

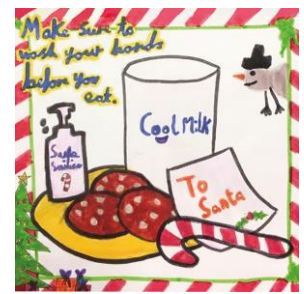


Dalton St Mary's CE Primary School

Autumn Term

Newsletter 14

11th December 2020



Dear Parents/Carers and Children,

First news this week is super news: Congratulations to Elizabeth Knott who was the UK winner of the Cool Milk 'Design a Christmas Card Competition'. Well done Lizzie we are so proud of you!

I messaged earlier this week regarding announcements in the media about schools finishing early for Christmas. I thought I would take time to explain the situation. The suggestion of an early finish was a decision made, on Tuesday of this week, by the Department for Education and not individual schools. The idea behind the early finish is that the Department for Education had agreed with Public Health England that Head teachers will be available for 6 days following the end of term to assist with track and trace. This means Head teachers will need to be available each day from the 18th December, up to, and including Christmas Eve to support any track and trace issues that may be linked to their school. Head teachers of schools who decide to finish on the 17th December are able to finish on 23rd December. Please be reassured we will be keeping our arrangements that have been shared on each Newsletter from Newsletter 7 (16th October 2020) – DSM will finish on Friday 18th December 2020 at 1.00pm. Children should be collected from school this year as we are unable to hold our service in Church.

I do hope everyone remains well and we are all able to enjoy the Christmas break safely. To support our whole community I ask if any children develop symptoms on Saturday 19th December or Sunday 20th December and have a positive test result could parents please email me directly on: l.woodburn@dsmprimary.com

This is in addition to the track and trace procedures you will be advised to follow. If I am alerted to any positive cases (children or staff), this will allow me to message anyone who may be affected by the positive result. I sincerely hope this does not happen but this will help to keep our families and our community safe.

Nativity and End of Term Service

We have made the decision to record this year's Nativity and then make it available to parents. The logistics around doing a live event, as we did with the Harvest and Macmillan Coffee morning, are really tricky as the Nativity involves 4 classes. Year 3 are leading our end of term service this year; this will also be recorded and made available for parents to watch. This will be fun and a new experience for our younger children to be part of making their very own film. Further details of how and when you will be able to access the film will be shared with parents as soon as it is ready.

ParentPay

It is very important that all parents register with ParentPay as all future school events will be booked and paid for using this system.

Lunches and ParentPay

From January our school lunches will be ordered and paid for using ParentPay. Further information will be shared next week, please do not order any lunches on the Dolce SchoolGrid for January 2021.

End of Day

We are trying really hard in school to ensure the end of the day runs smoothly and we really appreciate your support with this. We have noticed that if children come out of school with coats unzipped/things in their hands parents are having to stop to get them organised which holds up the line. We are going to encourage all children to organise themselves **before** they leave the classroom, if your child does come out of school unorganised could I ask that you **step clear of the line** to help them get sorted allowing others to keep moving. Thank you.

Victoria Derbyshire

Our Y6 children have been receiving advice on journalism from Victoria Derbyshire – check out Twitter to see the video.

Residentials

I am aware that Year 5 and Year 6 parents and children will be starting to think ahead to the annual residentials which happen in these year groups. We have provisionally booked the following visits:

- Year 5 to visit Coniston on the 5th May, for 2 nights (YHA Holly How)
- Year 6 to visit York on the 15th June, for 3 nights (YHA York)

This term it has been difficult to envisage how things will be in May and June however, these dates are booked. If Government guidance suggests, and we also think it is safe to take our children on residential visits these will definitely go ahead. We will send further details upon our return to school in January - I do not want any parents to be worrying about costs and payments before Christmas.

Thank you for taking the time to read this Newsletter. Remember I am here if I can help you or your family in any way: **I.woodburn@dsmprimary.com**

Kind regards

Mrs L Woodburn

Dates for Diaries

Event	Date	Arrangements	
Nativity		Our Nativity will be a recorded event this year and once this is prepared we will share the link with parents.	
Christmas Parties	YN	10/12/2020	On the day of your child's party, we ask that they please arrive at school, in the morning, in their party clothes. Please remember that your child will need to wear the outfit for the time they are in school so it should be comfortable with appropriate footwear.
	YR	07/12/2020	
	Y1	11/12/2020	
	Y2	09/12/2020	
	Y3	10/12/2020	
	Y4	14/12/2020	
	Y5	15/12/2020	
	Y6	17/12/2020	
Christmas Dinner/ Christmas Jumper Day	16/12/2020	Children are welcome to come to school in a Christmas Jumper. In exchange for coming to school in our jumpers, we are encouraging those who can this year to send in a food item that we will then donate to the Food bank. We do think it is important to support our local charities.	
Finish for Christmas	18/12/2020 1.00	Please note that children will be collected from school at 1.00pm.	