



# Denton West End School

## Newsletter

January 2024

### Welcome Back

Happy New Year! The staff and myself would like to thank parents for their gifts and well wishes before the holidays. It is very much appreciated. We hope you all had a good break and have refuelled ready for the challenges of the new year. As always we have a very short but busy half term ahead of us.



Welcome to Charlie who has joined us in Y1; we hope he will soon settle and make new friends.

### Retirement

At the end of last term, Mrs Haughton retired from her role as teaching assistant and midday supervisor. She has been with us for many years and will be missed in school by staff and children alike. However, we will still see her around as she is continuing to work at breakfast and after school club. We might even ask her back to help out if she is agreeable!

We hope she has a wonderful retirement and want to thank her for her tireless commitment to Denton West End over the years.

### Appointments

Last term you will remember we were advertising for a number of posts within school.

I am pleased to say that Miss Schofield has joined us as a teaching assistant. Mrs Harris and Mrs Guarino have joined the cleaning team and Mrs Morris has joined us as a midday assistant. We are sure they will soon feel part of the Denton West End family. We are still looking to recruit a further midday assistant. Please contact school if you are interested.

### Christmas Performances

We hope you enjoyed our early years and key stage one Christmas nativities. As always the standard of the children's performances was very high. Thank you for your support with costumes, learning lines and practising at home. We were able to share all the performances with the children in school.



Key stage two were able to share their Christmas songs with the rest of school. We were also able to hold our traditional carol service on the last day of term.

### Christmas Collections

Thank you to all parents and children who supported our Christmas collections. Children made stars, we collected at the EYFS and KS1 nativities and then held a Christmas jumper day. We have also sold some wristbands for Milly-Rose. Altogether we have raised £847 for our charity which is a fantastic amount of money at this expensive time of year. I know Milly-Rose's mum and dad are extremely grateful for your support.



### Reading Challenge

The children enjoyed their reward at the end of the term for completing the autumn reading challenge. It was very pleasing to see that the overwhelming majority of children completed the challenge. It is extremely important to read regularly with your child for a short period of time every day. Keep up the good work at home! Letters will be going out shortly explaining the target number of reads for this term.

### Royal British Legion

Thank you for purchasing poppies and other items for remembrance day. We have raised £237 for the charity.



### Water Aid

Last half term we had a special visitor to school who talked to the children about the importance of clean water for hygiene, sanitation and health. We raised £16 for the charity. Thank you.

### School Dinners

As you know we have been working to increase our school dinner numbers. This half term we will be holding a McMellors day and another Come Dine with Me event. Please look out for emails through Parentmail for the dates.

We would also like to encourage children to take up school meals on the days that the menu looks inviting to them. If you would like to see what is on offer then go to our website and look up the School Dinners on the Information tab.



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### Reminders

*Health and Safety*-please remember that under no circumstances should nuts or nut products be sent into school for packed lunches. This includes nut spread such as Nutella and peanut butter. We have a number of children with severe nut allergies. Thank you.

*Absence and lateness*– Attendance is currently at 96% across school which is above the national average. This is extremely positive. Unfortunately, some year groups are considerably lower so I have attached the link from the NHS about when to keep your child off school:

<https://www.nhs.uk/live-well/is-my-child-too-ill-for-school/>

Currently, our issues are around lateness and children arriving late for the start of the day. Children should be in the playground ready for the doors opening. The school day begins at 8.55am with the register being taken. We open the doors a few minutes earlier so that children can be in school and ready to take the register and start their learning.

Those first few minutes of the day are very important to ensure your child feels settled and ready to learn. Too many times, we see children arriving late and this has a detrimental affect on the rest of the day. They feel they are 'missing out'. Those few minutes in the playground to speak to friends and catch up are very important to a child. Please ensure you are in the playground ready for the doors opening. Entering the classroom after 9.00am is classed as late. Thank you for your support with this.

*PE kit*-please ensure your child has an outdoor and indoor PE kit. It is not necessary to have both pumps and trainers for indoor and outdoor PE as long as the children can change out of their school shoes this is acceptable. Children will need to change out of their tights so please ensure they have a pair of socks to put on instead. Children should not wear jewellery in school apart from a watch and small stud earrings; no hoops please. These should be removed for PE. In the case of newly pierced ears, parents should cover them before school. Hair also needs to be tied back in school time. This is for health and safety reasons.



### Reminders-continued

*Uniform*-please ensure your child has suitable school shoes, (not canvas or trainers) and a waterproof, warm coat; this is especially important in the winter months.

Watches should be analogue or digital. Children should not be wearing any device that connects to the internet in school. This is for safeguarding and child protection reasons.

*Medical and dental appointments*- Parents should also ensure that **all** appointments are outside of school hours. We will ask for proof of your appointment e.g. letter or appointment card.



### Communication with School

We have an open door policy at school and prefer parents contact us if they have a query. However, the route to do this is first through your child's teacher and the reading record. This is to ensure you have timely response and also because the class teacher usually knows what has happened during the day. Emailing school is not as efficient and this should only be done as a last resort.

Many thanks.

### Nursery Admissions

We will be sending letters out soon offering places for our September 2024 intake to nursery. If you have not put your child's name down or you know of someone who has a child of nursery age please can you remind them to do so?



We have a welcome video on the website for prospective parents. We will also be holding an open event later this term so that prospective parents can view our provision.

The video can be found at [www.dweschool.org](http://www.dweschool.org) on the Prospectus page. Parents are welcome to ring the school for further details.