



NEWSLETTER 6 - 8th December 2023

'Let your light shine '

www.derryhillschool.co.uk

Diary Dates

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
Friday 15th December– Last day for Christmas post box
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 - 2.15pm End of Term 2

Thursday 4th January - 8.45am Start of Term 3

Tuesday 9th January - Parents Evening in School 3.30pm to 6pm (Except Hedgehog Class)
Wednesday 10th January– Parents Evening in school 3.30pm - 6pm (Hedgehog Class only))
Thursday 11th January - Parents Evening in School 3.30pm to 6pm(For all classes)
Wednesday 7th February - Open Classrooms
Thursday 8th February - Fox Class Taster Day at Hardenhuish
Friday 9th February - 3.15pm End of Term 3



Dear Parents / Carers

As we near the end of the Autumn Term I am very lucky to reflect on such a wonderful fun filled term in school. Along with the exciting learning continually planned for our children we have had some brilliant times this term such as the Extraordinary Project performance, our annual trip to the panto and the Chippenham Football Festival which saw our A team come first and make it to the regional finals. We have enjoyed welcoming parents from Owl and Fox Class to their family learning afternoons and to hold our annual Christmas Fayre – thank you so much to everyone who made this event possible and for the hard work of the FODHS committee and the school staff for organising the event. This year our children have decided to adopt two donkeys from The Donkey Sanctuary in Sidmouth rather than receive an individual Christmas present each. The Head Boy and Girl and their deputies have chosen two donkey's on behalf of the children at Derry Hill School. Our donkey's are Timothy (right) and Walter (left).

Timothy is always on hand to cheer his friends up on a dull day. His usual antics include getting himself into the feed room when he's not allowed and rolling in sand straight after being groomed.

Timothy's biggest fan is his half-brother, Walter. These two are never too far away from each other! Even when playing with their other friends Timothy knows Walter won't be far away.



Walter is easy to spot with his recognisable brown and white markings and pink nose. In the summertime he needs sun cream on his nose to protect it from the sun. He is gorgeous!

Walter hasn't always been as confident as he seems. When he arrived at the sanctuary in 2004 he was a nervous, timid donkey. But over the years his confidence has grown. Now Walter enjoys playing with his best friend Timothy in the lovely Devon countryside. He particularly enjoys playing with his food-ball, kicking it about until it releases the treats inside.

We look forward to receiving our adoption packs and learning more about our donkeys while helping to fund money for their care.

For now I would like to finish by saying a very Happy Christmas to the whole Derry Hill School family and wish you all a happy, healthy and prosperous 2024.

Mrs Roberts

Carol Service

The Key Stage Two Carol Service will take place on Wednesday 20th December at 9:15am in the church.

It would be lovely to see you all there!

FODHS will be selling mince pies and drinks in the school hall after the carol service.



Christmas Jumper Day - 14th December

We would love to see all of the children in their Christmas or brightly coloured jumpers on Christmas Jumper Day. If your child does not have a jumper, please do not feel that you need to purchase one; Christmas coloured clothes will be just as lovely. No donations required.



Staffing News

We would like to say goodbye and a big thank you to Shanice Garrick for the hard work and dedication she had given the Derry Hill Team. We wish her luck in her new post.

We would also like to give a very warm welcome to Gemma Sandell who will be joining Derry Hill School on Thursday 4th January 2024 as the new Dormouse Teaching Assistant.

Emergency Closures

As the weather has turned colder we would like to remind you that we will always try our very best to keep the school open providing it is safe for both students and staff and staff numbers are adequate. In the event of a decision to close the school, we will notify parents using ParentMail, via email or text. We will also announce this as soon as possible via local radio stations school closure notices (BBC Wiltshire and Heart Radio) and our school website www.derryhillschool.co.uk.



Parents Evening

Parents evenings will be held during the week of 8th January 2024.

These will be face to face appointments.

To book your place please see the parentmail form which will go live on Wednesday 13th December at 6.00 pm and close on Wednesday 20th December.



Uniform

We have noticed some children are attending school in incorrect uniform, please ensure that from next term your child attends in the correct uniform. Whilst we are flexible to the branding of our uniform and do not require the uniform to have the school logo we do expect children to arrive at school in the following:

A **grey** skirt, pinafore, trousers or shorts.

Grey or **red** school tights (**no leggings under skirts**)

A **white shirt** or **red or white polo shirt**.

A **red school sweatshirt** or **red cardigan**.

Black flat school shoes – no trainers or boots.

For PE:

T-shirt and / or plain hoodie in your child's team colour (purple, red, green or blue)

Plain (**not branded**) black shorts, tracksuit bottoms or leggings.

Jewellery and fancy hair accessories should not be worn for school and long hair should be tied back.

Polite Reminders

Reminder to tie long hair back.

Due to the presence of our little visitors in the form of head lice lately please can parents ensure that long hair is tied back for school.

Keeping your child off school

As a school we want children to be in school as much as possible but on occasions when your child is ill we must stick to certain rules – especially when it comes to sickness bugs and other childhood illnesses. Please see the attached poster which indicates the required time off for specific illnesses. We also have a child in school at present who has a severely reduced immune system so we request that school are notified if any children are attending with childhood illnesses that do not require time off school – this will allow us to notify the family and allow them to make informed choices as to whether their child is safe to attend. Many thanks with your help in this matter.

Reception & KS1 Nativity

We are all looking forward to the performances on Tuesday 12th & Wednesday 13th December. Thank you to everyone for requesting your tickets via Parentmail. All tickets have now been allocated at your request unless we have contacted you. Thank you for your support.

