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## December Newsletter 2016

Dear Parents

The **Christmas Service**, led by the children in the lower school, will be at 10.30am on Friday 16<sup>th</sup> December at Droxford Church. Parents of the lower school are most welcome to attend. Please park responsibly in the village and be mindful of children being escorted to the church. This is always a popular event and seating is limited. Because of this we have decided to make the dress rehearsal on Thursday 15<sup>th</sup> December an opportunity for grandparents and for those who cannot attend on Friday, to see the service. Please note this will be a dress rehearsal.

It is also worth noting that our Year 5 and 6 children (90 in total) and Newtown Soberton Infant School Year 2 children and possibly Meonstoke Infant school Year 2 children will be sat in the central aisle of pews. Therefore seating for grandparents will be towards the back. This rehearsal starts at 2pm so we are allowing attendees in to the church at 1:30pm. The Evening Echo will also be in attendance to take a group photograph of the children. This always adds another layer of organised, festive chaos! After the service the children will return to the school. FODS will be serving mince pies and drinks before and after each service.

### Christmas Cards

If your child wishes to send cards to children within the school there is a Christmas post box operating from Wednesday 7 December. They will need to neatly write the child's full name and learning base on the envelope. The last 'collection' will be on Wednesday 14 December.

The **FODS** Christmas Disco letter has already been sent home and can be found on the school website. The disco is on Friday 9 December. The day of the disco is a non-uniform day; children can wear a Christmas jumper or top in return for a donation to the children's tombola gift. The disco is from 6–7.30pm. To ensure the safety of the children please collect them from the hall at 7.30pm.

Please also be very vigilant when parking and please do not park directly outside the school on the yellow zig zags!

### Emergency School Closures

Information regarding emergency school closures can be found on the school website. If we need to close the information will be on the website, and we will email and text parents. There is a link on our website [www.droxfordjunior.co.uk](http://www.droxfordjunior.co.uk) on the parent's page or <http://www.hants.gov.uk/education/schoolclosures/> which will list all school closures in Hampshire.



## Ice and Snow Plan

There is a Droxford Junior School Ice and Snow Plan that is designed to safeguard our school community and keep the school open whenever possible. During icy or snowy conditions parents must not attempt to drive up the lane to the school; children and parents should walk up.

On arrival at school the following access routes will be available:

- Pathways and normal access routes will be gritted but the adventure playground and playground will be out of use in icy conditions.

Or

- In more extreme conditions (snowy conditions for instance) a pathway will be cleared and gritted from the school gate to the front entrance for parents and visitors. A pathway will be cleared from the disabled car parking space to the disabled access route at the front of the building. Children will use this route to gain access to the school building.

The children need to wear normal school shoes in the school building. Wellies or walking boots can be worn on the journey to school and during playtimes; the field can be enjoyed during periods of snow and ice. It is important that children are able to change into a pair of dry shoes.

## It's Electrifying!

This month we turned our children into human batteries! One of our parents, John Parker, came in to spend the day teaching fun and engaging hands-on workshops to all of years 3 and 4 on electricity. Throughout the day, our children learned all about how jet engines are powered, made batteries out of lemons and even calculated how many lemons it would take to fuel a jet engine. All the children thoroughly enjoyed this real-life science experience and as a result, we may have some aspiring engineers among us.

One child said:

'The best bit was when he turned us into human batteries. I got to hold the voltmeter. It was cool.'

A great day was had by all and we are keen for John to come back soon. As he left, he did mention something about measuring the speed of light with just a bar of chocolate and a microwave so watch this space... Thanks John!

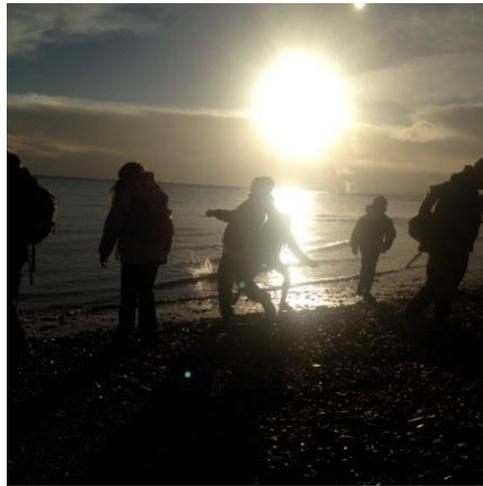


### **'Bake Off' Comes to Droxford**

As part of their Design Technology topic, the Years 3 and 4 children had an amazing 'bread day'. The day began with them learning the process of making bread before they went on to knead their own dough. As the bread was proving, the children looked at different types of bread from around the world before designing the shape of their own loaf. Whilst waiting for their bread to cook, the children wrote some high quality instructions for making bread. The day was rounded off with a visit by Paul Hollywood and Mary Berry (who looked suspiciously like Mr Banham and Miss Jacobs!) The children learned a lot about bread-making and hopefully, we have inspired some budding bakers in the process.



### **Calshot, Year 6 Residential**



This time two weeks ago we were bringing back the year 6s from their residential to Calshot Activity Centre, and what a week it was. With everything from trawling, climbing, skiing and cycling to archery, teambuilding, rocket making, murder mystery solving and heath land investigating. We hope they have recovered from this jam packed brilliant week. Thank you for all involved for your continued support.

“A fun, adventurous, but a little tiring, week – I want to go again.” – Charlie

“Amazing, interesting and the food was great!” – Ben

“The skiing and cycling were brilliant, the instructors were amazing.” – Elliott

## **Autumn Clean 2016**

On a rather gloomy, rainy day another band of willing helpers provided the school with more enthusiastic muscle in order to: paint the boys toilets (final coat), give the willow dome a much needed haircut, chop down a lot of rampant vegetation and bushes all along the boundary fences of the school field, organise and repatriate a lot of neglected lost property and also repaint our new SEN room – the Blue Lagoon!

Over the last two years we (you) have helped around the school on these community spirited days so much that we now only need to have one a year now. These will take place in either late spring or early summer. Thank you again to Richardsons Ltd and Sydenhams for material support and all of YOU that have volunteered so much time – you make a difference and we are truly grateful.

## **Geography resources.**

To enhance the artefact side of our resources we are wondering if you had any of the following items you could donate or could donate in the future – either from yourselves, colleagues, friends or family members.

- Paper money (old and new)
- Postcards (with or without stamps)
- Maps (including local, theme park, walks etc...)

These resources are fantastic for supporting an inquisitive, research based geography curriculum.

## **Health and Safety**

I know it's dark, cold, wet and windy but please can I appeal to your better nature – wear coats, wrap up, wear High Vis (if possible) and walk up to school. Please keep the garages in The Park` clear and safe for our children to walk through and let your children walk safely up from the parking areas we recommend; adjacent to the fire station, the square in the village or next to the post office.

## **Library**

Will you please ensure that your child returns all school library books by Monday 5th December.

## **Writing workshop for parents – 6-7pm Wednesday 11 January 2017**

The aim of the workshop is to show parents how we teach writing in school from the transition from Year 2 all the way through to Year 7. This will include our teaching and learning strategies and how we ensure high quality progression and attainment up to the end of the Year 6 tests. Please email the school office or use the slip at the end of the newsletter to let us know if you will be attending.

## **Fundraising**

We raised £134.60 for Children in Need and £177 for the Poppy Appeal! At the Christmas services, the collections afterwards will be split between All Saints and St Mary's Church, Droxford and The Rainbow Centre, Fareham – which is one of the two charities the children of the school have chosen to support for this year.

<http://www.rainbowcentre.org/>



The Mayor of Winchester visited the school in November. She has been visiting many schools in the Winchester area and we thought it would be lovely to show her around our great school and meet the wonderful children here. She even sponsored a locker!



**REMEMBER: School finishes at 2.30pm on Friday 16<sup>th</sup> December 2016 and we are back in school on Tuesday 3<sup>rd</sup> January 2017**

And finally...

May I wish all our families a peaceful Christmas and a Happy New Year!

Matthew Dampier  
Headteacher



**Writing workshop for parents 6-7pm Wednesday 11<sup>th</sup> January 2017**

Child's Name ..... Learning Base .....

Name of parent: .....

I will be attending the workshop for parents

Signed:..... Date:.....