



Dunster First School

VOLUME 1, ISSUE 2

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Heroes: From Spiderman to Santa...

KEY DATES

- 8th Jan 2018– Back to school
- 9th Jan– Street Surfing Workshops
- 19th Jan–Walk to school/Hopcott
- 23rd Jan–Phonic sessions for savvy parents
- Parent Awards Assemblies: 12th Jan, 19th Jan, 26th Jan
- Rev'd Caroline Assemblies: 16th & 29th Jan
- 2nd Feb Football Gala
- 5th & 6th Feb– Parents Evening
- 8th Feb– Winter Sports
- 9th Feb INSET Day
- 10th Feb half term
- World Book Day 1st March
- Easter Bonnets and Easter activities week beginning 19th March
- 24th March Easter Holiday

We have had a hero packed term for our own small heroes. We arrived back from our Oct half term to be greeted by Spiderman, who helped us think about how to keep ourselves and our school safe. He was accompanied by a local hero, our local police officer, Linda Brooks. Linda even brought her police car to show us and helped explain how we can be safe in the community.

Shortly after, we had Claire Carter from BBC Radio Somerset drop in on the Wellington Walk and she brought another hero with her, a champion mascot for Children in Need: Pudsey Bear. How proud we were of our community raising so much money.

Next we remembered heroes close to our hearts with Year 1 delivering a very special remembrance assembly. We took time to learn about the different wars and to remember all those in the forces, and in emergency services, and in the Red Cross who help to keep us safe. The Year 1, almost our youngest pupils, were

so thoughtful and respectful in their presentation.

Finally, we have had the hero of gift giving himself. Saint Nicholas, St Nick, Santa, Father Christmas, so many names with one same kind message. We can be cynical about the retail opportunities the man in the red outfit provides, but if we look beyond that to the delight we feel in giving a loved one a gift and couple that with the pure excitement the children felt as Santa walked through the arches towards the school, each face filled with magical wonder, awe and utter belief then we have to agree this festive time of year truly is very special. A belief in magic, generosity and kindness. A season of hope. From the wee baby in the manger to the love in our school you can't help but be swept along with it. Merry Christmas.



The Tremendous Toy Sale

This has got to be my absolute favourite event of the term. This is such a fun morning. The toys that are donated are laid out on the tables in price guide order from 5p-£2. Then in come the market stall holder year 4s and my goodness there is no one like them for a 'hard sell.' Alan Sugar should come and get these guys on the apprentice, because no toy gets left unsold.

Then comes more fun for us, our secret guilty pleasure from watching you all come to collect your children from school and

carry huge bags of toys home, is one of my most enjoyable moments— your evident delight at your children bagging such bargains, is a moment to treasure. I really cannot wait until next year!



The Great FODS Advent Fair

Once again, thank you so much to everyone who helped, donated to and attended the advent fair. To raise over £4500 on one event was truly remarkable. These funds are massively valued by our school and will be well used. Yet, as Head teacher, I think this event does

even more than raise money, it brings us all together. The whole community positively engage to support the school, and what a lot of fun is had!



Dunster Castle Christmas

The castle invited us to join them to celebrate the decorations set up for the festive season. Each class had a tour of the castle and got to hear the harpist playing. The castle is very magical anyway, so the children and staff seeing the place at this special time of year. Mr James

joked that: 'it was *not* unlike his house at this time of year, especially with the harpist playing!' It totally was quite a difference from most of our Christmases hence it was exciting to take a trip back in time to this historic building to see just how things would have been. We think Mr James would have made a fine Lord at the dining table!



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Fun Workshops...

We have so much amazing learning that goes on at our amazing school. I am inundated with photos showing excellent fun filled learning experiences for our children. Just look at some of the photos of workshops

this term, from dinosaurs, to science experiments, to art and cookery. We do not narrow our curriculum, but enrich it to deliver engaging experiences for all children. So, that Dunster First School pupils develop a life love of learning.



Our Awards

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



Super Hero Safety Day

The super hero safety day provided a welcome fun element to us delivering some serious learning points. This way of working with children

we believe makes learning more memorable. This means the key points about how they can keep themselves safe will be deeply rooted in their memories with the opportunity to see Spiderman and a police officer. To hear messages about safety from us is one thing but to hear it from Spidey and Linda was quite another! Key points covered: road safety, bonfire night, safe adults in school, stranger dan-

ger, when to talk to an adult if you feel worried, safe behaviours, like playing kindly.



Taunton Museum

The year 4 trip to Taunton Museum was a real success. Everyone enjoyed visiting this great museum. As you can see from the photos the workshops and activities were a brilliant way to end the scheme of learning for the term. Pop in over Christmas as it is a great place to visit.





Nativity, Christmas Parties & Carols

What a festive school we are, from the wonderful nativities, carolling around the village, meeting Mary and Joseph to Santa popping in to our Christmas parties. Then more with the Christmas Post Box, dinner and our final assembly. We hope you have a very Merry Christmas too, because we certainly have already!

