



# Downham Church of England Voluntary Controlled Primary School

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Headteachers: Mrs H. Craig B.Ed. (Hons). N.P.Q.H. Mrs S. Wilson B.Ed. (Hons). N.P.Q.H.

Friday 9<sup>th</sup> December

## Life in School this week



Yesterday was very much enjoyed by the children who had a fun-packed day of events. The pantomime at the Civic Theatre was extremely good. As a school we took over more than half of the theatre. In the afternoon our school bazaar was great fun. All the children had an opportunity to visit the stalls, buy gifts and take part in games and activities whilst raising money for the school. A huge thank you to all PTA members and helpers for giving up all day to prepare for this and man stalls. It is greatly appreciated. We would also like to say a very big thank you to our year 6 children who looked after the reception children at the pantomime and bazaar with care, consideration and kindness.

## Attendance

We would like to congratulate parents on our fantastic attendance figure this term of 97.3%. This recognises how seriously you take attendance and puts us in the "good" category for OFSTED. Children with 100% attendance this term will receive a certificate during the first week of January. Can we take this opportunity to remind you that taking holiday during the school term is detrimental to your child's education. Holiday requests are not authorised during school assessment periods.

If your child is missing school, do you know how much learning he or she will miss out on?

85% attendance = 5 weeks and 3 days of learning lost

80% attendance = 7 weeks and 3 days of learning lost

75% attendance = 9 weeks and one day of learning lost\*

\* These figures are provided by the Education Welfare Service.

Register review take place every term and if your child's attendance is below 90% you will be informed in writing.

## School Performances and Carol services

Our Foundation Stage / Key Stage 1 Nativity services have, as always, been very well supported by parents and enjoyed by the children. As a church school we value the importance of retelling the Christmas story. Key stage 2 performances take place next Wednesday and Thursday. We still have 2 carol services to which you are welcome to attend. These will take place in St Margaret's Church on Monday 12<sup>th</sup> and Tues 13<sup>th</sup> December at 6pm and will be led by our year 6 children. We would like to take this opportunity to thank parents for all the kind comments following our performances. Staff work particularly hard at this time of year and we would like to thank them also for the additional time they put in for the benefit of the children.

### Homework

All children have homework set for the coming week however there will be no homework set for over the Christmas holidays.

### International Carol Service

South Green Fellowship would like to invite all families to an international carol service on Sunday 18<sup>th</sup> December at 4pm at South Green School, Hickstars Lane, Billericay. Refreshments will be available. Please bring along some traditional festive food from your country to share. A great opportunity for the children to learn more about our international neighbours.

### Holiday Club

Holiday Bible Club presents "Getting ready for Christmas" for 5 to 11 year olds on Saturday 10<sup>th</sup> December between 10.30am and 12.15pm at Billericay Baptist Church. This will include games, singing, stories, fun and craft. For more details contact 01277 654316 or go to their website at [www.billericaybaptist.net](http://www.billericaybaptist.net).

### Ramsden Pre-School

The Christmas Fayre is taking place on Sunday 11<sup>th</sup> December from 10.30am to 1.30pm. Lots of fun, stalls and see Santa!

### Congratulations

We are delighted to announce that Mrs Selfe is expecting her first baby in May 2012. We wish her a happy and healthy pregnancy.

### Green book entries

Staff send children to us if a child has produced an especially good piece of work, tried very hard or shown very good behaviour. They receive a Headteacher sticker and they write their name into the 'Green Book'. This week the entries are:

- Alena Panaghiston for completing all the questions on the grid method of multiplication correctly.
- Charlotte Lycett for putting lots of time and detail into her homework

### Out of School Successes:

Please continue to inform the school if your child achieves an out of school success. We would love to celebrate their achievements with them. We share out of school successes in our whole school assembly on Monday. Congratulations this week goes to:

- Lizzy Slyvester for player of the match and trainer of the match at her football game this week.
- Maddison Merritt for coming first when representing the school in a Trampoline competition.
- Alfie Blewitt for his trophy for goal keeping.
- Mazie Blewitt for achieving her 200 metre swimming award.
- Isabelle Beadle for achieving her grade 1 ice skating award.
- Jake Panaghiston, Peter Roberts, Michael Roberts and George Applewhite for their performance in the Wizard of Oz at the village hall.
- Georgia Pease for her award for best player violin performance over 8 shows.
- Matthew Clow for his contribution to his team's rugby win at the weekend
- Ben Paradise for his performance at a recent swimming gala.
- Katie Barrett for achieving level 3 in her dancing exam.
- Kristina Marsello for achieving level 5 in her ice skating exams.
- Peter Cronin for 'man of the match' for his performance at the weekend.
- Rachel Green for her level 4 swimming award.
- Antonia Bull for her backhand in her tennis lessons.

Star Of The Week

<b>Headteacher 3Cs Award</b> Bryce Cook for exceptional kindness to others at the pantomime and bazaar	<b>JA</b> Alfie Hills	<b>KN</b> Callum Sonnett	<b>MM</b> Paynton Highfield	<b>LB</b> Holly Scott-Evans
<b>CW</b> Charlie Cole	<b>ES</b> Evi Elsmore	<b>GE</b> Brayden Redgrave	<b>VB</b> Ella henton	<b>RP</b> Courtney Hilden

Letter emailed this week:

Class CW carol singing at the Nag's Head.

Yours sincerely,

*Helen Craig / Sue Wilson*