



Denton West End School

Newsletter

December 2023



We would like to welcome Aahana, Daksha, Eesa, Alayna and Shalom to our school and hope they soon feel settled and make new friends.

Reading Challenge and Books

At the end of each term we collect in all reading and library books. Please could you check at home to see if you have any books belonging to school? They should have the school stamp in if they belong to us. Many thanks.

Many children have already completed the reading challenge for this term. Please don't forget to sign the reading record each time your child reads with you at home.

Come Dine with Me

We have held two very successful Come Dine with Me events for our Y5 and Y4 pupils over the last few weeks.

This is to try and increase our school meal uptake. We will be holding more events in the new year for other year groups so look out for these.

You will have received an email about the school Christmas dinner. This year we are trialling it so that all children can join in even if they would normally have a packed lunch. We hope as many children as possible take up the offer.



Messages to Staff

School operates an open door policy so that if you have any concerns you can speak to your child's class teacher which is the first point of contact. Please do this at the end of the day rather than in the morning as staff are busy and need to get on with teaching. Speaking to your child's teacher is also best as they are aware of what has happened in the day and can give a faster response rather than sending an email to the school email address. Notes can also be put in your child's reading record, although these will not be checked by staff as we do not have time. Ensure your child knows to pass it onto the teacher in the morning. Thank you.

Lateness

After reporting in my last newsletter how lateness was much improved we have seen a large number of children arriving late for school. School starts at 8.55am and children should be in the playground ready for when we open the doors. We ensure the doors are open a little earlier than this so that children can get themselves settled in class ready for a prompt start. Anything after 9.00am is marked as late.

Teaching Assistant Vacancy

School are looking to appoint a level three teaching assistant start as soon as possible. This is a permanent post. The post involves working with small groups, individual and support in class. Experience across the whole primary age range and working with SEND are desirable.

Full details are on our website under 'Vacancies'. If you require further details please contact Mrs. Davenport, Mrs. Garlick or myself at the school. The post is subject to a full DBS check.

Christmas Activities

We have a very busy few weeks at school. Below is a list of all the activities planned for the next few weeks.



In addition, we will be holding several events within school where children are singing Christmas songs. They will also have a Christmas Carol Assembly on the last day of term.

Christmas Parties

On party days children may come in their party clothes. Please make sure they are warm and are wearing sensible shoes. We will ask children to bring food for the parties and your child will bring home a slip of paper with requests. Please don't send in more than requested as we often have more than the children can eat!

Christmas Performances



Children will be bringing home programmes for the EYFS and KS1 nativities. Please ensure you bring your programme to the performance. Children will watch the performances in school as usual.

We are restricting tickets, so it is advised that you don't bring babies and toddlers. Everyone will need a programme to attend. We will have a collection at the end for our charity, The Milly-Rose Stirrup Foundation, so please bring some small change if you can.

Christmas Cards

We are asking children not to send cards into school again this year as it takes staff a long time to sort and give out the cards.

If you would like to make a donation to our charity instead please put it in an envelope marked 'Christmas Card Donations, The Milly-Rose Stirrup Foundation'. Many thanks.

Thursday 14th December	Nursery and Y4 party
Friday 15th December	Reading Challenge reward and R and Y3 parties
Monday 18th December	Y1 and Y5 Parties
Tuesday 19th December	Y2 and Y6 Parties
Wednesday 20th December	Christmas Jumper day for The Milly-Rose Stirrup Foundation



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Parking and Road Safety

Just a reminder to be cautious at the start and end of the day if you are driving to school. It is always difficult at this time of year as more people travel in cars because of the cold and wet weather. As always, please take great care around the children and be courteous to our neighbours. Many thanks.

Parent, Teacher and Friends Group

In the new year we are looking to have some events after school such as discos. This will be fundraising for school and will help to pay for special events. If any parents would like to help or be interested in supporting a PTA please could you contact school? I know this is something that parents want as you have indicated this in past questionnaires. Many thanks.

Milly-Rose Stirrup Foundation



You will have received a star for your child to colour and return to school. When completed these will be put up in the school entrance. Please encourage your child to do this as part of our fundraising for the charity. There will be a small prize for the winner in each class.

To support the charity there is a Christmas Jumper Day on **Wednesday 20th December**. Children are allowed to come in their Christmas jumpers for a £2 donation to the charity. Many thanks in advance.

Events this half term included:

- Y3 have dressed up as pirates for their literacy topic, Captain Flinn and the Pirate Dinosaurs
- Y5 dressed up as Greeks to learn about this ancient civilisation.
- Remembrance Day-all children took part in a two minute silence and Y2 visited the memorial at Thornley Park.
- Y6 enjoyed an Indian drumming workshop and India Day.
- Andrew Gwynne MP visited as part of Parliament Week to talk about the work of an MP.
- Elizabeth, from Water Aid, came to speak to the children about clean water, sanitation and hygiene in other countries.
- Y6 had a visit from a local magistrate. Hopefully, towards the end of the year some children will attend a mock trial.
- Children wore odd socks to mark anti bullying week and had an RSHE lesson.



Maths Week

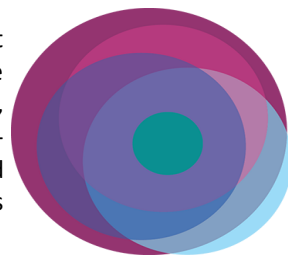
This was a week of fun maths activities where lots of learning took place. EYFS dressed up for a Number Blocks Day. Thanks to Audenshaw High School who came into Y6 to deliver some maths lessons. In the words of some of our children:



- I want more maths weeks!
- The visit from Audenshaw made me more confident for high school.
- I feel more confident about maths.
- I don't worry about maths any more.

Inter Faith Day

The children learnt about different festivals from religions around the world including Holi, Ramadan, Vesak (Buddhism) and Rosh Hashanah. The children have produced some interesting work which is showcased in the KS2 hall displays.



Football News



Last half term, a group of girls went to Ravensfield Primary School to have a football match. Although we lost, we had a good time. It was a lot of fun and I would like it if we went again. I think the others would like it too. The other team's skills were amazing and I think if we played more matches we could be just as good!

By Isabella Miller

Christmas Holiday Dates

School closes on Wednesday 20th December and reopens on Monday 8th January 2024.

And finally....

As the term draws to a close and our thoughts turn to the Christmas celebrations we would like to send warm wishes for a very Merry Christmas and a Happy New Year from everyone at D.W.E.

