

Danbury Park Community Primary School

Be wise, be happy, belong!

Newsletter



Website: www.danburypark.essex.sch.uk

13th November 2020

Dear Parents,

Reading Awards

Congratulations to the following children who have passed their reading awards:

Annie R – Emerald Darcie R – Ruby Luca S - Ruby Dexter B – Topaz Joe F – Topaz Tom B - Diamond

Certificates will be presented in class toward the end of the term

Remembrance



This year we were unable to join with the Year 6 children from St John's School and Heathcote for our traditional service for remembrance so we gathered on the school playground on Thursday 11th November at 11.00am. The children from Classes A and B read poems and prayers and we held our two minutes' silence. Afterwards Mrs Gooding went to the memorial and laid a wreath on behalf of everyone at Danbury Park School.

In Flanders Field

The poppies grow
Bright red flames,
For all the soldiers we used to know.

Supporting their country,
Defeating the enemy,
Giving all they had,
To mark their territory.

Sacrifices were made,
Bravery swirled.
They left their beloved,
But this was all to save the world.

Serena D

The Poppy

I stood watching the battle unfold
As red as the blood soaked ground.
I saw soldiers charging young and old
Falling to the bomb's deafening sound.

The war passed by in a dreadful blur
The soldiers battled on.
But then came peace, things as they were
Sorrow dead and gone.

As the sun rose over Flander's Field
My family thrived once more.
Peace reigned down and the damage was healed
Poppies littered the floor.

Ava B

Class News

Class Eider

In Class Eider, we have been busy learning about how computers follow the instructions we give them, and how the algorithms we create must be exact, otherwise the computer will do something completely different!

We started the half term by taking it in turns to pretend to be a human crane, where we could only pick up and move objects if we were given the correct instructions. We have learnt clapping patterns and finger-tutting dances by breaking the routines into smaller steps, which is called decomposition. Soon, we will be looking at how to fix mistakes in algorithms by working together to test algorithms and rewrite them if needed, which is called debugging.

This is just some of the learning we have done in our computing lessons – we have also been busy honing our skills on the laptops as well!



Class Jay

This week in Class Jay, we have been learning all about Remembrance Day and the festival of Diwali.

On Tuesday, Mrs Thakkar spoke to us about Diwali. The children enjoyed hearing the story of Rama and Sita and why Diwali is a celebration. Mrs Thakkar described how her family normally celebrate with food, candles and Rangoli patterns. The children then made their own Rangoli patterns using coloured sand. We would like to wish Mrs Thakkar, her family and anyone else celebrating Diwali on Saturday (in a very different way this year) a Happy Diwali.



On Wednesday, we learnt about Remembrance Day, we had our 2-minute silence, created Poppy pictures by finger painting and went on a Remembrance Day scavenger hunt outside.

Sustainability

Last week a photographer came from Essex County Council to take some photos of our school and Danbury Outdoors to publicise our new solar panels. We were joined by Luciana de Almeida, ECC Commercial and Project Development Officer who was instrumental in instigating and managing the project and Paul Fullbrook, Technical Energy Solutions Manager, Mitie Energy, who oversaw the installation.

Our school will be a beacon for others to learn from and this is all thanks to the children who last year kept reminding us adults about our responsibility to look after our planet and find more eco-friendly and sustainable ways of living.



Danbury Park School now has 48kWp of solar generation capacity in our roofs while Danbury Outdoor Centre has 23kWp of solar generation. Electricity produced by the solar systems in the two sites is equivalent to the same amount of electricity needed to supply 22 average homes. Apart from energy savings, the installations will also deliver 15 tonnes of carbon reductions in the first year and over 375 tonnes of carbon reduction over the lifetime of the systems installed.

The solar panels were delivered by Essex County Council's Environment & Climate Action team as part of a project called "Empower" - Enabling **M**ore **P**eople's **O**wnership in **E**nergy **t**Ransition, funded by the European Commission (Interreg North Sea Region Programme). ECC is now also planning another solar installation in Danbury at St John's Primary School.

All the installations in Danbury are part of ECC's commitment in taking action on Climate Change. The Council is also keen to help the local community to develop more community-led renewable energy. Local residents were invited to take part in an online event on 12th November to find out more about support available for community groups in Essex to take action on Climate Change.

Project technical details

Danbury Park Community Primary School

Size - 48.32kWp

Electricity annual yield - 42,647 kWh

Number of panels - 151 over 2 roofs

Carbon savings - 9.9 tonnes of CO₂e per year

Thank you to Joe F who brought into school a copy of his dad's *cabe buildingengineer* magazine which has a three page article on the work the school is doing and particularly our award winning project with Mr Gary Hicks on reducing our electricity usage. We will share more information about this with you shortly.

The article can be found online at:

https://issuu.com/redactive/docs/cabe_novdec2020_fullcroppedlr/32

Christmas Plans



We are busy putting together plans for December so that the children can enjoy as much of a traditional Christmas in school as possible. As you can imagine, each activity is having to be carefully thought through so that it is as “COVID secure” as possible. These will include:

- 🎄 **Christmas Dinner** – Mrs Hind and her team will be preparing their delicious Christmas dinner, which we will enjoy within our bubbles. We will be making hats in class and we are inviting the children to wear a Christmas jumper for the day.
- 🎄 **Christmas Celebration** - In place of our large scale infant and junior Christmas plays, each class is working on a presentation combining music, dance and drama. We have booked Keith Bonsor to film the celebrations as he has done in the past and he will produce one DVD for parents to purchase so that families can enjoy the children’s work. In this way the children will also be able to watch their friends in other classes.
- 🎄 **Mobile Making** – as we cannot have the usual army of volunteers helping with sewing and design and technology, we are combining our Enterprise project with the making of class mobiles. The children will be making a special ornament to hang on the mobile which we will then sell to parents to raise funds for each class.
- 🎄 **Christmas Pantomime** – we have already booked a virtual pantomime which every class will watch in the last week of term.
- 🎄 **Christmas Parties** – we will hold some fun activities in our classes on the last day of term.
- 🎄 **DPSA** – sadly we cannot hold our Christmas Fayre but the DPSA are getting creative with alternative ideas to raise fund including the traditional raffle.

More details will follow nearer the time and of course these activities may have to be adapted in the light of COVID-19 and the situation at the time. However we are determined that Christmas will go ahead at Danbury Park School!

Supporting our Community

Social Care Christmas Toy Appeal

Every year we hold a toy collection in aid of Essex Children’s Social Care Services and we will be supporting them again this year. This is going to be a challenging year for many families and we would like to bring some happiness into the lives of those children less fortunate.

Families are invited to send in a new or very nearly new toy, game, puzzle etc. wrapped in Christmas paper to put under the tree in the hall. Please leave one end of the donation open and label it clearly “boy aged 5 – 7” as appropriate, so a 10 year old does not get a baby’s rattle! Each year school raises a tremendous number of presents for Social Services, which teaches our children the real meaning of Christmas is giving.

Donations may be brought into school from Monday 23rd November. The collection of presents will be on Friday 4th December so gifts must be left by the end of school on **Wednesday 2nd December**. Thank you.

Danbury Medical Centre

We want to support our local community and the Danbury Medical Centre has asked if the children could draw some bright and cheerful Christmas themed pictures for them to display in the windows over the festive period.

We thought that this would be something the children would enjoy doing at home. We will collect the pictures in school and pass them on to the Centre. We ask that the children write their *first name only* and *Danbury Park School* on the front so that the children can easily identify their contribution when it is displayed. The last day for sending in pictures is **Monday 7th December**.

Safeguarding "AMONG US"

Over the past week the 2 Johns have received numerous messages concerning the massively popular game 'Among Us' and they issued this advice on their facebook page:

"It has become clear to us that many young users of this game are seeing explicit chat and more worryingly are joining strangers on third party apps like, Discord, WhatsApp and FaceTime so as the game becomes easier to play. The use of third party apps is one of the biggest issues we are up against at the moment and this particular game heavily embraces this trend.

'Among us' is a strategy game that can be downloaded onto any computer and can also be played on a mobile device. Players take on a role either as a 'crew mate' or an 'imposter'. Imposters walk around the game essentially trying to kill the other characters and sabotage missions. The idea is to work out who the bad guys are. So that Crew members can discuss who may be the imposter they typically add each other on third party apps and talk about the suspects.

In the game, at the outset, you are given three different ways of playing. You can Host a game whereby you select the players you want to play with, you can set up a 'private' game whereby you could play with friends who you have given a 'room code' or you can play in the public game where you play with random people from around the world. The game must be played as a multi player game and as such advising your children to play it without communicating in some way is not possible. Children are agreeing to play without communication but then will do this behind their parents back.

In its current form the game is unmoderated and as such if a child plays with strangers they will experience bad language and from reports we have been receiving on a daily basis they will sometimes be asked sexual questions. They are also likely to experience racist, sexist and homophobic language. We think you can add a filter but it seems that people get around this by changing the style of chat using numbers and symbols etc

The speed at which this game is growing has surprised the developers and in the future (2021) they will release a second version of the game that may be safer. In our opinion, if your child is 14 years old then they will probably be able to handle the issues that arise but once you go younger than this, in particular where children are in Primary School it's hard to see how they can play this safely unless an adult is actively involved with them.

It's our view that the safest method of play is by selecting the 'Private' game option and then making sure that the only people with the room code are the child's actual real life friends

We would advise against downloading this app and then letting a Primary Age child 'get on with it' because you need to play with several people at once the temptation is huge to join the public game. If the child meets a bad person in the public game it is highly likely that person will then invite them to a private or hosted game.

The game itself is really good and will appeal to thousands of children. It is possible that children are playing this and the parents haven't realised it is an unmoderated mass multi player game.

We are by no means experts on this and have only spent a limited amount of time playing the game. It may be that some parents out there who are playing the game have advice that may be good to add to the comments for this post.

The reports we have received mainly concern children being asked sexual questions. As we have said, our biggest worry is that the children have made friends within this game and now have an online friendship being developed over Discord, WhatsApp or FaceTime.

This is the link to the 2 Johns' website which is well worth a read:

<https://esafetytraining.org/resources/parents-carers-area/>

Let's work together to keep the children safe!

Governor Survey

Every Autumn Term our governors conduct a survey of parents to research how well you feel your child has settled into school. This is even more important given that we had the enforced closure for the summer term and that life is not normal. This year we are holding an online survey and the link can be found below:

<https://www.surveymonkey.co.uk/r/BSRRBHS>

Please take some time to complete it as your views are important to us and help make Danbury Park the best school it can be. If you would prefer a paper copy of the survey, please contact the school office.

Governor News

The nomination for the parent governor vacancy closed before the half-term break and I am pleased to announce that we have 5 candidates. We are impressed with the number of parents interested in supporting the school in this way and it is a very rewarding and interesting role.

Your child should have brought home last week two ballot papers – one for each parent regardless of how many children you have attending the school. Please follow the instructions in the letter and send the sealed envelopes in with your child.

Please remember that the ballot closes at **3.30pm Friday 20th November**.

Flu Vaccination Thursday 19th November

An email was sent recently with all the details of this year's flu vaccination which is being offered in school to your child. This year the consent forms are all being completed electronically and submitted directly to the NHS Essex Partnership University Foundation Trust who organise the vaccinations. There is a link within the email to enable you to complete the form. Please note that our school code is **114992**. There is also a link to a leaflet to explain the vaccination programme. If you need a paper form please contact them directly on 01376 302769 or ask in the school office. Please complete the consent forms as soon as possible. Thanks.

Contacting Teachers

These are challenging times at the moment and whilst we are working hard to maintain contact with parents, we are having to limit the face-to-face contact we can have with parents in order to keep us all as safe as possible.

If you wish to contact your child's class teacher please either send an e-mail to the class e-mail address (e.g. classg@danburypark.essex.sch.uk) or telephone the school office.

Please remember that in primary schools teachers are in class with the children all day except for their brief weekly allocated Planning, Preparation and Assessment time. They will phone you when they are able to do so but this is likely to be at the end of the working day. Urgent messages can be left with Mrs Brooke, Mrs Packham and Mrs Warner in the office.

Please note that the teachers respond to e-mails during the normal working day which is Monday to Friday from 8.30am to 5.30pm.

Admissions to Primary Schools for 2021-22

Essex County Council have asked us to remind parents that the application process for places for children due to start school in September 2021 is now open. All parents need to apply for a place including those with older children already in primary school. Details are available on:

<https://www.essex.gov.uk/topic/admissions>

The closing date is **15th January 2021**.

Notification and Reminders

Memory Sticks – Please remember that all Power Points for Let's Present should be e-mailed to the class e-mail address in time for the child's allocated Wednesday presentation slot, ideally by Monday evening. We are sorry but we cannot accept work on memory sticks as it is vital that we maintain the integrity of our systems and that they are not corrupted by possible viruses.

Track Suits for PE – We do outdoor PE all year round and with the weather turning colder, all children need a track suit in school for their outdoor PE lessons. This should be navy blue. For girls who wear tights, they also need a pair of socks to wear to prevent their trainers rubbing their feet. It is unhygienic, particularly for the older children to wear their normal school jumper or coat for physical exercise as they do get hot and sweaty!

Green Wool – Mrs McIntosh and Mrs Buer in Class Flamingo are asking for donations of any green wool that you may have spare for a class project. This can be left at the school office.

Free School Meals – Due to Covid-19 we understand that your circumstances may have changed or may change in the near future and you may now be eligible for free school meals. To check eligibility please contact Essex County Council on 0345 603 2200 or for more information and online application go to <https://www.gov.uk/apply-free-school-meals>

Nut allergies – Please do not include nuts of any kind including peanut butter in your child's lunch box due to the risk of severe allergic reactions. Thank you.

Danbury Food Bank - The Danbury Food Bank organised by the Danbury Coronavirus Volunteer group is continuing to operate and is available to anyone who is currently struggling and families do not need any "official" referral. Donations have generously been made by local residents and businesses. Anyone can use this facility and it will be in the strictest confidence. Just phone the Danbury Coronavirus Volunteer Helpline, who will pass on details to the Food Bank on 07395 904761 or 07752 261274.

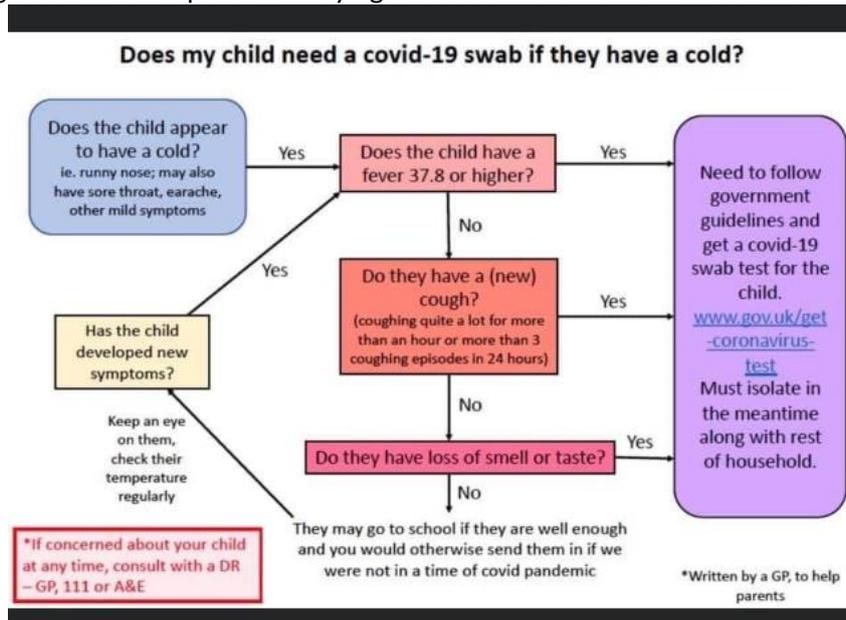
School Lunches - Costs for Autumn Term 2020

2nd Half Term 2 November – 18 December 2019 = 35 days at £2.25 = £78.75

Please send monies in with your child via the book bags in a named envelope making cheques payable to Essex County Council. **We would encourage parents to pay in advance for meals and if possible for the whole half-term.** You will only pay for those meals that your child has and any credits will be carried forward to the next term. Please remember school dinners cost £2.25 per day from September 2020. Thank you. Please note Key Stage 1 and EYFS are still entitled to Universal Free School Meals.

COVID-19 Support

We thought this might be useful to parents in trying to decide if their child needs a test.



Pumpkin Competition



Well done to the winners of the DPSA Pumpkin Competition who each received a bumper gift prize. There were many great entries and we raised £200!

Class A- Ben B Class B- Olivia H Class C- Fern D Class D- Tom B Class E- Olivia C
Class F- Zac T Class G- Ella R Class H- Lilly W Class J- Freya B

Children in Need



Our bright jumper day has raised a massive £426.32. Thank you for your support.



DPSA News



Childrens' Pumpkin Carving Competition



Thank you to all the children who entered the pumpkin carving competition. There were over 70 entries with some fantastic carved pumpkins making it very difficult to choose the best in each class. Eventually 9 were chosen so congratulations to the lucky winners. Thank you for all your support which has made an amazing **£200** for school funds.

Christmas Raffle



The DPSA has got together some fantastic prizes for the grand Christmas raffle this year. As there will be no Christmas Fayre the tickets will be sold via book bags and Mrs Gooding will draw the raffle at school. Raffle tickets have been sent home in book bags this week. Please do sell as many as you can to family, friends and neighbours. If you need extra tickets please contact your Class Rep who will pass the message on. The more you sell the more money we can raise. The prizes so far are:-

£100 cash

donated by ejcoombs solicitors

£50 cash

donated by Multibeton underfloor heating

5kg Kellybronze turkey

donated by Kellybronze

Marks and Spencer's Food Hamper

donated by HCL Tree Management

Christmas Floral Decoration

donated by Natalie Westhorp

£30 voucher for Lot 33 Pizza deliver

donated by Lot 33 Pizza Delivery, Danbury

Beer Carry-keg + 4 pints of draught beer

donated by The Bell, Danbury

Coffee and cake voucher

donated by The Bell, Danbury

Bottle of Gin +gin glasses

donated by Martin and Co. Estate Agent, Danbury

Family of 4 Meal voucher for Five Guys Restaurant x 2

donated by Fiveguys

£20 fish +chips voucher

donated by Robinson's Fish and Chips, Moulsham Street

Cream tea for 2 voucher

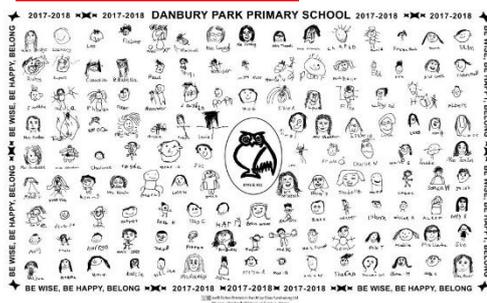
donated by Tea on the Green, Danbury

Stikins name labels – voucher for a free pack of name labels x 3



If you own, or have connections to, a business and would like to donate a prize please do let your class rep know who can pass the information on to The DPSA. All prizes will be listed in the school newsletter.

School Tea-towels



In October the children and teachers produced some fabulous self-portraits to put on to two unique school tea-towels. There are two designs, one for EYF/KS1 and another for KS2. The tea-towels cost **£5 each** and will make lovely keep-sakes of your child's time at school they also make fantastic gifts for family and friends this Christmas. Every tea-towel sold raises much needed funds for the school. The order forms have been sent out via Class Reps and Parentmail. Please also find one attached to this newsletter. Please order by **Friday 4th December** to ensure you get your tea-towels in time for Christmas.

Easyfundraising.org.uk



Please sign up as it's free to register and simple to use - you just need an email address and a password. Every time you make a purchase on-line through the easyfundraising website the retailer donates a percentage to the school. It doesn't cost you anything. Over 4,200 well know retailers have signed up to easyfundraising including Next, Argos, M&S and John

Lewis.

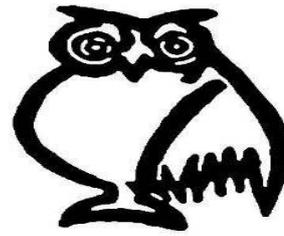
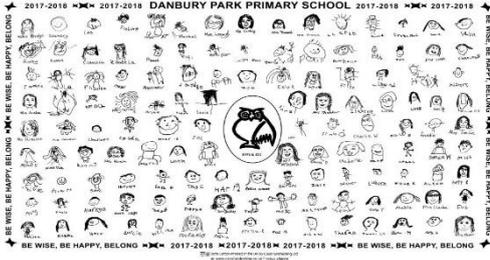
Second-hand School Uniform

Second-hand school uniform items - jumpers, cardigans, polo shirts and PE kit - are now being sold via Natalie W. Please let her know what you are looking for by emailing her at Westhorp222@mail.com and she will be able to let you know what is in stock and arrange to get it to you. Items are now selling from **£2 each**.

Have a good weekend. The DPSA

Danbury Park School 2020-2021

Tea Towel Order Form



The children at Danbury Park School have recently taken part in a project to produce a commemorative tea-towel for the 2020-2021 academic year by drawing their own portraits and adding in a few of the staff as well. They look fabulous and make an ideal keep-sake of their time at school but also make fantastic Christmas presents for relatives and friends. There are two designs, one for EYFS/KS1 (Infants) and one for KS2 (Juniors). They don't have to be used just as tea-towels they can also be used for many other things such as wall-hangings, picnic napkins, sitting mats, teddy blankets or even sewn on to a cushion cover or pillow case. Their uses are endless!

They cost just **£5 each**.

To place an order please complete the form below and email it (or send an email containing all the relevant information) to thedpsa2020@gmail.com , making full payment at the same time, by **Friday 4th December**. Tea-towels will be sent home in book bags after that date.

All proceeds from the sale of the tea towels will go directly back into funding more fantastic resources for our children at school.

Thank you. The DPSA



Child's Name..... Class.....

Parent Name.....Mobile.....

Contact email..... (to advise of distribution details if necessary)

Tea Towel Design	Number Required
EYFS\KS1 - Infants	
KS2 – Juniors	

Total cost of order:

Where possible please do a direct bank transfer of the money to 'DPSA', **Sort Code: 20-19-95**
Account Number: 03049310 and make the payment at the time of your order. Please use your child's name and class for bank reference.

If you are unable to do internet banking please make cheques payable to 'DPSA', put them in a clearly marked envelope with the order form and leave at the school office.

Thank you.



Owl's Barn School Meals

Week commencing Monday 16th November

Week 3 Monday	Cheese and Tomato Pasta Bake Or Salmon Puff (V)	Garlic Bread Peas Cucumber	Key Stage 2 only Jacket Potato with a choice of filling	Chocolate Brownie Fresh Fruit Fruit Yoghurt
Tuesday	Homemade Minced Beef Wrap or Cheesy Stack Wrap	White/Wholegrain Rice Carrot Sticks Sweetcorn	Key Stage 2 only Jacket Potato with a choice of filling	Cranberry Flapjack Fresh Fruit Fruit Yoghurt
Wednesday	Chicken served in Gravy with Yorkshire Pudding or Cheddar Whirl	Mini Roasted Potatoes Mixed Vegetables Green Salad	Key Stage 2 only Jacket Potato with a choice of filling	Strawberry Fruit Jelly Fresh Fruit Fruit Yoghurt
Thursday	Homemade Pork Meatballs in tomato sauce Or Linda McCartney Vegetarian Meatballs in tomato sauce	Pasta Twists Sweetcorn Green Salad	Key Stage 2 only Jacket Potato with a choice of filling	Shortbread Biscuit and Fruit Fresh Fruit Fruit Yoghurt
Friday	Omega 3 Fish Fingers or Vegetable Fingers	Chips Baked Beans Peas	Key Stage 2 only Jacket Potato with a choice of filling	Iced Sponge Cake Fresh Fruit Fruit Yoghurt

Dates for the Diary

Week beginning 16th November 2020

Mon 16th

2.45pm

Whole school assembly via zoom

Tues 17th

2.00pm

Virtual Tours for Prospective Parents (please note places must be booked in advance)

Weds 18th

2.50pm

Let's Present

Thurs 19th

Flu Vaccinations

Fri 20th

2.45pm

Whole school assembly via zoom

3.30pm

Parent Governor Ballot closes

Full term dates for this academic year 2020-21 and for next 2021-22 are available on the school website.
Dates for the second half of term are given below.

Yours sincerely

Carol Gooding
Headteacher

Dates for Autumn Term 2020

Date	Activity
17/11/2020 2.00pm	Meeting for Prospective Parents by Zoom NB places must be booked in advance
19/11/2020	Flu vaccinations
25/11/2020 10.00am	Meeting for Prospective Parents by Zoom NB places must be booked in advance
Fortnight beg 30/11/2020	Autumn Term Assessment Tasks and Activities in class
01/12/2020 2.00pm	Contingency Meeting for Prospective Parents by Zoom If required
11/12/2020	Filming of Class Christmas Celebrations
15/12/2020	Christmas Pantomime
16/12/2020	Christmas Dinner
18/12/2020	Christmas parties/fun activity afternoon Last day of term