



# NEWSLETTER 5 - 24th November 2023

'Let your light shine '

[www.derryhillschool.co.uk](http://www.derryhillschool.co.uk)

## Diary Dates

Thursday 30th November - Rock steady concert 2.30pm (Hall)  
Friday 1st December - FoDHS Christmas Bonanza 5pm till 7pm  
Thursday 7th December - Whole School Pantomime Trip  
Monday 11th December - KS1 Nativity Rehearsal  
Tuesday 12th December - KS1 Nativity to Parents 1.30pm (Hall)  
Wednesday 13th December - KS1 Nativity to Parents 9.30am (Hall)  
Thursday 14th December - Christmas Jumper & Dinner day  
Monday 18th December - KS2 Christmas Party pm  
Tuesday 19th December - KS1 Christmas Party pm  
Wednesday 20th December - KS2 Carol Service 9.15am (Church)  
**Wednesday 20th December - 2.10pm End of Term 2**



## Snow White Pantomime

We are all getting excited for the whole school trip to the pantomime in Swindon on **Thursday 7th December**.

Children are required to wear school uniform on the day.

**Please remember to provide your child with a packed lunch and drink (screw top preferable).**



For children in Reception, Key Stage 1 and those in receipt of Free School Meals there is an option on parentmail to select a picnic lunch, please could you make sure this is selected by Monday 27th November to give the kitchen time to order in the food. Drinks are not provided so you will need to send your child with a drink.

**We will be eating Lunch when we arrive back from the panto so please make sure that your child has a substantial snack for whilst they are there.**

## Fundraising News!

For the 3rd and final year, Elijah has raised even more money for school using his love of gardening to sell a variety of plants, fruits & vegetables, with the help of his Grandad.

For the first time this year, he even sold some of the vegetables that some of the children have been growing in the school garden.

Just this year, Elijah has raised an incredible £402.83!!

Thank you for all your hard work & dedication in achieving this!



## DHS Football Teams

Huge congratulations to our two football teams who took part in the Chippenham Football Festival at Stanley Park. They all played brilliantly and showed fantastic sportsmanship.

We are extremely proud of our boys team who came first in the tournament, moving themselves through to the County Finals later on in the year.

Thank you to all the parents who helped us on the day and supported our teams.



## Message from our SENCO!

The power point from the introduction to SEN at Derry Hill is on the SEN page of the school website for any parents who were not able to attend Mrs Asfaw's session yesterday.

### Luke Gittins

Our guitar teacher Luke Gittins is putting on a child friendly show to celebrate the release of his debut EP, following on from his exciting year which saw him perform alongside Ed Sheeran. The EP Showcase will be held at The Pewsham in Chippenham Friday 1st December. For more information, or to order tickets, visit: [lukegittinsmusic.co.uk](http://lukegittinsmusic.co.uk)



### School Council

The new Derry Hill Student Council for 2023-24 has been elected by the children and has already had a couple of meetings to discuss ideas that they would like to explore in the year ahead. These include: looking at different ways that children in school can help each other, such as having help boxes in classrooms; considering new roles that children could have in school, such as bringing back the Eco-Monitors; and expanding the contents of the school library and trying to find out what the school's favourite book is! The children are also keen to discuss key aspects of the school day with Mrs Roberts, such as lunch-time, and talk through things that they are worried about or think could be done differently. In our last meeting, children agreed that this year the school would not buy individual Christmas presents for each child, but would instead sponsor a donkey at a local sanctuary where we will help pay for its upkeep and receive updates about how it is doing.

Thank you to our school councilors for their ideas and enthusiasm. They are: Maya, Llewellyn, Nate and Violet from year 6; Millie and Aary from year 5; Georgia and Joshua from year 4; Hugo and Izzy from year 3; Bobby and Evelyn from year 2; and Lily and Jack from year 1.

### DHS Christmas Bonanza

We are really looking forward to our Christmas Bonanza on Friday 1<sup>st</sup> December from 5-7pm.

Today the eldest child in each family will bring an envelope home, you won't miss it as it is rather bright! If you can please could you put a little spare change in the envelope that would be wonderful, the children can decorate them if they'd like. These are for the very popular Pocket Money Envelope Stall where children can purchase an envelope on the evening and not know exactly how much they will be getting. Please bring them in to the office.

We have received some Jolly Jars filled with lots of goodies and a few jumpers, if anyone has any lightly used Christmas clothes they would like to donate we would gladly take them, they can be jumpers, pyjamas, hats, t-shirts etc. Please bring them into the office or hand to Mrs Snow. The Bonanza is one of our larger events that generates lots of money to help fund things across the school, for example extra classroom resources, subsidising trips and the coaches for the pantomime. All of your help and generosity is really appreciated, thank you so much. Look forward to seeing you there!  
FODHS

### Children In Need

We raised a fabulous **£170.00** for Children In Need. Thank you to everyone for your contributions - well done!



### Squirrel Class

Squirrel class have already shown some amazing learning this term and have been enjoying our topic on volcanoes and earthquakes.

They have been created lots of fantastic pieces of writing based on our class book, *'The Firework Maker's Daughter'* such as some explosive firework poetry.

Last term the children showed excellent historical knowledge on the Stone Age and used this to help them make amazing woolly mammoth models, cave paintings and Stone Age jewellery.

Squirrel class are looking forward to developing their Art and DT skills this term when making their own moving monsters.

