

Dry Drayton C of E (C) Primary School

Newsletter – 13th December 2024



'I pray that your love for each other will overflow more and more, and that you will keep on growing in knowledge and understanding.' Philippians 1:9

Dear parents and carers,

I cannot believe that I am writing the last newsletter for 2024! Wow, what a busy term and year it has been. Christmas always comes quite early in school with Nativity rehearsals and Christmas carols all in preparation for the end of term. Inside we look very festive with our tree and classrooms transformed by Christmas cheer from Decoration afternoon's artwork. I hope you have noticed our wonderful window which Miss Corr has created with the children as part of the Village Advent Trail. Don't forget to buy your maps tonight at the village hall at 5pm.

All the children and staff in St Julian Class are to be congratulated on such a wonderful Nativity, 'Hey Ewe!', with such joyful singing, super acting and clear reading of their lines. Everyone thoroughly enjoyed the performances. Well done to you all!

We had so many certificates presented in this morning's last Celebration Collective Worship- do ask your child if they received a special one. Well done to Buddy and James for managing all the awards so expertly and to Leon and Annabel for last week.

Our special cup, the Courtesy Cup is presented termly to someone who has shown great kindness in so many areas at school. This term, the staff unanimously agreed that Darya Sultani should be the recipient of the cup, for always smiling, helping wherever she can and caring for and about everyone. Congratulations!

As you know, we will be saying goodbye to Mrs Scott at the end of next week. She has been a most important and valued member of the DD Dream Team of Staff and played a huge part in bringing the school back on its feet. We will miss her caring ways, great sense of humour, numerous cups of tea, brilliant Maths teaching and excellent note taking skills very much. We all wish her lots of luck in her new and exciting ventures in her local village. Thank you Mrs Scott!

We welcome Mrs Watson to the staff team as she steps into Mrs Scott's shoes after Christmas.

We have four busy days left next week. Please read the rest of the newsletter as it details the exciting events taking place and what you need for each. I'll give a quick summary here:

	Event	Your child will need
Monday	KS2 public speaking competition	As normal
Tuesday	Christmas lunch and festive top day Rudolph Ramble sponsored walk Cake and craft sale after school	Festive top with PE kit joggers. Wellies or walking boots and warm/waterproof coat for Rudolph Ramble around the village
Wednesday	9am Christingle Service	Smart School Uniform
Thursday	Panto in Cambridge Party food lunch	Smart school uniform

Wishing you and your family a very merry Christmas and a happy and healthy new year. We look forward to seeing everyone again on Tuesday 7th January.

Happy Christmas!
Kind regards,
Sonia Hegan



Small school.



Big hearts.



Big ambitions.



St Julian class

Wow, what an amazing Nativity, we hope that you all enjoyed it as much as we did! The children are working hard in all their lessons with a few yawns and sniffles along the way. In maths, the year 1 children are working on their arithmetic skills and all their number facts to 10, whilst the year 2s are focusing on symmetry and shape. Reception are looking at 2D shapes. In English, the children have finished writing an amazing story called 'Chalk' all about a dinosaur and are moving onto their final dinosaur unit of the term with the book 'Dear Dinosaur'. Thank you for all your support this term with the children's reading – I hope that you have seen as much progress as we have. Have a great Christmas and we look forward to starting our new term's topic of Medieval Magic.



St Etheldreda class

Well done to all the children for their hard work during assessment week this week; all their hard work this term has been rewarded with some super progress. In English, we are finishing off our non-fiction explanations about the water cycle, and in maths we are continuing to work on multiplication and division. In maths, we have also enjoyed tackling some 'Decembar' bar modelling challenges. Next week we have lots of exciting Christmas events to look forward to, but we will also try to keep our feet on the ground by having some normal lessons too – we need to pace the festive fun so we don't get too excited and tired! The children are thoroughly enjoying watching some Carols from Kings and this is proving to be a lovely way for us to enjoy some moments of calm in amongst all the excitement. Please have a break from comprehension homework over the holidays, but do take a look at the festive reading challenge and encourage your child to keep up with regular reading over the holidays.

Thank you for all your support with your children's learning this term, have a lovely break and all the best for 2025!



St Edmund class

The end of a busy assessment week, with Year 6 children having their first taste of the SATs paper.

They all performed well and I have been giving individual children feedback. In English, the information writing on rivers is nearly finished and there are some great pieces of work that the children are very proud of. We also did some poetry work with the children composing their own cinquain poems.

In maths, we have looked at written methods for multiplication, which again the children have worked hard on. It became quite apparent to them how important it is to have their multiplication tables at their fingers. A new Sumdog competition starts today so could be something they practise at home.

A busy week next week, so could you please remind the children to bring their Secret Santa gifts in by Tuesday.

Have a good weekend.

KS2 Small Schools Cross Country

Last Wednesday, 28 children from across Key Stage 2 took part in a Key Stage 2 Cross Country race at Milton Country Park. Each year group had separate races for boys and girls, with all children completing a course of approximately 1.6km. All the children showed great determination and perseverance to complete the course – well done to all! Special congratulations go to Jack, who won his race, and to Antonio, Fergal, Jamie, Luna and Millie, who finished in the top ten of their races.

St Julian Class nativity



On Tuesday, we were treated to a fabulous nativity performance from our infant classes. They all joined in so enthusiastically with the singing and performed so confidently. Well done to all the children, and thank you to parents supporting at home with learning the lines! Thanks also to Mrs Spink, Mrs Scarrow, Mrs

Stevenson, Miss Wright, Miss Kennedy and Miss Pope for working so hard with the children to pull it all together!



Fundraising committee reminders



Rudolph Ramble Fundraiser

Last Tuesday we welcomed Sarah Clayton and Arthur the bear to Collective Worship to tell us more about the work of Arthur Rank Hospice and the Rudolph Ramble Fundraiser.

The fundraising committee are very excited about the Rudolph Ramble and cake and craft sale on Tuesday. Don't forget that the children can wear a festive top with their PE kit and will need forest school clothes in school on the day. The sale will be in the hall after school. Please bring cash if possible, but we will have a card reader too. The fundraising team will be on the playground in the morning collecting (nut free) donations. We have a [JustGiving page](#) where you can make donations. The children have also brought sponsorship forms home. We hope we raise lots of money.



If you have any questions ask the fundraising committee (Darya, Emma, Lily, Lola, Luna and Millie).

CB23 Public Speaking Competition

A quick reminder to all KS2 children who would like to enter the Public Speaking auditions: the auditions will be on Monday. Make sure you have your audition speech prepared. It doesn't have to be perfect as we can help tweak it once we have chosen our winner who will represent us at the competition.

Year 3 and 4 Speaking time: 1.5 minutes

Speech Title:

“Is it ever ok to not tell the truth?”

Year 5 and 6 Speaking time: 2 minutes

Speech Title:

“Artificial intelligence and virtual reality: Should classrooms of the future still have teachers?”

School lunches



The updated menu for the first half of the spring term is available on the [website](#) and on the MyChildAtSchool app (MCAS), and is also sent along with this newsletter. Please now book your lunches via MCAS – if you have any trouble, let us know in the office. Please bear with us as we transition the lunches to the new system.

Christmas Reading Challenge

Attached alongside this newsletter is a lovely set of Christmas themed reading activities for you to enjoy with your child and as a family. We would love to see your photos of you all enjoying the books/activities either in print or on Seesaw. Alternatively, please just pick a few to do and your child can tell their teacher about the books they enjoyed when we return from the holidays.

Thank you and happy reading,

Miss Hampton

Spring Term Clubs

Breakfast Club from January and the spring term after-school clubs and are now available to book through MCAS app. Breakfast Club opens from 7:45am. All after-school clubs are 3:20-4:20pm.

Code club – you do not need to sign up again for the spring term, though please let the office know if your child will not be attending after Christmas.

Day	Club	Adult	Cost (per term)	Dates
Monday	Cooking Club (priority given to KS2)	Mrs King, Mrs Arnold, Miss Wright	£52.25	13 th January – 31 st March
Monday	Sports Multi-Skills Club (years R-2)	Sports coach	£49.50	13 th January – 31 st March
Tuesday	Science Club (years R-2)	Mrs Sweetnam	£54.00	7 th January – 1 st April
Tuesday	Multi-Sports Club (years 3-6)	Sports coach	£54.00	7 th January – 1 st April
Wednesday	Craft Club	Mrs Sweetnam	£54.00	8 th January – 2 nd April
Wednesday	Code Club (years 5-6)	Claire Shih	£54.00	8 th January – 2 nd April
Thursday	Musical Theatre Club (years 2-6)	Mrs Pergande Vincent	£54.00	9 th January – 3 rd April
Thursday	Football Club (years 3-6)	Sports coach	£54.00	9 th January – 3 rd April
Friday	Gymnastics Club	Sports coach	£54.00	10 th January – 4 th April

Safeguarding at Dry Drayton C of E Primary School

Mrs Sonia Hegan, Mrs Nicole Spink and Mrs Fiona Sweetnam are the designated safeguarding leads at Dry Drayton C of E Primary School.

If you have a concern about a child, please inform **any** member of staff.

If you think a child is at immediate risk of harm you can access further advice and guidance here:

<https://www.cambridgeshire.gov.uk/residents/children-and-families/children-s-social-care/safeguarding-children-and-child-protection/>



Forest School sessions take place every week on the following days. Please ensure that your child always has their Forest School Gear at school which is a pair of wellies plus a waterproof jacket and trousers (or an all in one). Remember, it's never the wrong weather, it's the wrong clothes, so please don't let your child miss out. We have some second-hand wellies in school if you need to borrow them, so do ask in the office. We are happy to have any outgrown waterproofs for our spares. PLEASE LABEL ALL CLOTHES AND SHOES.

Infants – Mondays (No need to wear PE kit. School uniform, plus Forest School gear will be fine.)

KS2 – Tuesdays This year KS2 will have either half a term of Forest School or of DT, they will then swap for the following half term.

In addition to these, each year group will have a whole afternoon of Forest School on the following **Wednesdays**. Please send your child to school in PE kit including their PE sweatshirt (and not a hoodie).

Date	Year Group
Wednesday 18th December	Reception and Year 1
Wednesday 8 th January	Year 3/4 – Oaks
Wednesday 15 th January	Year 3/4 – Chestnuts
Wednesday 22 nd January	Year 2
Wednesday 29 th January	Year 1
Wednesday 5 th February	Reception
Wednesday 12 th February	Year 3/4 – Oaks

School and Village Association Update – Postponed Dry Drayton Advent Trail

Grand Launch

Friday 13th December 5pm in the Village Hall

All are welcome to attend the grand launch of the second annual Dry Drayton Advent Trail in the Dry Drayton Village Hall on Friday the 13th of December. From 5pm we'll serve mulled wine and mince pies, and then Santa himself will lead us on a walking tour of the village to see the beautifully decorated windows throughout the village. Entry to the launch is £5, which also gets you a map of the trail. All proceeds will go to the Cambridge City food bank.



Online safety tip of the week: smart speakers

How to start a conversation with your child about using a smart speaker safely: Why do you want to get a smart speaker?

Why not find out what your child expects to use their smart speaker for. This could be for finding out information, playing games or taking quizzes, or listening to music.


Find more online safety tips here: <https://saferinternet.org.uk/guide-and-resource/parents-and-carers>

Church update

Everyone is welcome to join us for Advent and Christmas services and events at Dry Drayton Church:



St Peter and St Paul's Dry Drayton
A small church with a big heart



IN DULCI JUBILO

**Music for
Advent & Christmas**
by Errollyn Wallen, Benjamin Britten and others
including a new carol by Ben Pinniah

Peterhouse Chapel Choir
directed by Simon Jackson

7 pm, Friday 6 December

The Church of St Peter and St Paul
Dry Drayton
CB23 8BZ

Suggested Donations (on the door)
£10, £5 (Children)
Refreshments included

Wednesday 18th December, 6.00pm,
Carol Service

Tuesday 24th December, 3.00pm, Crib
Service

Tuesday 24th December, 11.15pm,
Midnight Mass

Wednesday 25th December, 10.00am,
Christmas Holy Communion



**NEW PLAYERS WANTED
UNDER 11
GIRLS ONLY CRICKET**

Sundays Year Round
Training, Soft Ball Matches
& Festivals
No Experience Required

FREE TRY OUTS JANUARY 2025
www.histonhawks.com

HISTON HAWKS

Celebration Collective Worship

6th December

Headteacher Awards were awarded to Clover and Lola.

Adele, Daria, Benedict and Gian were chosen to sit on the **golden table** next week with a friend of their choosing.



Well done to Adele, Daria, Isabella, Lily, Reuben and Sammy for achieving their **Bronze** certificate for 100 house points, and to Melammu for achieving his **Silver** certificate for 200 house points.

13th December



Headteacher Awards were awarded to Joshua, Alice L, Alice B, Ivy, Leon, Marnie and Raphael. Mrs Scott was also given a Headteacher Award for her kindness.

Isla, Vlad, Cameron and Chris were chosen to sit on the **golden table** next week with a friend of their choosing.

Well done to Daisy, Daria, Harry, Lucas and Vlad for achieving their **Bronze** certificate for 100 house points, and to James and Luna for achieving their **Silver** certificate for 200 house points.



Handwriting awards were presented to Edward, Reuben, Vlad, Luna, Lola, Jack and Buddy. A handwriting award was also given to Mrs Scott for her neat writing up of staff meeting minutes.

We also presented the following awards:

Courtesy Cup – Darya
PE Award – Michael
Science Award – Max
Forest School Award – Erica
Art Award – Halle
DT Award – Alice B
Computing Award – Annabel



Well done to everyone!

House Points			
			
Totals for last week			
Ennis - 150	Farah - 139	Simmonds - 104	Wiggins - 147
Totals for this week			
Ennis - 153	Farah - 141	Simmonds - 144	Wiggins - 149
Totals for the year so far			
Ennis - 1,830	Farah - 1,870	Simmonds - 1,562	Wiggins - 2,138

Proposed Diary Dates New dates added in red.

Tuesday 17 th December	Christmas Lunch and wear a festive top if you wish Sponsored Rudolph Ramble followed by afterschool cake and crafts sale
Wednesday 18 th December	Christingle, 9am in church – all welcome
Thursday 19 th December	Last day of term – Cinderella Panto at the Cambridge Arts Theatre (AM) Party food lunch (book as normal)
Tuesday 7 th January	Children return to school
w/c Monday 17 th February	Half term
Tuesday 25 th February	S&VA AGM in the school hall 7pm – all parents welcome

*Don't forget full term dates, curriculum information, photo gallery and lots more can be found on our website:
www.drydraytonprimaryschool.co.uk*