



Droxford Junior School
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Headteacher: Matthew Dampier

December Newsletter 2017

Dear Parents

The **Christmas Service**, led by the children in Years 3 & 4, **will start at 12.45pm** on Thursday 21st December at Droxford Church. The service is in the afternoon as the church is in use in the morning. Parents of the Years 3 and 4 are most welcome to attend, as it those children who will be singing and performing. The Year 3 and 4 children will be having lunch at 11:30 and will arrive in the church approximately 12:30. We have a tight schedule to meet with all children returning to school for 2:15. No children will be allowed to leave the church with their parents as they need to collect their belongings from school and it could end up raising safeguarding concerns if we don't know where children are.

Please park responsibly in the village and be mindful of children being escorted to and from the church. This is always a popular event and seating is limited. Because of this we make the dress rehearsal on Wednesday 20th December an opportunity for grandparents and for those who cannot attend on Thursday, to see the service.

Please note this will be a dress rehearsal and that the first few rows will be taken up by Newtown Soberton Infant School Year 2 children and possibly Meonstoke Infant school Year 2 children. Our Yea 5 and 6 children will also be in the pews as they wont see the service on Thursday. This rehearsal starts at 2pm so we are allowing attendees in to the church at 1:30pm. The Evening Echo will also be in to take a group photograph of the children and this always adds a layer of organised chaos! After the service the children will return to the school.

Before **both** services FODS will be serving mince pies and drinks for parents and grandparents . Phew!

School finishes at 2.30pm on Thursday 21st December

iPads

The new iPads(15) are in school and being used already. They have been used by most children in the school and are then stored in a lockable charging case in the ICT suite. Newtown base can be seen using them for some drama / English work (below) using an APP which turns their writing and pictures into a graphic novel – namely Hamlet!



Christmas Cards

If your child wishes to send cards to children within the school there is a Christmas post box operating from Wednesday 6th December. They will need to neatly write the child's full name and learning base on the envelope. The last 'collection' will be on Monday 18th December.



FODS news

We had a very successful Film Night in October showing 'Cool Runnings' - a slightly dated but great film with lots of positive messages for the kids who really enjoyed it, and we made over £500.

We have also held two after school Coffee Cafes this term, with new faces attending on each occasion and have made over £200. So it continues to be a successful addition to the FODS calendar. We are now busy preparing for the Christmas Disco which is anticipated to be the usual combination of frenetic present buying/wrapping, Christmas craft making, tombola prize winning and screaming mayhem on the dance floor... can't wait! We are hoping to have some cracking hampers to win - please do drop off any donations as soon as possible and if you would like to buy tickets we have a new (really easy) online ordering system - just follow [this link](#).

Thank you to all parents who supported the school by buying Christmas cards and placing Cauliflower Cards Ltd orders. Our next event is the Meon Neon Disco on 8th December. The disco needs a lot of helpers so please consider volunteering - it's actually quite fun! The **FODS** Christmas Disco letter has already been sent home and can be found on the school website. The disco is on Friday 8 December. On the day of the disco children can wear a Christmas jumper or top in return for a donation to the children's tombola gift or a raffle prize. To ensure the safety of the children please collect them from the hall at 7.30pm. **No mobile phones or iPads in school please only cameras. Phones, if needed for safety reasons, can be left in my office.**

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

Before the two Christmas Services we will be serving teas/coffees and mince pies so don't forget to bring along some change to join the festive cheer.

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 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. Thank you to everyone who is.

School Council

The school council have their own email address (safe as it goes through the office and myself) as well as newsletter. schoolcouncil@droxford.hants.sch.uk



A message from our road crossing team.

Please would you mention again in the next newsletter, the need for parents/carers to try to avoid using Park Lane for dropping off especially in the morning. I am not going to mention names or vehicles, because they know who they are. It would just make the road a safer place for children and adults if it could be used less.

Also please ask the children to remember to walk, not run to and from school and to be aware of vehicles behind and in front of them, especially with the darker mornings and afternoons.

Thank you.

Kind regards

Julia Lovejoy-Brinkman

School Crossing Patrol Officer

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 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:
Level 1 Pathways and normal access routes will be gritted but the adventure playground and playground will be out of use in icy conditions.

Level 2 In more extreme conditions 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.

Wet breaks

Do you have any old – appropriate comics or magazines (in good condition) we could use in the library and also our stock of DVDs we show is old. Could you help with a donation?

Library

Will you please ensure that your child **return all school library books by Monday 11th December**. Thank you

Fundraising

We started our year-long support for Children in Need by raising £164! We also raised £250 for the Royal British legion when selling poppies. Exciting news to follow in Mr Banham's Healthy School and PE newsletter regarding fundraising.



Calshot

The Year 6 children have recently returned from their 5 day residential visit to Calshot. It was a very busy and exciting week for them! They were able to have a go at skiing, orienteering, climbing, cycling on the velodrome, ringo-ing and archery as well as climbing up to high platform in 'All Aboard.' They also conducted several field study trips in and around the New Forest, including a beach study, trawling and identifying sea life, a river study and a hillside scientific experiment. This year, we were lucky enough to have Sam Harris' father sounded the horn of a huge cargo ship as he passed by and put the lights on blue for Droxford as the children waved at him from the beach. Well done for all the year 6's for making this such a positive and memorable week!

Mrs Smith (Year 5/6 leader)



Administration expectations.

I just wanted to reassure you that it is business as usual in the office – even though Mrs Clark has left the school. We have concentrated time on succession planning and office restructure. Liz Hinks, Denise Bury and Rachel Swinburn will be there for you and your children as normal. We will be looking for a new finance officer to work 2 days (Monday / Tuesday afternoons and Wednesday / Thursdays mornings) to start in February or March. If there is anyone out there with a finance and HR background that might be interested in a part time (term time) position in our lovely, friendly office, then don't hesitate to ask.

In the meantime please be patient with us whilst we grow our office team.

And finally...

May I wish all our families, our volunteers and our fantastic staff, a peaceful Christmas and best wishes for 2018!

Matthew Dampier
Headteacher

