

Autumn Term End - Newsletter

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3. Wellbeing Watch
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Welcome to another half-termly newsletter.

It's been such a busy half-term, as we always tend to find at Christmas, and towards the end of the year.

In school over the last few weeks, we've had Xmas Fairs (a Winter Spectacular of an event...and someone's getting a VERY nice DeWalt Drill set under the tree this year!); Nativities (The Guardian have yet to go to print, but they have assured me that 'Cutest Nativity' award, and 'Confidentist Cast' award are ours for the taking); History workshops; Puppet-making; visits from Norwegian teaching universities; visits from education inspectorates; royals flying by in Bentley's, and then all of the day-to-day excitement and engagement that we used to being 'just what we do here' at Dringhouses Primary.

I know that the entire team here are ready for a break, as I'm sure you are too. I'd like to take this opportunity to thank everyone in the community for the support that you've offered both me personally, and the school over the last half-term.

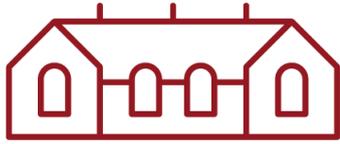
The staff have really been the exceptional group of wonderful people that we know them to be; the governors are committed, engaged and involved -and looking to expand! - and have the children's best interests at the heart of their work here; and yourselves in and out of school couldn't have been more supportive. I appreciate you all, and wish you a restful and relaxing time over the break ahead.

We'll see you, batteries recharged, in the Spring, where the promise of lighter mornings is ahead of us.

Keep safe, and we'll see you back in 2023.

Ben Sutton | **Headteacher**





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FODS (PTA update)

This Christmas season saw a few FODS (your PTA!) events, made successful with the help of many parent volunteers and staff volunteers.

Let's have a recap!

Christmas Fair

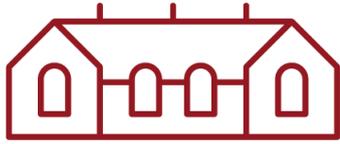


On the 3rd Dec, we had a Christmas Fair, lovingly and expertly organised by Rachel Stevens and her Christmas Fair sub-committee, who not only put on a wonderful fair that brought the whole Dringhouses community together, but also featured the most magical Santa's Grotto ever seen in a primary school! The Grotto sub team, comprised of Natasha Limbert, Suzanne Barber and Laura Bhalla deserves a huge huge thank you from all of us for all the time and hard work that they've invested in this grotto!



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Also a huge thank you to Will Hayler for sourcing and cooking the hot food, Carissa Davies for providing beautiful Christmas cakes, and the refreshments team for warming us up in the cold weather, and to the tireless volunteers, many of whom worked for hours straight on that Saturday. And last but not least, to everyone who donated Tombola prizes and who came and made the fair a real success!

And another thank you to our treasurer Jen Goforth for making sure every stall had a float and for balancing our accounts for the Christmas Fair so swiftly.

The figures for the Christmas Fair are as follows:

Total income - £2773.69

Total expenditure - £1426.50

Total profit - £1347.19

Secret Shopping



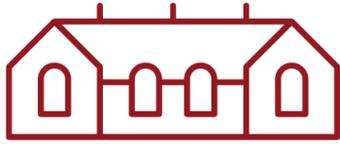
On the 8th Dec, the Secret Shopping team, headed by Sally Evans, set up their 'shop' in record time and helped the children choose and wrap over 500 presents for their loved ones. The Secret Shopping sub-committee have been shopping for 6 months (Yes! They started shopping in June!) to try and ensure there was enough variety to cater to the parents, grandparents, teenage siblings, primary-school-going siblings and pre-school siblings that our Dringhouses children were getting presents for.

Some of our volunteer shoppers were not able to attend the event on the day, and other volunteer parents stepped in to help the children with their choosing and wrapping. Every volunteer commented on how wonderful it was to see the joy on the children's faces as they picked out presents for their loved ones.



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For those families who 'commissioned' their children to get gifts at Secret Shopping, were your children able to keep the gifts they chose a secret? Are the gifts under your tree or have they already been unwrapped?

The huge thank you to Sally for project managing this and keeping such a clear head during the event, and for always keeping a constant and keen overview of that complex Secret Shopping spreadsheet over the last few months.

The figures for Secret Shopping are as follows:

Total income £2241.99

Total expenditure £1472.97

Profit £769.02

December performances

As per tradition, FODS was providing the refreshments – hot drinks, mince pies and biscuits for all the nativity performances, Christingle and the Rock Steady concert this December.

Thank you to all those who came to volunteer at the stand.

And thank you to all those who donated into our FODS jar.

Upcoming events

11 January FODS meeting (7.30pm)

19 January Games Night!

23 February Early Years and KS1 Party

Where are our funds going to?

Here are some of the things that we recently agreed to sponsoring:

- £1000 on new library books in Sept
- Two new large rugs for the reception children to sit on in class, as well as £100 per classroom to spend on materials and resources they need
- Three new glue guns for design tech classes
- Supplies for the lunchtime club
- Christmas hats for all the children to wear during their Christmas dinner
- £360 needed to take Key Stage 1 children on a Mosque visit in January.
- £4750 for the OPAL play scheme that will commence shortly in 2023.

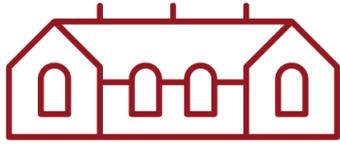
As you can see, all the funds we raise go back to supporting the education and wellbeing of our children.

So if you do your Christmas shopping on Amazon this year, remember to use smile.amazon.co.uk and select Friends of Dringhouses as your chosen charity! Amazon will donate 0.5% of your purchases to your PTA, at no extra cost to you!!!



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Thank you once again for the support you all give – whether it's your time, your effort, or your donations!

And thank you for being part of our Dringhouses School community!

More than the funds we raise, we are here to foster a sense of community amongst parents and carers, and to help create great memories for our children!

Happy Christmas and may your 2023 be awesome!!!

We hope to see you at our next FODS meeting on the 11th January!

With love and Christmas cheer,

Chia Suan Chong and your FODS committee – Jen Goforth, Jenny Bonfield, Lizi Backhouse, Kate Newman and Rachel Stevens

WELLBEING WATCH

Thank you to all of you who filled in the wellbeing questionnaire at the end of the Summer term - this was so useful.

As a result, we are pleased to tell you that we now have a dedicated space on the school website for health and wellbeing.

<https://dringhousesprimary.org/health/>

So far it includes:

- Top tips to assist parent and staff wellbeing
- Signposting to additional support locally and nationally
- Useful websites, videos and articles

We will be adding an overview of what goes on in school to support your children including information on the zones of Regulation and the role of the ELSA and book recommendations in the near future.



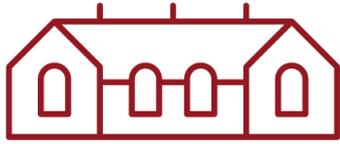
If there is anything else you would like to see in this section, or there is anything you would like to discuss about mental health and well being in general, please contact Mrs Smith (our wellbeing lead) by email - csmith@dringhouses.co.uk or pop in to see her in class 10 after school on a Thursday or Friday afternoon.

Many Thanks



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DATES:

Tuesday 3rd January - INSET Day

Wednesday 4th January - School Opens

Monday 16th January - Phonics information session for Y1 parents at 9am

Monday 16th January - KS1 SATS information session for Y2 parents, 6-7pm.

Tuesday 17th January - Pizza and film night

Thursday 19th January- FODS Games Night

Friday 3rd February - NSPCC Number day- children will be invited to attend school wearing an item with a number on it, or that is number themed.

Friday 10th February - Break up for half term

Monday 20th February - School Opens

Thursday 30th March - School Break up for Easter

Friday 31st March - INSET Day



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