

Dronfield Junior School Newsletter 13 28 November 2016

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The excitement mounts as we enter December (well, almost) and this month is a truly magical time in school. Please keep abreast of the myriad of activities planned in school during this month.

Cross Country – Congratulations to **Jack Ryan, Jayden Wheeler, Maxim Johnson, Harry Nashir, Adam Worthy, Anthony Seller, Mya Abumere, Lottie Dyson, Rae Kang, Bethany Wilks, Alicia Wilks, Lily Ward, Harrison Parker, Zachary Kaye, Harvey Gadsden, Leo Ward, Evan Williams, Matthew Thorpe, Isabelle Peckett, Jorja Kenworthy, Lottie Hill, Kizzy Bembridge, Daisymae Oliver** and **Niamh Barker** who represented our school at the North East Derbyshire Cross Country Championship. All did extremely well and I'm thrilled to report that our Year 4 team lifted the 2016/17 trophy and the Year 5 team came 2nd overall – well done to you all.

Year 3 Pirate Day – the Y3s had a great time celebrating pirates last week. They role played brilliantly, I was made to walk the plank and I was terrified! Thank you to all Y3 parents who supported the dressing up, the children looked fantastic; the teachers looked amazing too!

Table Tennis – We wish the boys' and girls' Table Tennis teams lots of luck in the County Finals on Tuesday.

Christmas Card Orders – please can any Christmas card orders be returned by Friday 2 December to ensure that they are delivered in time for Christmas. Card packs take approximately 7 days and mug orders take approximately 14 days for delivery.

Poppy Appeal – we have just been informed that we raised £494.09 for the appeal this year (this includes £196 raised from the knitted poppies). Thank you for your generous donations.

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.

Bags 2 School – our next Bags 2 School collection is **Tuesday 6th December**. If your child hasn't already, he/she will be bringing home a 'bags2school' sack. We would really appreciate it if you could fill the bag with clothes you no longer wear. This is a great opportunity to de-clutter the wardrobes before Christmas! School directly benefits from these donations, so even a few items in a bag are valuable to us, please do not feel you have to fill the bag. The bags for the collection should be dropped off on Tuesday morning (6 December), just inside the main school gate. Unfortunately we cannot accept bags before 6 December. **Thank you in advance.**

Fun Christmas Quiz – So how well do you think you know the DJS staff? We're a talented bunch, in more ways than one!! Do you know, for example, which of us plays lead guitar in a rock band? Or which of us has cycled from John O'Groats to Land's End? Try answering these and many more questions by taking part in our multiple choice Christmas quiz – and be in with a chance of winning a prize! Quiz sheets will cost £1 and will be on sale in the hall at break times from Tuesday this week. All those with correct answers will go into a draw on the last day of term and the prizes will be awarded.

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**. If you have requested a dinner and your child does not already have a dinner on this day, please send £2 in a named envelope to school as soon as possible to cover the cost.

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.

Dancing – Congratulations to **Lottie Dyson** who competed in the second Coalville Choreography Festival. She came second in the duet category and received such high marks that she has qualified for the All England Championships. Well done Lottie, we wish you wish lots of luck in the Championships.

Singing – Congratulations to **Isobel Ryder** who successfully auditioned for the National Youth Girls' Choir of Great Britain. Auditions for the Youth Choir are highly competitive and on average, only one in 80 girls is successful. Isobel has also achieved a merit in her Grade 4 singing examination (an examination which is usually taken by pupils at Secondary School). Well done Isobel!

Christmas Post box – the school Christmas post box will be operating from Monday 5th December. Please ensure that cards posted have the receiver's full name and class on the front of the envelope.

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.

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). **The last date for ordering for delivery before Christmas is Wednesday 30 November.**

Year 5 visit to France 2017 – Whilst we do not have the minimum numbers to run the residential to France next year, PGL have agreed to continue to run the trip without charging us a small group supplement. Therefore, I can confirm that all those who have paid a deposit will go on the residential to France next year. It's a great visit, I have no doubt the children will enjoy immensely.

Year 4 Visit to Mount Cook 2017 – the interim deposit for this trip of £35 is now due. A text message has been sent to those who still need to pay. **Please can you ensure that this is paid by Wednesday 7 December.**

Year 5 Swimming – Friday 2 December will be the last date this term the year 5 children go swimming. The lessons restart on Friday 13 January 2017.

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