



Wishing you all a very happy Christmas

Thank you very much for supporting your child and school events throughout the year, but particularly in the last couple of weeks. We have had a succession of beautiful Christmas concerts/performance and have been thrilled to see so many family members in the audience supporting these. We are very proud of the way that the children have involved themselves in these special occasions—there is a lot of confidence and talent!

In the Year 1 and 2 concert, we held a collection for Willen Hospice and raised a staggering £344. The Year 3 and 4 children invited donations to Towcester Food Bank and again, the response was amazing. Three overflowing crates of food and household items were sent totalling 81.2kg! Yesterday the Year 5 and 6 children held a collection in church and raised a total of £289—this will be divided between Holy Trinity and Children with Cancer UK. In addition to these collections, we asked even more from you by supporting an appeal to send in items to help the homeless. Once again, your kindness and generosity has been overwhelming. Thank you very much.

From all of us here at DPS, we wish you a very happy and peaceful Christmas. Have some great family time ready to return fully recharged on Tuesday 7th January.

Happy Christmas and all the very best for a healthy, happy and successful 2020!

Leaving Staff

Today we are saying goodbye to two very special and valued members of staff.

Mrs Gemma Hart, a very talented LSA in Foundation Stage, is starting her maternity leave today and doesn't have very long to wait for the special day! Our love and very best wishes extend to Gemma and her husband, James, for this next exciting chapter. We'll bring you baby updates in the new year.

We are delighted that Mrs Rebecca True will be covering the maternity leave in FS; Rebecca is extremely experienced and we are excited about the strengths that she will bring to the team.

We are also saying goodbye to Mrs Lizzie Krelle today. Lizzie has supported multiple age groups since she joined us in September 2015 and has most recently been providing leadership release time in FS and Year 6. We wish Lizzie all the very best in her next ventures and can't thank her enough for everything she has brought to our school.

All of the staff at DPS are strong and dedicated and I would like to take this opportunity to thank them also for their ongoing hard work to provide strong and creative learning opportunities. As a team we are committed to ongoing improvements in all areas to enrich learning further.

If you haven't already signed up for Easy Fundraising, please have a look. As you shop on line, the school receives a small % of the cost, This is always a bonus! [easyfundraising.org.uk](https://www.easyfundraising.org.uk) website

There are lots of very special events being hosted at Holy Trinity church over the Christmas break including a pantivity on The Green tomorrow!

Reading Challenge Launch Last Friday we launched our new reading challenge for children in Years 2 to 6. We hope that this challenge will encourage and motivate your child to read for enjoyment! We are trying to achieve as many 'Word Millionaires' and/or 'Word Multi-Millionaires' as possible by the end of the school year. When your child has read a book in Accelerated Reader, they take a test to show their understanding of the book and accumulate words when they have passed a test successfully. Accelerated Reader automatically totals the word count.

We already have one successful 'Word Millionaire' - Milo Marks-Eden in Year 5 Beijing Class. As he was the first recipient of this award, Accelerated Reader kindly donated a £10 book voucher for Milo in recognition of his positive learning attitude and achievement. Milo also received a bronze award badge.

When a child becomes a 'Word Millionaire', they will receive a bronze award badge. If they become a 'Word Multi-Millionaire' they will receive a silver award badge and if they read five million words they will receive a gold award badge. Go to the Twitter feed at: <https://twitter.com/AccReader> to read more about Accelerated Reader.

Reading over the break—Please, please encourage your child to read over the Christmas break.

Science / Invention Convention

Traditionally we run an Invention Convention at the beginning of January and allow the children time to plan an invention as an optional holiday activity. This year, it is going to look a little different.

We would like the children (with their adults at home if they'd like) to design an outdoor learning environment that focuses on science and will allow us to work scientifically through observation, investigation and fair testing. We would like to develop the area between the Wrap Club mobile classroom and Forest School and encourage the children to plan out this area on paper as a plan or even build a 3D model from plasticine, boxes, match sticks... Please try to be eco-friendly with the design and the model/plan. The area will actually be developed in the near future incorporating the winner's ideas - ideally this new area will be used as an outdoor science classroom so that the children can get as much out of this area and their science learning as possible.

We have approximately £250 pounds available to bring the winning designs to life, the area is also about 40 square metres; please bear this in mind when costing your design. We hope to use as many old table-tops, pallets, plant pots and any other reusable items within the school grounds as being eco-friendly is very important. These supplies will not need to be included within the budget. Please don't get too conscious of the budget as this is just a guide because we would like your creativity to shine in this task.

To get you started we've thought of a few scientific activities this new classroom could be used for:

Planting seeds and observing them through their growth; Forces e.g. friction, gravity and buoyancy
Investigating different materials; Rocks - how they form, where they are found and fossils plus minibeasts
We'd really love for you to think outside the box and come up with your own ideas for example if you feel that Forest School already has some amazing ideas for minibeasts then you may want to consider how that could be different in this new area.

All ideas must be ready for presentation on the 9th January in the same style as the Invention Convention of previous years. Parents will be invited to come in and share in the children's creative ideas. This is optional and open to all year groups from FS to Y6. Judging will be conducted by Professor Rice, Professor Whitaker and an actual scientist TBC!

Governor Corner Governors have been present at Christmas events both in school and at the local church where children gave a concert to parents and OAPs. A big thank you to staff and pupils for their hard work in putting together these varied events

School put on a Christmas lunch which I attended for over 40 plus Senior citizens, thanks goes to Fresh Start for a lovely meal. We were then entertained by Foundation stage and years 1 and 2 children.

I have supported the Head at a meeting with County in Northampton and yesterday governors joined staff for a pot luck lunch.

Finally, can I take this opportunity to thank staff, pupils and governors for their hard work this term, and to wish all of you a Very Merry Christmas and a Happy New Year.

David Aaronson

Chair of Governors@deanshanger.northants.sch.uk

I would like to take this opportunity to thank all of our governors for providing a strong and much valued level of support and challenge to the staff, children and parents. Your voluntary role is not an easy one, thank you.

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The Green

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