

Dudley House School

Newsletter – 5th December 2024



Dear Parents,

As we count down to the festive season, the spirit of Christmas is starting to sprinkle its magic over Dudley House School. Amidst the twinkling lights and joyous preparations, we remain focused on the true essence of this season—kindness, gratitude, and community. With a host of activities and events lined up, we're excited to share the warmth and wonder of this special time with our school family.

What's Been Happening

Class 1 and 2 RE Adventures

Class 1 and 2 have been lighting up their lessons with Festivals of Light! They brought the story of Rama and Sita to life, crafted clay diva lamps, and created stunning Rangoli patterns. They have also explored Hanukkah, lit a Menorah and played the dreidel game to gain an understanding of some of the festivals different faiths celebrate. For more delightful details, visit our Facebook or Instagram pages.

Class 3's Nourishing RE

Class 3 explored Bible teachings and learned that each message about God's love is like a nourishing ingredient. As they discovered these messages, they added vegetables to create a delicious soup, symbolising nourishment and friendship with Jesus. The children generously shared the soup they had made with others in the school, so everyone was able to enjoy this heart-warming activity. Follow our social media for more insights.

Class 4 Assembly – 20th November

Class 4 wowed us with a fantastic assembly featuring poetry, music, a historical play, and art, showcasing the incredible learning journey of Year 6. Their play about Hatshepsut, the trailblazing female pharaoh of ancient Egypt, was especially poignant. Did you know Hatshepsut was one of the most successful pharaohs, reigning for over two decades and expanding Egypt's trade networks? What an exciting glimpse into their studies!

Gingerbread Trail – Sunday 1st December

Did you find our Gingerbread sitting in the shop window of Westgate Gallery, when you went on the Gingerbread Trail last Sunday? It looked amazing. Thank you everyone who contributed to the stunning design and providing the residents of Grantham a fun activity to do.

Cheerleading - Thursday 5th December

Despite a few nerves, the children reported that they had had an amazing time at the Cheerleading Festival, learning a variety of stunts and routines, finishing the day with a routine to show off their new-found skills. Well done everybody for developing new skills and working well as a team.

Information

Yellow Lines

We have noticed that parents are once again parking on the yellow zigzag lines at the front of the school and even across the drive. The lines are a safety measure to protect your children and must be kept clear at the start and end of the day, so that children and other road users can see clearly when crossing the road. Please help us keep our school family safe. Do not park on the yellow zigzag lines.

Keeping Your Children Safe with Computer Games

With the festive season fast approaching, many of us are considering gifts for our children, including the latest computer games. It's crucial to remember that not all games are suitable for all ages, and it's important to be informed about the content and features of the games your child wants.

Games like Roblox, which is popular among children, have recently updated their parental controls to enhance safety. However, it's important to note that age ratings for Roblox vary: the platform itself suggests it's suitable for ages 7+, Google Play rates it as 10+, and the Apple App Store recommends it for ages 12+. Moreover, the platform requires parental consent for users under 18. This disparity highlights the need for parents to verify the age appropriateness of any game.

While new parental controls are a step forward, they are effective only if set up correctly with accurate age information. If a game is set up with an incorrect age, your child might still access unsuitable content. Therefore, we urge you to engage in setting up these controls and supervise your child's gaming activities closely. Ignoring age ratings and content warnings can expose children to inappropriate content and interactions with strangers. By being informed and vigilant, you can ensure that gaming is a safe and enjoyable activity for your child.

Resources for Parents

Before purchasing games this Christmas, consider these resources to ensure a safe gaming experience:

- [Internet Matters](#): Offers a comprehensive guide on online gaming, including age ratings, safety tips, and how to set parental controls.
- [UK Safer Internet Centre](#): Provides resources, including a guide on gaming consoles and online games.
- [PEGI](#) (Pan European Game Information): Offers detailed information on age ratings and content descriptors to help make informed decisions.
- [NSPCC](#): Provides guidance on keeping children safe online with gaming safety tips.

We also have a section on our school [website](#) - We hope this guidance helps you make informed choices and ensures a safe gaming environment for your children during the holidays and beyond.

Future Events

Film Night – Thursday 12th December

The School Council have organised a film night from 3:30 to 4:30pm on Thursday 12th December. They have asked children who attend to donate £1.

Swimming

Just a reminder that there will be no swimming on Friday 13th or 20th December. Children should come to school in their normal school uniform on these days.

Carol Singing – Tuesday 17th December

Some of the children will be singing a variety of Christmas songs and carols to our neighbours at Martin Court. They will also be sharing mince pies with them - an act of kindness and love.

Christmas Play Wednesday 18th December

All the children will be taking part in our Christmas play on Wednesday, December 18th, at 6 pm.

All the children should return to school at 5:40pm. Children should not arrive before this time. They should enter through the main front door and go to classroom 1 and 4 to prepare. Parents should enter the building through the church front door and then sit in the church auditorium.

Afterwards, please join us in the school hall for refreshments.

Christmas Party - Thursday 19th December

Our Christmas Party for the children will be on Thursday 19th December. Children can come to school in party / play clothes, but please make sure they have sensible shoes and a warm coat for playing outside.

We will be having a Christmas buffet lunch that day, so children will not need to bring their packed lunch, just their snack and water. We would, however, ask parents to sign up to provide party food items for everyone to enjoy at lunchtime. You will find the list on the school notice board.

We ask that all food provided is vegetarian. If your child has specific dietary requirements (dairy free, gluten free or vegan etc.) we ask that you provide something specific for them to enjoy, if they are unable to eat vegetarian food.

Food will need to be bought to school first thing on Thursday morning and put in the kitchen. If you sign up to provide a pizza or garlic bread etc, then just bring these and we will cook them at school just before lunch.

Last Day of Term – Friday 20th December

School will finish at 12:00 on the last day of term for everyone. There is no Friday Club that day.

We look forward to seeing everyone back in school on Tuesday 7th January 2025.

We wish you all a very Happy Christmas and a wonderful New Year.

Jenny Johnson (Headteacher)

DATES FOR YOUR DIARY

Thursday 12 th December	- Film Night 3:30 to 5:30
Friday 13 th and 20 th December	- No Swimming
Wednesday 18 th December – 6pm	- School Christmas Extravaganza
Thursday 19 th December	- School Christmas Party
Friday 20 th December	- End of Term – School finishes 12:00
Monday 6 th January 2025	- Staff Training Day
Tuesday 7 th January 2025	- School reopens for Spring Term