



Dunster First School- Friday News

Headteacher: Naomi Philp

17th November 2017

Dear parent, carer,

We sure are busy here at Dunster First School, my goodness we have had even more fun this week. Year 4 have been amazing at running our Advent Fair Games and we thank everyone who has taken part in these, and/or given to our Advent Fair already. The donations from parents, carers, grandparents and members of the community have been overwhelming yet again. The staff tell me that this is the way you regularly look after the school, but to me (as the new Head teacher to Dunster) this is truly special. It epitomises the spirit of this time of year and I sincerely thank you.

Another event this week that was full of magical moments of pure joy and kindness, was our special visit from Pudsey, Claire Carter and the team from BBC Radio Somerset. We managed to raise over £160 for Children in Need, which given that you are all supporting us with the Advent Fair, was really brilliant. Claire and the team commented on such a large amount being donated; they were over the moon. Claire arrived after lunch to large cheers with all of us out on the front playground (with our own Pudsey impersonators!) to welcome them on the Wellington Walk challenge, 75miles in total! Claire also took time out to meet year 4 to talk about the serious side to the fund raising and the team was impressed with year 4's knowledge of how the cause helps children in all different ways.

Student Parliament elections have occurred this week, with pupils presenting to their classes regarding how they will make a positive difference to their school if elected. Even our smallest children in Reception have had a go at this in their own way. We are pleased to announce our student parliament are: Erin Strong, Isaac Ramsey, Abby Lamb, Noah James, Harry Wallace, Rose Worley, Max Munro, Lottie Higgins, Cory Marshall, Lola Hyman, Nyssa Clarke and Jacob Coles. I am really looking forward to having their input and their support in developing and improving our lovely school.

Thank you to everyone who attended our first Community Awards Assembly this Friday at 9:15am. We hope you enjoyed seeing the pupils get their awards, and how proud they are of each other. As you can see the foundations of our values and ethos are at the heart of these awards and special recognition. The next one is on 1st December and then they will restart in January.

Great news: The Exmoor Society has provided us with a significant donation which has paid for our annual Forest Schools licence; this is invaluable to us as we love our outdoors learning and curriculum.

A huge congratulations to Miss Collins and especially Mrs Hall and the Year 1 team, as they have been recognised for their superb phonics work with the children, which has placed us in the top 3% of schools nationally for pupils achieving a pass mark in the year 1 phonics test. Our letter from Westminster congratulating us was a lovely surprise.

Finally, in case you have missed it, **The Big Advent Fair is next Friday 24th November from 6pm-9pm**, please do come along, it promises to be another super evening. A big thank you to our chief organisers from the Vickery household, and everyone who is helping in however big or small a manner.

Have a great weekend,

Mrs Naomi Philp
Head teacher

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Safeguarding/ Safety Notices:

- We are talking to the pupils next week explicitly about 'safety at school' and around the school site. This recaps from our 'superhero safety day.' We will be explaining why adults have to sign in, and why we wear lanyards. We will cover things like: the safety codes on our front doors and camera security; we will talk about road safety and high visibility jackets. We will also be talking about safe and kind behaviours, such as walking in the building, gentle play and being kind to others. Finally, we will cover the need to talk to a 'safe' adult if something doesn't feel right, or something has upset or hurt you. Please feel free to talk to them about these messages at home to help reinforce the important messages.

Other notices:

- **Advent Fair-** We are sure you all know this is on Friday 24th from 6pm-9pm. Please tell family and friends what a great evening it is – everyone is welcome.
- **Donations – please keep those Advent Fair donations coming in.** We still need your donations of good quality nearly new items and bric-a-brac, craft stall items, raffle prizes, silent auction prizes, tombola prizes, jams and chutneys, cakes and biscuits for the cake stall, clean good quality soft toys, toys for the Toy Fair.
- **STARS!!!** Please can we have more stars for Mrs Thrush, she is a bit sad that her office is not more sparkly and is so excited as our tree has been confirmed again this year- another kind donation!
- **Can we fill Santa's boots?** – this year FODs have challenged us to fill Santa's boots with coins. You will find them in the lobby outside Year 4 and we only have a few days to do it, so empty those piggy banks and check down the side of the sofa for all your loose change.
- **The Toy Fair is on Friday 24th November.** This is one of our most favourite events - in the morning, the children will have the very exciting opportunity to buy toys that have been donated by others. Please could they bring some money to spend in a named purse or container as well as a named carrier bag for taking home their goodies.
- **Year 4 Games** have started really well and are ongoing this week. Don't forget to have a go at Teddy's Birthday, Lucky Squares and Sweets in a Jar before school and during break time in the lobby outside Y4.
- **Reverse Auction** Please keep your eyes open for information in book bags on Monday about our Reverse Auction, which is part of the Advent Fair fundraising. It is your chance to win an amazing family holiday!
- **30th November is Christmas Film Night-** get your tickets from Mrs Thrush
- **Eco Champions** have started (they have been policing the school for energy wastage!) They would like you to note that: It is 'Switch Off Fortnight' from 20th November, please switch off appliances and lights to save planet Earth!
- **Community Awards Assemblies: 17th November (today) and again on 1st Dec,** then we restart in January. There is parking available at the Tithe Barn for these assemblies between 8:30am and 10:30am. (Thank you Tithe Barn team!)



AWARDS

KINDNESS

- Reception: Martha W for getting everyone involved in her games.
- Year 1: Florence T for helping a friend to their feet after they fell over, even picking up their book for them.
- Year 2: Oscar W - for always paying Mrs Vickery compliments about her shoes & socks!
- Year 3: River R for kindness (always answers the register politely saying Good morning Mrs Gray or Mrs Lancaster).
- Year 4: Tilly N for always being kind, and funny too! 'Superhero Cutter Upper of Food and Superhero Giver Outer of Bread!'

ACHIEVEMENT

- Reception: Logan S for using his amazing ideas to create a brilliant hibernation den.
- Year 1: Sophie G for trying extra hard with her phonics in reading and writing.
- Year 2: Esme C for trying hard in everything, especially her maths.
- Year 3: Esme P for achievement in maths (even asking to do extra work).
- Year 4: Charlie C for great progress in his recorder lessons.

GOOD NEWS FROM HOME

- Jess B for her amazing achievement in martial arts.
- Eva F-S for her amazing achievement in gymnastics.

LUNCHTIME MANNERS

- Jamie B for Good Manners
- Gabe R because he is always willing to help and for being polite
- Toby P for lovely manners, saying please and thank you
- Rose W for lovely table manners
- Albert V for always offering to help
- Kitchen's Award: Oliver R for trying new foods without making a fuss

STAR OF THE WEEK

This person has not just been nominated by myself and other staff, but also their peers have been telling me how they deserve an award. This is because they have been really working hard to ensure break and lunch times have safe play rules. They have taken it upon themselves to help other pupils younger than them to play kindly and to solve problems as they arise. This person also has impeccable manners and is very kind indeed. They try hard with their learning in class and are a great role model. This person is... **Jacob Krasko**