We have been den building at Grabbist hill. Off on Autumn walks and visiting the Tall Trees Trail.

Our focus on sustainability and eco schools curriculum ensures



Exciting lessons...

We make sure all our lessons are fun, and make the most of every opportunity for learning.

These photos show year 2 engaging in workshops about Florence Nightingale culminating in their own play.

Year 2 have also been on a voyage to Australia this term by turning their classroom

into a flight simulator, complete with Pilot Vickery!

Year 4 have been busy being Romans and gladiators in their dance sessions. With year 1 celebrating their own Diwali.

Every class has engaged in experiential learning because we believe this is the best way to learn.



Self Portrait project fills our walls!

World Food Week

Our kitchen staff, Miss Masters & Miss Olsanska, have done us proud with their exciting menu encouraging healthy eating. It has been wonderful to see our pupils being so adventurous and trying new things.

Our school lunchtimes have been a far cry from the school dinners of yesteryear, with starters from different countries and bespoke menus. Mrs Leworthy has even created a 'healthy eating habits'

board. The pupils have helped her weigh out sugar and salt contents in food regularly eaten by them as snacks. Very revealing, and great learning for all of us.

Plus, we have had daily entertainment from our lovely Mrs Thrush and Mrs Moles; there is no end to their talents: the Bollywood dancing was particularly amazing.



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Harvest Festival

Thank you to everyone who came and supported our Harvest Festival, and also for all the positive feedback afterwards.

It was amazing to see so many people attend, and the donations were above anything I could imagine. The community here should be proud of how they are so tremendously generous. The food donated was well received by the food bank and will be put to good use. We raised £150 for our two charities too, with half going to Cancer Research UK and half to our Church.

Thank you to our year 4, as they

were so helpful after the service helping to load up cars and tidy up the church. Here they are outside the church.

Thanks again to Rev'd Caroline, the Church wardens, the Tithe Barn and all those who helped, and donated.



Our Awards

- 1] Kindness
- 2] Achievement
- 3] Good News
- 4] Star of the Week

Extraordinary Achievements

The 'good news' awards have allowed us to celebrate achievements outside of school as well as our awards for kindness, progress and values. It has been lovely to be able to award our future Olympians for swimming awards, or musicians, or artists of the future.

Our clubs and extra curricular activities have been enjoyed by many pupils. The art club went off for drawing outdoors, our saxophone players treated us to a Friday afternoon concert with their teacher, whilst the violinists played to year 2. We have had

fencing workshops and an extended after school club.

We were contacted by the library, and almost had to award the whole school for reading over the summer! So many of our pupils stood up in assembly proud of their achievements; gaining a medal and certificate for reading 6 books over the summer; next year we will challenge everyone to participate!

Where ever we can we will seek out new learning experiences for our pupils to be 'in their element.'



Crocus Planting for Polio

The Rotary Club contacted us about planting purple Crocuses to help highlight their cause of fighting and eradicating Polio. There are now only 11 cases in the world and so the efforts of these dedicated people have almost seen this disease disappear entirely. It is often easy to forget, but until this disease is wiped out entirely this determined group continue their efforts.

We of course supported their efforts and were more than happy to help them plant over 150 bulbs in our school field, which you should see come up near the fence in early spring. Every child and many staff planted a bulb, but it might be tricky to remember exactly who planted which one...

I look forward to keeping an eye out for my one!



Key Dates for this year's Advent Fair

Wednesday 1 st November onwards	Items for Advent Fair stalls can be brought into school
Monday November 13 th to Thursday November 23 rd	Children's Games and competitions being run before school and at playtimes.
Wednesday November	Cake Appeal plates sent
Friday November 17 th	Non-Uniform Day (see below)
Friday 17 th November –	Preparing Prize Hampers in
Thursday November 23 rd	Toy Fair being set up in the
Friday November 24 th – 9am	Children's Toy Fair
Friday November 24 th - 6pm to 9pm	Advent Fair



nearly new items and bric-a-brac

Craft Stall Items that would be appropriate for a craft stall, good quality items with a high resale value.

Raffle Prizes Unwanted prizes that we can use for our raffles or for our silent auction.

Bottles, Jars and Tins Bottles, jars and tins for our bottle stall. As well as donations of bottles and tins we would also like jars filled with any unusual items i.e. J cloths, rubber bands, marbles, dog biscuits, sweets etc.

Kitchen Treats: Jams, chutneys, cakes and biscuits can be brought into school on 23rd and 24th November. Please also watch out for our Cake Plate Appeal!

Toys The traditional toy sale will be held on the morning of the Advent Fair. The children greatly enjoy having the opportunity to buy toys and books that other children have brought in. To help stock the stall we therefore need any clean good quality toys, soft toys, books, games and puzzles

Good quality Soft Toys For our annual 'Teddy Straws' stall. Please ensure the soft toys are clean.

Tombola Prizes Donations of small toys/ unwanted presents for the children's tombola.

All donations can be brought into the school at any time before the Fair!

It's coming soon!

The Grand Advent Fair



Arrangements are now well underway for this year's event, which will take place on **Friday 24th November**.

As in previous years, the fair will be held from **6.00pm to 9.00pm**. Hopefully, this will enable working parents, partners and older brothers and sisters to come and join in, support the school and have a very enjoyable evening!!!

Raffle Tickets:

This week, with the newsletter and Butterfly report, we have sent home raffle tickets for our **Grand Advent Fair Raffle**. Tickets are on sale at **£1 each or £5 a book**. There are many prizes to be won including a top prize of £200 cash, a second prize of £100 and a selection of wonderful prize hampers! If you have sold your tickets and would like some more please contact the school office. Alternatively, if you are unable to sell your books please return them to school as soon as possible.

Dunster First School Small Change Collection:

After half term a giant bottle will be placed in the main foyer. We would be very grateful if children or adults with any spare change i.e. 1p, 2ps etc would

drop them in our bottle. *CAN WE FILL OUR BOTTE IN TIME FOR THE ADVENT FAIR???*

Unwanted empty Hamper Baskets and/ or Wicker Baskets are needed for our Grand Raffle. If you have one you can donate then please send it in to the school office.

Posters: This year we have sent home posters for the children to decorate and display, you should have a copy with this newsletter.

On Friday November 17th we are holding a **non-uniform day**. Children are invited to come into school dressed in civvies... all for the price of a tin, bottle or can for the Advent Fair Bottle Stall. Please be as generous as you can.

Advent Fair Stalls

We will be running lots of stalls, games and competitions for all ages at the Advent Fair, **all of which can only take place with your generous donations** and help on the day. Donations are required for the following stalls:

Household items Good quality

