

Dronfield Junior School Newsletter 12 21 November 2016

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This school year seems to be racing away, but there is still plenty to be excited about. Please read on to celebrate our successes with us and to keep informed of the great activities we have planned for the remainder of the term.

Last week we were able to explore friendships and the conflicts in friendships. This was a valuable part of our learning. The 'Power for Good' message was shared, and reviewed, in Friday's Upper School assembly. I trust that our children will use, and consider, this learning over the next few weeks, months and years. Thank you to Mrs Weston for organising this event in school.

Children in Need - Thank you to all the children and staff for joining in the spirit of our Children in Need day on Friday by wearing pyjamas. I have to say, it was 'different' working in pyjamas; Mrs Myers and Mrs Cooper received some very strange looks when they went to the bank! It was all in a good cause and we raised £362.50 – well done!

Table Tennis – Last Monday evening, **Freya Hammett, Jai Kang, Poppy Hodder** and **Mayia Gandy** who represented our school in the North East Derbyshire Schools Sports Partnership Table Tennis tournament held at Dronfield Henry Fanshawe School last week. The girls scooped first prize and were named 2016/17 Table Tennis champions. Look for their splendid trophy sitting on the windowsill of my office alongside that of the boys! Well done girls, we are very proud of you. Thank you again to Miss Rogers for escorting, and supporting, both teams.

Year 5 Swimming Friday 25 November – for their swimming lesson they will need to bring a long sleeved top and long bottoms. This can be pyjamas or leggings but no onesies are allowed as they will be too heavy when wet. Instead of three sessions this week, the classes will be spilt into two and each lesson will be 45 minutes long.

Bird Boxes – Last week, the ECO group have made bird boxes for siting in the community. Thank you to Mrs Sturdey for coordinating, and organising, this.

Swimming – Congratulations to **Tessa Ashcroft** who competed in a swimming gala in Scunthorpe and won a gold medal in 50m butterfly and another in the 100m individual medley (this comprises a length of butterfly, a length of backstroke, a length of breast stroke and a length of front crawl). Well done Tessa – a great achievement!

Cub Scout of the Year – Congratulations to **Hayden Nicholson-Goult** who has been awarded Cub Scout of the Year award. The Scout leaders chose Hayden for this award as he has been helpful and caring, and makes the most of all of the activities he has taken part in.

Christmas Cracker Craft Event - It's time for The Parish Church of St John the Baptist's annual Christmas Cracker Craft event, Craft makes for all the family. This year they have Robin baubles, Snowman Poo, Rudolph Lollies and Matchbox Christmas Tree Decorations to name a few. Join them on Sunday 27th November, 12.30 until 3.00pm in the Parish Church Hall, Church Street, Dronfield. There will be a small charge per craft item made and refreshments will be available. For further information, please contact Alison on 07766026413.

Dronfield Infant School Christmas Fair is on Friday 2 December 5.30-7.30pm – come and join in the Christmas fun. They will have all their old favourites like the tombola and Santa's grotto. The raffle has some great prizes including a hot stone massage and dinner for two at The Blue Stoops. They are also introducing a Parents' Present Stall where the children can select a gift for a grown up and package it so it is a surprise on Christmas Day.

Christmas Concerts

Year 3 will be performing a concert on Tuesday 13 December and Wednesday 14 December in the Infant Hall at 6.30pm. Tickets will be £1 each and will be available on Monday 5 December 2016 (2 per family). Any remaining tickets will be available from Thursday 8 December on a first come, first served basis.

Year 6 will be performing a Christmas Carol Concert at St John's Church. The first performance will be on Friday 16 December 1.30pm and then on Monday 19 December at 6pm. 2 tickets per family will be available from Monday 12 December. Any remaining tickets will be available from Thursday 15 December, on a first come, first served basis.

Clarinets – Y4CR will be showcasing their talents on the clarinet on Tuesday 6 December 2016 at 9.15am. They will have spent 10 weeks learning how to play the clarinet as part of the Wider Opportunities programme which is funded by the school.

Christmas Dinner – a reminder that Christmas dinner is Wednesday 14th December and **advance notice that we will be asking all our pupils to wear a Christmas jumper or Christmas colours on that day.**

Sickness/diarrhoea – please can I remind you that if your child experiences sickness or diarrhoea then they must be off school for 48 hours from the last bout.

PE/Swimming – PE and swimming are important parts of the curriculum and contribute to your child's health and wellbeing. Research has shown that the benefits of sports have a knock on effect on children's confidence and achievement. We encourage all children to have their PE / swimming kit in school so they can reap these benefits. There are, however, occasionally, instances where a child can be in school but is unable to take part in PE / swimming, often due to a physical injury, if this is the case, the class teacher will require a letter from a parent / carer stating why their child is unable to participate.

Riding for the Disabled – to support this charity we have offered to take orders for a uniquely designed mug (artwork by Magda Schulz) containing a small selection of chocolates. The mug is £8 and all profits go towards supporting Sheffield RDA. A sample mug is available to view in the office and payment is required at the time of ordering (cash only please).

Year 5 visit to France 2017 – It is important if you want your child to have a place that you secure that place by returning the consent form and a £50 deposit by **Thursday 24th November**. At the moment we do not have enough interest to make the visit viable.

E-mail – we are trialing email communication from 1st November for a month, however, this will NOT replace texts or our paper newsletter. If you have previously provided us with your email address, you will begin to receive general emails from us as well. Thank you to those parents who have opted to join the email trial. There is still an opportunity to join this, if you want to receive emails from us, please ensure you have given your email address to the office. Thank you.

Parking – As the winter months come upon us, I trust that you will be mindful of where you park and consider all our residents living on surrounding roads. This is one opportunity for us, as a school, to show our respect to the local community.

All our newsletters are available to view and download from our website – www.dronfield-jun.derbyshire.sch.uk