

## Dunmow St Mary's Primary School

High Stile, Great Dunmow, Essex CM6 1EB  
Telephone 01371 872340  
Facsimile 01371 875144  
E-mail admin@dsmprimary.essex.sch.uk



Friday 11<sup>th</sup> December 2020

Dear Parents

### Learner of the Week

Congratulations to the following children who have received Learner of the Week awards:

6BH	Florence Smith	3SC	Ava Acuta
6LR	Elysia Barno	2TH	Teddie Packer
5NR	Tommy Gilder	2SJ	Klara Baker
5SM	Bella Stanbury	1BI	Zoe Keylock
4LH/NT	Edward Bourke	1RF/GM	Reggie Thorpe
4LW	Harry Lynch-McKibbin	1YP	Ben Saunderson
3RB	Remy Groves		



### Thank you

We were delighted on Wednesday to receive a visit from the Rotary Club of Dunmow. They presented the school with a cheque for £1,000 for some more Chromebooks for the children to use in class. We would like to thank them very much and know the children will all be excited to use these additional Chromebooks in their lessons in the New Year.

### Term Dates

You may have seen in the news that there was a proposal that schools finish a day early and swap a non-pupil day for Friday 18th December.

We have decided not to do this. We already have an inset day on Monday 4th January and to swap these two days around would have caused unnecessary problems for families who may well already have arranged childcare for the holidays.

Our last day of term will be Friday 18th December finishing at the usual time and the first day back for pupils will be Tuesday 5th January.

### **Class Christmas parties**

At the end of next week the children will be having their class Christmas parties which will also double up as the December birthday celebrations (for Year 5 this will be the September to December birthdays).

Year 3 will have their party on Thursday with all other year groups having theirs on Friday afternoon. There is no need for parents to send in food items as the PTA have generously donated money so that teachers will be able to buy food for these.

Please note that on Friday all children are permitted to come in non-uniform. Please bear in mind that they will still be playing outside and running around so sensible shoes must be worn.



### **Award**

We recently told you that the school had been nominated for an award for “going above and beyond by looking after the children of key workers and providing tasks for home schooling during lockdown”. This week the Mayor was very pleased to be able to present Mrs Griffiths with the award.

### **Reverse Advent Calendar**

Thank you to everyone who has sent in donations for the foodbank's Reverse Advent Calendar. We will be taking these to Braintree early next week so the last day for any donations is Monday 14th December (mash potato).

### **Santa Dash**

On Wednesday afternoon every pupil in the school took part in a Santa dash around the school field. All year bubbles had their separate Santa dash race dressed in their Christmas accessories. YR/Y1/Y2 ran 500m, Y3/Y4 ran 1000m and Y5/Y6 ran 1500m. Everybody completed the distances and collected a sticker on the finish line. Well done everyone!

### **School Uniform**

Please be reminded that leather jackets and boots are not school uniform. Children should have a proper winter coat and formal school shoes with them.

### **Gifts for Teachers**

Parents are starting to ask if it is acceptable to bring in things for teachers. Please do not feel under any pressure to do this. However, if you would like to send something in then the children can take them into the classrooms. If this could be before the last day of term then the staff can quarantine them for a while before taking them home.

### **Car engines**

Since the weather has turned colder, we have had several phone calls from residents who have reported cars outside their properties with the engines running for up to half an hour. They have

had concerns about the environment and pollution. Colchester Borough Council have produced the very simple attached infographic, explaining that cars can stay warm by just keeping the ignition on and not the engine, without blowing out any exhaust fumes.



### Holiday Hunger and Physical Activity

As you are aware, the situation around food insecurity is under the spotlight at the moment both in the media and within our communities. Essex County Council is supporting Active Essex in its expansion of their holiday hunger programme. They provide physical activity and a nutritious meal as well as food hampers to take home for the family. If you feel your children would benefit from attending a session you must book a place directly with them. The details are below and places are aimed at children in receipt of free school meals or at risk of food insecurity over the festive season.

West	Area	Provider	Venue	No. places available per day	Dates	Times	Booking is essential, please use booking link or email below:
Thaxted	Stanstead	Essex Boys and Girls Clubs	Thaxted Youth Club	30	21st 22nd 23rd 24th	10 - 2pm	<a href="http://www.essexboysandgirlsclubs.org/christmas-activity-sessions/">http://www.essexboysandgirlsclubs.org/christmas-activity-sessions/</a>
Takeley	Dunmow	Essex Boys and Girls Clubs	Takeley Youth Club	30	21st 22nd 23rd 24th	10 - 2pm	<a href="http://www.essexboysandgirlsclubs.org/christmas-activity-sessions/">http://www.essexboysandgirlsclubs.org/christmas-activity-sessions/</a>
Dunmow	Dunmow	Changing Lives	Foakes Hall Dunmow	30	28th 29th 30th 31st	10 - 2pm	<a href="https://www.changinglivescommunityservices.com/events/christmas-halfterm-programme-dunmow/">https://www.changinglivescommunityservices.com/events/christmas-halfterm-programme-dunmow/</a>

To see the full range of Christmas holiday activities please check our community noticeboard on the website <https://dsmprimary.essex.sch.uk/parents/community-noticeboard/>

### Funeral

A local resident has made us aware that a funeral procession will be passing through High Stile on Monday afternoon and have asked us to advise parents so that the road can be kept as clear as possible. If you are able to walk or park elsewhere they would be very grateful.

### Google Classroom

Over the course of the next week we will be resetting all the children's passwords to the ones you were originally given on the slip your child brought home. If you/your child is unsure as to what the password is, please contact the class teacher via the class email.

## Winter Reading Challenge

Essex libraries are launching their Winter Reading Challenge 2020 on Saturday 5th December. To take part you need to visit your local library and collect one of the exclusive giant bookmarks, which will be stamped with one of their special woodland creature stamps for each book your child reads. The aim is to read six books over the winter period and receive a large golden star to complete the challenge. There is no joining process or forms to complete and families can take part at any point from 5th December 2020 – 27th February 2021. This year's theme is the Animals of Snowy Wood where Connie the fox and her friends will help Fraser the squirrel to get a good night sleep. Watch the start of Fraser's story [here](#).



## shop LOCAL



### Shop Local

A number of the High Street shops are selling their products online this Christmas and will be able to deliver any items purchased to you as well. Please see the link on our community noticeboard for further details.

<https://dsmprimary.essex.sch.uk/parents/community-noticeboard/>

## Events

Please find below the event calendar for next week:

Week commencing Monday 14 <sup>th</sup> December	
MONDAY	Last day for Reverse Advent Calendar donations
THURSDAY	Y3 Class Christmas party (school uniform to be worn)
FRIDAY	Reception, Y1, Y2, Y4, Y5 and Y6 Christmas parties Non-uniform day
FRIDAY	Last day of term – finish at usual time

If you are looking for something to do with the family over the days leading up to Christmas please find attached the Essex Family Support Service bulletin which contains links and ideas for the family.

Yours sincerely  
Clare Griffiths