



NEWSLETTER 7 - 12th January 2024

'Let your light shine '

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Dear Parents / Carers

Welcome back to the start of the New Year – I trust that you all managed to have some quality family time during the Christmas period. I hope that 2024 will be a happy and healthy year for you all.

We have some wonderful learning planned for this term and some exciting events including our football team participating in the County Finals next week – we are all wishing them the best of luck.

We also have Safer Internet day and open classrooms to look forward too later in the term.

As always we value working in partnership with you as this gives our children the best chances of success – if you have any concerns or worries about your child please remember we have an open door policy and are always willing to work together to support your child.

Have a lovely weekend.

Mrs Roberts

Diary Dates

Thursday 18th January - Football Tournament– County Finals

Monday 5th February until Friday 9th February - Children's Mental Health Week

Monday 5th February - Owl class 1980's themed day

Tuesday 6th February - Safer Internet Day

Wednesday 7th February - Open Classrooms 3.15pm

Thursday 8th February - Fox Class Taster Day at Hardenhuish

Friday 9th February - 3.15pm End of Term 3



Christian Value – Respect

During Spring Term 1 we will be looking at the Christian value of **Respect** – Throughout this term our children will be thinking of many different ways of showing respect.

As a whole school community, we will be considering:

How we are given the opportunity in school to experience feelings of awe, wonder and mystery.

How we show respect for each other and adults in the school community.

How children are encouraged to value and respect their own and other people's belongings.

How children are encouraged to show tolerance by accepting feelings, habits or beliefs, racial or ethnic origins that are different from their own.

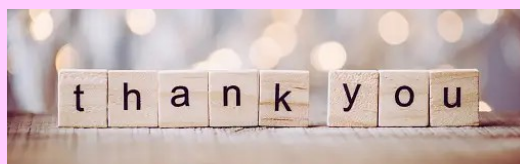
Attached to this newsletter you will find the Values Take Home Sheet on Respect. These are designed to complement the conversations we have in school and we trust will provide much food for thought and conversation.



FODHS

We would like to say a great big thank you for all of the support shown for the school Christmas Bonanza.

The grand total of £2237 was raised from this event.



House Team Winners

Well done to Earth Team who were the house team winners for the Autumn Term.

The Earth Team house captains will take some ideas from their team members and decide on a special treat afternoon with Mrs Roberts during this term.

The House Team scores for last term were as follows:

1st Place - Earth Team – 286

2nd Place – Fire Team - 259

3rd Place - Air Team – 253

4th Place – Water Team - 238



Staff in The Spotlight

NAME: Miss Hopes

ROLE: Year 1 Class Teacher

HOW LONG AT DH SCHOOL: 4 years

FAVOURITE MOVIE: The Parent Trap

PETS: No pets

FAVOURITE FOOD: Lasagne

HOBBIES: Travelling, spending time outside and anything crafty!

FAVOURITE SCHOOL DINNER: Fish fingers, chips and beans

BEST THING ABOUT DERRY HILL SCHOOL: Getting to teach the most amazing children!

LITTLE KNOWN FACT: I have travelled to 30 countries and hope to visit every single one, one day!



Dates for 2024 - Youth Club

12th January

9th February

22nd March

19th April

Youth club will be held in the village hall, it will start at 7.30pm and finish at 9pm.

Entry is £2 and tuck will be sold at 50p an item.



Hedgehog Class in Focus

After starting to explore the world as pirates last term, Hedgehogs class have returned to school ready to look in more detail at life in East Africa, in particular in Ethiopia, and to compare life there with our lives in the UK.

They started their exploration with a role-play visit to an Ethiopian Museum where they were able to look at some real items from the country such as a clay coffee pot, a food carrier (lunchbox) and a traditional scarf. They also discovered what one of the alphabets looked like in a local language, Amharic, and found out that the Ethiopian calendar has 13 months and that it is still 2016 there! Children were very enthusiastic when exploring the items and came up with some brilliant ideas about what they were and how they had been made and why.

We have been lucky enough to make some links with a primary school in Addis Ababa, Ethiopia called Felegeseb Primary and the children have been reading about this school, before producing their own piece of writing about Derry Hill that we will send to the children in Addis Ababa so that they can learn about our school. Children have also started producing African art, making some wonderful necklaces, and learning African dances.



Interviewing for the Position of a Vicar of Christ Church, Derry Hill

This week, some of our pupils had a very important job to do: to interview a candidate for the post of Vicar Of Christ Church, Derry Hill!

Christ Church, Derry Hill – where we hold our annual carol service and several other services throughout the year, are searching for a new vicar, and due to Derry Hill School's connection with them, they asked if we could help in the selection process.

There was much enthusiasm from some of our Year 6 children when the proposal was explained to them, and some children were selected and arranged as an interview panel.

The pupils then thought of some questions to ask, and on the day of the interviews, they quizzed the candidate with their very thoughtful and probing questions.

Questions such as

Do you think it is a good idea for church and school to work together? Why? How would you see this working?

Will you be willing to give up your time to do Act of Worship every week? What kind of things would you do? How would you make it interesting for all ages?

What's your favourite hymn?

Are you patient?

These were just some of the incisive questions that our Derry Hill pupils put to the candidate.

At the end of the interview, the Derry Hill Church selection panel said how very impressed they were with their questions and professional composure – as was Mrs Roberts, who was very proud of our 'Derry Hill School representatives'.

We really liked the vicar who was interviewed and we hope that she gets the job!