

St Denys Primary School

News Flash

Thursday 28th
November 2024



Dear Families,

Welcome to the November newsletter. As always, it has been a busy month at St Denys and we are so proud of all the children have achieved. As you know, we have been focussing on writing across the school as one of our key priorities for the year and we are already seeing the impact of the developments we have made in our writing curriculum and teaching on children's writing, especially their understanding of the purpose of each piece of writing they do. It is wonderful to see the joy and pride our children take in editing and publishing their writing—and thank you for celebrating with them when they showed you this during our Celebrations of Learning over the past couple of weeks. Mr Howard shared some of this progress with Governors at a recent meeting and they were very impressed by the standard of writing they saw from across the school.

Another thing we are really proud of is the community of respect within St Denys School, and the many ways our children demonstrate this every single day. From holding doors open, to saying thank you to others, to noticing when someone is upset and trying to help them, to being inclusive and understanding of others' needs, to raising money for charity, to thinking up ways of making the school better and making them happen, to organising groups and events, to listening carefully to someone performing in assembly, to speaking out when something isn't right, to celebrating each others' successes—our children work hard each and every day to build and contribute to the school and our wider community. It is lovely that visitors to the school also notice and comment upon this: recognition that, as we all know, St Denys' children are very special indeed!

Thank you to so many of you for joining our Celebrations of Learning and for attending Parents' Evening this week. We hope you found these useful and informative. We really value our working relationships with parents and carers and are currently conducting a parent survey. If you haven't yet completed this, you can scan the QR code below to access it or find the link on Class Dojo.



Best wishes

Mr D and Mrs Andrews

COMING UP!

We know December is a very busy time at school! Here's a quick reference guide for you, with important dates coming up in the next few weeks.

Thursday 28th / Friday 29th November—Christmas jumper swap

Friday 29th November—deadline for photo orders

Wednesday 11th December—Year R/1/2 Christmas production (performances at 10am and 2:30pm—1 adult per child, per performance please, due to hall capacity)

Week beginning 16th December—children are welcome to wear Christmas jumpers to school for the last week of term

Tuesday 17th December—Carol Concert @ St Denys Church 1:45pm with refreshments & uniform swap provided by SDSS in the School Hall after the performance

Thursday 19th December—School Christmas lunch and Christmas parties in classes

Friday 20th December—last day of term. Children return to school on Monday 6th January.

SDSS NEWS

SDSS are arranging Christmas Raffles over 3 days at the end of term to help raise more funds for the Theatre Production we have in school every year, the VR experience for all of KS2 children and more playground equipment for the whole school with activities arranged by our year 6 children. Please see attached poster about the Raffle for more details.

If anyone has any gift sets or chocolates that they would like to donate then please arrange for your child to take them into the school reception where Tanya, Chair of SDSS, has arranged for a box to be put for any donations. These will then be used for the prizes for the Raffles.

Our current amount we have raised so far since September is just under £400 of our £2,000 target, which is a great start. Thank you again for all of your support.

SDSS will be providing Tea, Coffee, Hot Chocolate, biscuits and cakes again following our Carol Concert on the 17th December, where donations to our fundraising pot can also be made. There will also be a uniform swap in the hall on this day and the uniform donation boxes will be out the week before for anyone to donate. If anyone is able to help Tim with the uniform swap set up and pack away then please email Tanya (stdenyspta@gmail.com) and she will pass your details onto Tim.

Thank you so much for your support.

Online Safety

As you will be aware, teaching our children about how they can stay safe online is a key part of both our Computing and PSHE curriculums. The internet (accessed on computers but also through the many smart devices available to us now) is a fantastic resource both for learning and fun but it also comes with risks. Here are some simple, effective tips to help keep your child safe online, which reinforce the strategies we teach children at school for staying safe online:

Set Clear Boundaries—Talk with your child about the rules for using the internet. Set limits on screen time and discuss which websites and apps are appropriate for their age. Be aware of age limits on apps and the reasons for these (e.g. 13+ for most social media). Encourage them to ask you before downloading anything new or talking to strangers online.

Encourage Open Communication—Make sure your child knows they can come to you with any concerns about their online experiences. If something makes them feel uncomfortable, they should feel safe telling you about it.

Use Parental Controls—Many devices and apps have parental controls that allow you to monitor your child's activity, block inappropriate content, and limit screen time. Make use of these tools to ensure your child's safety.

Protect Personal Information—Teach your child not to share personal details like their full name, address, phone number, or school name online. Explain the importance of privacy and the potential risks of oversharing.

Stay Involved—Stay informed about the apps and websites your child is using. Explore them together so you can understand how they work and help your child make safe decisions.

You can find out more information and resources to use with your child about online safety at the following links:

[NSPCC Shareaware](#)

[ThinkuKnow](#)

[Childnet](#)

[CEOP](#)

[Parentzone](#)

IMPORTANT DATE REMINDERS

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| LAST DAY FOR PHOTO ORDERS | Friday 29th November |
| YEAR R, 1 & 2 CHRISTMAS PERFORMANCE | Wednesday 11th December (see letter for details) |
| SDSS CHRISTMAS RAFFLES (new raffle each day, tickets available on the day) | Friday 13th, Monday 16th, Tuesday 17th December |
| CHRISTMAS CONCERT | Tuesday 17th December, 1:45 pm |
| SCHOOL CHRISTMAS LUNCH & PARTIES | Thursday 19th December |
| LAST DAY OF AUTUMN 2 TERM | Friday 20th December |
| FIRST DAY OF SPRING TERM | Monday 6th January |
| SWIMMING LESSONS FOR Y4 | Starts Monday 6th January |
| Y3 ART GALLERY TRIP | Wednesday 5th February |
| NSPCC WORKSHOPS (Y6, 5 & 2) | Thursday 13th February |
| LAST DAY OF SPRING 1 TERM | Friday 14th February |
| SPRING HALF TERM | Monday 17th—Friday 21st February |
| SCHOOL CLOSED (INSET DAY) | Monday 24th February |
| FIRST DAY OF SPRING 2 TERM | Tuesday 25th February |
| WORLD BOOK DAY (Wear PJs / comfy clothes) | Thursday 6th March |
| SCHOOL DISCO | Wednesday 12th March |
| Y2 FLORENCE NIGHTINGALE WORKSHOP | Thursday 13th March |
| PARENTS' EVENINGS | Tuesday 25th & Wednesday 26th March |
| M&M THEATRE PRODUCTION | Thursday 3rd April |
| EASTER BONNET PARADE & LAST DAY OF SPRING TERM | Friday 4th April |
| FIRST DAY OF SUMMER TERM | Tuesday 22nd April |
| Y5 BIKEABILITY | Starts Tuesday 6th May |
| Y1 MARWELL TRIP | Wednesday 7th May |
| Y6 SATS WEEK | Monday 12th—Thursday 15th May |
| SUMMER INSTRUMENTAL CONCERT | Tuesday 20th May |
| SUMMER HALF TERM | Monday 26th—Friday 30th May |
| SCHOOL DISCO | Thursday 19th June |
| Y6 FAIRTHORNE RESIDENTIAL | Tuesday 10th—Friday 13th June |
| CLASS PHOTOGRAPHS | Monday 23rd June |
| KS2 VR WORKSHOPS | Friday 27th June |
| SUMMER FAIR | Friday 4th July |
| LAST DAY OF SUMMER TERM | Friday 18th July |
| SCHOOL CLOSED FOR STAFF TRAINING | Monday 24th February, Monday 21st and Tuesday 22nd July. |

GOODBYE AND THANK YOU, MRS HARVEY!

Tomorrow, we say goodbye to Mrs. Harvey, who has worked at St Denys for over 20 years as a lunchtime supervisor. She has kept St Denys children happy and cared for during lunchtimes in the hall and on the playground and we will all miss her a great deal. We would like to say thank you to her for all her hard work and care and look forward to celebrating her together in a special assembly tomorrow.

CHRISTMAS

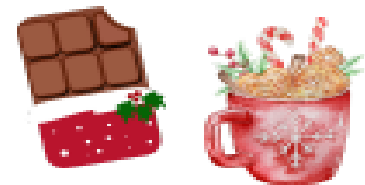

RAFFLE

SDSS will be holding 3 Christmas Raffles this year to help raise money to reach our target for the activities previously mentioned.

1st Prize Food Hamper



Other Prizes chocolates, gifts, and more



Tickets will be on sale in the playground on the mornings and afternoons of Friday 13th December, Monday 16th December and the morning of Tuesday 17th December and after the Carol Concert that day in the main hall at school.

Tickets are £1 a strip.

Cash and Card Payments accepted.

