



Dunster First School- Friday News

Headteacher: Naomi Philp

8th December 2017

Dear parents and carers,

We are heading towards the festive holiday at a rapid pace now, with next week being full of festive cheer with our nativity plays. We hope you enjoy them; staff and pupils have really worked hard together preparing and rehearsing and the school and our church have been filled with the joyful song of our pupils.

Thanks to all our volunteers for attending safeguarding training this week, never an easy topic to cover, but vitally important as we all have a duty to keep every child safe. Key contact information is included in the safeguarding notices section, if you are interested in further information please let us know.

Our student parliament met this week and made some important decisions, it was a fun and productive meeting. The team are going to focus on the following topics this year to enhance our school for everyone: Happiness, healthiness, and safety. Please see their notices section.

Focussing on our themes of this term: An extra friendship management tool was introduced this week, a '*stop please, I don't like it*' signal for children to use when a friend might not realise they are playing too roughly, or if their friendly banter has become hurtful. The children know to tell each other this key phrase to clearly indicate to their peer that they should stop. If the peer does not stop, then they must tell an adult to ask for extra help managing the situation. We know with children of this age, learning to manage social situations is perfectly normal, but if you can reiterate these messages at home it really helps them manage their free playtimes. Year 4 performed short plays on 'how to be a good friend,' that they devised themselves, they performed these to year 2.

Thank you again to all those who helped accompany us to Dunster castle today. The castle team were keen for us all to experience Christmas at the castle; to enjoy seeing the decorations, whilst learning about how Christmas might have been and hopefully getting us feeling all festive and cosy for next week's nativity bonanza!

Big Congratulations are extended to Ms Green, who has passed her driving test!

Finally a special notice from Lapland: Thank you to all our helpful elves on Tuesday evening, your support for Santa was most appreciated!

Have a great weekend.

Mrs Naomi Philp

Head teacher

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STUDENT PARLIAMENT NEWS

We met for the first time and now we know what is important to all of us, we decided to focus on three themes from January to help make our school the best it can be.

We would like to thank all those who put ideas in our 'bright Ideas' box outside year 4. We would like everyone to know that you can write to us by posting comments in the box (keep them kind and thoughtful though please) plus, you can post your jokes and pictures in there too. We will decide which ones appear on Dunster TV and in our Friday Newsletter.

We voted for the following:

- Joke of the week- please put entries in our box.
- A picture of the week, something that shows our core values, like kindness or something that just makes you feel happy- again place entries in our box.
- No uniform birthdays: From January 2018 you can have your own non-uniform day if it is your birthday (those with birthdays in the holidays get to wear non-uniform anyway!). Apologies to those with birthdays between Sept and Dec in year 4, as we know you will have missed out, sorry about that.

SCHOOL PARLIAMENT PLAYTIME AWARDS

We also introduced our own awards for good playtime games and playing nicely: This week the award goes to Jacob Krasko and Logon O'Connor for helping people out and helping people resolve their differences positively and kindly.

SCHOOL PARLIAMENT JOKE OF THE WEEK

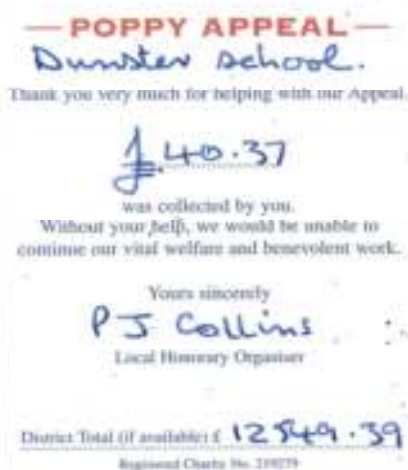
What do you call an old snowman? water!

From Isaac Ramsey.



SCHOOL PARLIAMENT PICTURE OF THE WEEK *Coming soon...*

Thank you for your donations:



Safeguarding/ Safety Notices:

Absence Reporting – could we please remind parents and carers that they must call and inform the school office on the **first and every** subsequent morning of an absence from school. If we have not been notified, we are obliged to follow this up with a home visit, to ensure your child and / or you are safe.

Naomi Philp, Kate McEntee and Louise Collins are the safeguarding leads at the school, should you have any worries about children. You can also contact the local police on 101 for any concerns about a criminal nature. Or Children Social Care can be contacted on 0300 123 2224, and the NSPCC have a very good helpline and email for advice: help@nspcc.org.uk 0808 800 5000 which is available 24/7.

Cry-sis is a helpline for parents of sleepless and crying babies. 08451 228 669 Calls to the number cost 2pence per minute plus your providers phone access charge. They are available 24/7 and can support parents of excessively crying, sleepless and demanding babies. One of our reading volunteers also works for this service and asked us to promote this support service to you all. If you require more information we do have a pack available.

Other notices:

Before and after School Sports Clubs have now finished for this term. They will start again on the second week back after the Christmas Holidays, with the exception of Football Club, which will re-start on Thursday 11th January.

REMINDER Nativity Performance Creches -. If you would like your child to attend one of the crèches that the school is providing during the Nativity performances, please complete the slip that was at the end of last week's Friday News and return it to the school office as soon as possible.

REMINDER School Buses after the Nativity Performances - would parents with children who normally travel home on the bus please fill in the slip that was at the end of last week's Friday News 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.

REMINDER 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**

Tuesday 19th December

Wednesday 20th December

Both parties will start at 2.00pm and will finish at approximately 4.00pm and children can bring party clothes to change into. *Please complete the party reply slip that was at the end of last week's Friday News to let us know if your child will be staying until the end of the party and return it to your child's teacher along with £1 donation towards party food.*

Key Dates for December:

Thursday 14th December at 2.00 pm

Y3 and Y4 Nativity performance at St George's Church, Dunster

Friday 15th December at 2.00 pm

YR, Y1 and Y2 Nativity performance at St George's Church, Dunster

Monday 18th December am

Whole school carols- at Dunster Castle and the Yarn Market.

Tuesday 19th December

Y4 visit to Taunton Museum

Tuesday 19th December at 2.00 pm

YR, Y1 and Y2 Christmas Party and visit from Santa (until 4.00 pm)

Wednesday 20th December at 2.00 pm

Y3 and Y4 Christmas Party and visit from Santa (until 4.00 pm)

Thursday 21st December

Last day of term; Emptying the post box; Christmas Dinner