



NEWSLETTER 3 – 11th October 2024

‘Let your light shine’

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Dear Parents and Carers

I am pleased to report that our recent practice lockdown drill was executed with great precision. The children were all incredibly sensible throughout and the unplanned false alarm that followed (during Act of Worship time) provided an unexpected opportunity for a second drill, further honing our preparedness. The composure and cooperation demonstrated by both pupils and staff were truly commendable. Given the local news on this day, whereby several Corsham schools had to lockdown for real, I am reassured that our children have been able to practice such a difficult event in a calm and controlled manner. Thank you to you all for supporting our recent lockdown practice.

I must again extend our heartfelt thanks to the Friends of Derry Hill School Committee (FODHS) and their helpers for their continued support and to the many parents who have also purchased items from the class wish lists. Every classroom apart from Owl Class now have their very own Worry Monster. The generous contribution of playtime equipment from FODHS has already enhanced our pupils' play experiences this week - especially during wet playtimes - the Top Trumps cards went down very well this week given the weather we have had. Our recent school disco was yet again a great success thanks to the efforts of FODHS and our dedicated staff. A special mention must be made here to DJ Monteith and Mrs Monteith, whose expertise once again transformed the event into a memorable experience for all of our children. The children were very well behaved throughout and the staff enjoyed sharing this lovely experience with the children.

Our Harvest Festival, saw an overwhelming attendance from our school community. Your presence at our Church services is a testament to the strong support we receive from parents and shows a huge strength in our school community. The extensive produce donated has found its way to the Doorway charity in Chippenham, where it will undoubtedly make a significant impact on those in need – Thank you!

We are looking forward to seeing you at our parents' evenings next week. This is a vital opportunity for you to meet with your child's class teacher to discuss how they have settled and discuss how as a partnership, school and home can support your child. Mole Class will be the designated waiting area for parents evening this time - with the Fire Door near Mole Class as an entrance and the Hall Fire Exit (at the front of school as an exit).

Have a wonderful weekend.

Mrs Roberts
Headteacher

Spanish Day

On Friday 27th September, Derry Hill celebrated International Day of Languages by holding our first Spanish Day. The day began with a wonderful assembly by Mrs Rodriguez where the children learn many amazing facts about Spain and the Spanish culture. During the day, the children took part in a range of exciting activities such as Spanish food tasting, learning the Paso Doble and creating some Spanish themed art work. What a brilliant way to launch our new Spanish curriculum.

Mrs Shears



Parent / Grandparent Volunteers

Many thanks to those of you who have expressed an interest in becoming a school volunteer. As we strive to enrich our pupils' educational experience, we recognise the invaluable contribution that parental / family involvement can make. We are, therefore, seeking dedicated parent and grandparent volunteers to assist in various capacities within our school. Your expertise, time, and enthusiasm could significantly enhance our learning environment and provide our pupils with diverse perspectives and experiences. Whether you possess a particular skill or simply wish to offer your support, we would be delighted to welcome you. Your participation would not only benefit our pupils but also strengthen the bonds within our school community. We will be leading a sign up workshop supported by myself and Mr Riley on Thursday 7th November at 1.15pm – this will involve completion of all necessary paperwork to get started and guidance on the training required. DERRY HILL SCHOOL NEEDS YOU !!!!

Diary Dates

Wednesday 16th October - Parents Evening 3.30pm (Hall)

Thursday 17th October - Parents Evening 3.30pm (Hall)

Friday 18th October - Police visit to Dormouse Class

Friday 18th October - Wear it Pink Day for Breast Cancer - (see additional info overleaf)

Friday 18th October - Owl & Mole Cake Bake (Change of date) 3.15pm

Monday 21st October - Flu Vaccination Clinic , Whole School

Tuesday 22nd October - Owl Class Family Learning Afternoon 2.15pm

Wednesday 23rd October - 3.15pm End of Term 1

Monday 4th November - 8.45am Start of Term 2

Thursday 7th November - Remembrance service 9.15am (Church)

Friday 8th November - Non - uniform Day for donations to the Christmas Bonanza

Monday 11th November - Owl Class Bikeability

Tuesday 12th November - Owl Class Bikeability

Wednesday 13th November - World Kindness Day

Thursday 28th November - Owl Class Height & Weight Check

Saturday 30th November - Derry Hill Light Switch on

Wednesday 4th December - Open Classrooms 3.15pm

Monday 9th December - Nativity Dress Rehearsal

Tuesday 10th December - Nativity Performance for Parents 9.15am (Hall)

Wednesday 11th December - Nativity Performance for Parents 2pm (Hall)

Thursday 12th December - Whole School Pantomime Trip (Cinderella)

Tuesday 17th December - Christmas Jumper & Dinner Day

Wednesday 18th December - KS2 Christmas Party 1pm

Thursday 19th December - KS1 Christmas Party 1pm

Friday 20th December - Christmas Carol Service 9.15am (Church)

Friday 20th December - 2.15pm End of Term 2



Match Funding and Raffle Requests

Together the FODHS committee, school staff, parents and family members of Derry Hill School strive to enhance the educational experience for our pupils, with this in mind we are seeking your support with 2 ongoing initiatives. The first being enhancing match funding donations to bolster our resources and initiatives. Many large companies such as banks and building societies, insurance companies, supermarkets, utilities providers, phone companies and car manufacturers are known to offer match funding schemes. It is always worth asking your employer if they participate in such a scheme. Your generosity has the potential to make a significant impact, as every contribution will be doubled through this matching scheme.

If your employer is unable to match fund our efforts any raffle prizes large or small would be greatly appreciated - it is a great advertising opportunity for many businesses through our newsletter and website coverage.

Your support is invaluable in our fundraising pursuit and in providing the best experiences for our children and in nurturing the potential of every child at Derry Hill School.

Thank you.

Wear it Pink

On Friday 18th October we will be wearing pink to raise awareness for everyone who is affected by breast cancer.

It would be great if your child could come to school on the day dressed in something pink.

Whether that be head to toe in pink or just pink socks!

A payment has been set up on Parentmail for you to make a donation towards this event.



Owl Class WW2 Day Celebrations

A reminder that **Tuesday 22nd October** is WW2 Day in Owl class.

We will be holding a party in the hall from 2.15pm and parents are invited to attend. There will be dancing, games and even a quiz.

Owl class will be showcasing all of their wonderful learning.

There will also be an afternoon tea, including spam sandwiches!

Parents attending are welcome to dress up in 1940's costume.

The children and the staff will be!

We look forward to welcoming you all on the 22nd.

Owl & Mole Class Pink Cake Bake

Owl and Mole classes will be holding a cake bake after school on **Friday 18th October**, on the front playground. Please don't forget your cash and something to carry your cakes home in.

Funds raised will be split between Breast Cancer Now & FODHS.

Thank you for your support.



Dormouse Class in Focus

We have had a fantastic first term in Dormouse Class! Firstly I must say how amazed I am with all of the children. They have settled so well and it's lovely to be welcomed with lots of smiley, happy faces in the morning. We have all made lots of new friends and have been very busy exploring all of our lovely learning opportunities inside and outside of the classroom. We are especially enjoying the paint/craft station, our home corner with a 'grown up' tea set, our outdoor reading shed and the sand and water play. We have also had fun making lots of mess in our mud kitchen this term and are very excited for it to change to our 'Autumn kitchen' this week!

We are on the lookout this term for the following if anyone has any they are getting rid of at home and would be happy to donate (we would be very grateful): Lego and Dolls (similar to a Barbie doll)

Miss Hopes



Non-Uniform Day - Friday 8th November

We are having a non-uniform day on Friday 8th November in exchange for donations of: chocolate, Christmas foods, and wine for our Christmas Hamper Raffle. There will be boxes in each classroom for the donations. Thank you in advance for your ongoing support.



Remembrance Church Service

We will be holding a church service on Thursday 7th November at 9.15am. All are welcome to join us at Christchurch Derry Hill for our school Remembrance Service.



Polite Reminder

The staff car park at the rear of the school is for staff parking only and not to be used by parents for drop off and pick up. Thank you for your co-operation

Raincoats

Now that we are having a lot of wet weather, it would be helpful for the children to have a raincoat in school. Thank you



Thank You

A huge thank you to all involved for supporting Doorway once again this harvest time. The food we receive at harvest time is sorted into date order and tends to keep us in good supply for much of the year to follow. It is given out to guests regularly when they need it, and it also contributes to the hot food we serve in sessions. Food is such a vital part of our service - it's a way of showing care for our guests through difficult times. To be able to source much of this directly from our community means our resources otherwise can stretch that bit further, so we are always extremely grateful for all the generosity shown at this time of year. Thanks again and our best wishes,

All at Doorway

Choir Club

There are still spaces available for choir club on a Monday after school, It runs from 3.15pm until 4pm. Mrs Asfaw would love for you to come along and join in the fun. So if you are in Mole, Hedgehog, Squirrel, Rabbit, Fox or Owl Class please come along and join us.

