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Headteacher: Matthew Dampier

December Newsletter #2 2018

Dear Parents

Breakfast Club

Breakfast Club is here to stay!!! The trial process has been a roaring success – much of this success goes to Miss Mel Lush who has been fantastic in running the club, providing the breakfast, entertainment and care of children from 7:30 – 8:45. All your kind words and gratitudes have been passed on to her which she is very touched by.

Part of the trial process was about numbers and affordability. This has meant our pricing strategy was a little low therefore we will be increasing the price by £1 a day from January 2019. We want to offer the service - but not at a loss. Therefore the club will be £5 a day with £4 being the cost of a sibling. However children who have free school meals are able to attend for free.

At the club children can choose from a range of cereals, toast, bagels and juice for their breakfast. They can also play a variety of games that we have purchased, watch a film, catch up on homework if they choose or read. In the warmer months the club will also be extended outside to the 'Quiet Area' adjacent to the hall.

FODS Christmas disco – The Neon Meon

We don't have photographs to prove it but suffice it to say the Christmas Disco and Fair was a roaring success. The children had a great time! Thank you so much to all our helpers – you were amazing! We raised around £1000 to support the school with projects this year. Well done and thank you to children, parents and all who helped in the evening.

The **Christmas Service**, led by the children in the Years 3 and 4, will be at 10.30am on Friday 21st December at Droxford Church. Parents of the Year 3 / 4 children are most welcome to attend, as it is those children who will be singing and performing.

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 will make the dress rehearsal on Thursday 20th December an opportunity for grandparents and for those who cannot attend on Friday, to see the service.

Please note the Thursday service starts at 2pm so we are allowing attendees in to the church at 1:30pm. 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 Year 5 and 6 children will also be in the pews as they won't see the service on Friday. 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.



Open afternoon

Thank you to everyone that came to the recent open afternoons, they were a huge success. The aim is for you to see your child's most recent work and for your child to have an opportunity to show you work they are most proud of. The children in 5 / 6 led a debate with parents, related to fair trade products and the 3 / 4 parents and children were involved in a science experiment!

Road safety

Dear Mr Dampier,

I write regarding a few points as follows;

Please would you remind the children that when they cross with me they must wait until I get to the middle of the road and the traffic has stopped, before they step out into the road. Despite me telling them, often it seems to fall on deaf ears and children are still following me out into the road!

Please would you remind people dropping children off in the car park, to please park before the children get out. There's still folk driving in and stopping in the middle of the car park. This often leads to others being unable to get off the A32 into the car park and can cause traffic holdups.

Finally please could people try to avoid parking in Park Lane. I understand that sometimes one has to, but it makes it more dangerous for the children walking up to school. May I take this opportunity to wish you and all at Droxford Junior School, including the lovely parents, a very Merry Christmas and a Happy New Year.

Kind regards,

Julia Lovejoy-Brinkman

School Crossing Patrol Officer.

And finally...

School Dog

This is bound to get tongues and tails wagging! It is our aim that the school will get a school dog. School dogs as therapy / reading dogs have a proven positive impact for all sorts of emotional needs. These included coping with anxiety, building confidence in reading, bereavement, exam pressures, emotional management, positive rewards and not to mention increasing the children's understanding of responsibility and developing empathy. Plus the sheer enjoyment they get from being around a school dog is lovely to see. Dogs don't judge!

Many educational settings have school dogs including the Montessori nursery next to us and Swanmore Secondary. Obviously a lot of time and consideration has and will be given to this in terms of suitable breed, welfare and policy. The school governors are fully supportive of this initiative. Please e-mail the school office with any questions on this matter.

May I wish (again) all our families, our volunteers and our fantastic staff, a peaceful Christmas and best wishes for 2019!



Matthew Dampier
Headteacher

