



Great Denham Primary School

Inspiring excellence; everyone, everyday

EXCELLENCE RESPECT COURAGE DETERMINATION FRIENDSHIP EQUALITY

Newsletter 13 – Autumn Term

4th December 2020

A message from the head.....

This week children in Years 1 - 6 have had their end of term 1 assessments. The children have blown us away with their attitudes and determination towards their assessments. You have probably read in the news about schools 'catching children up' for learning they have lost. We are planning on using these assessments to see which areas of learning need more focused support and teaching for specific children and year groups in the new year. We are however finding that the progress children have made since returning in September is significant and very impressive. Thank you for your continued support at home - it is making a huge difference.

Thank you so much for the kind donations for the Christmas in a Box - we have been amazed by the generosity of our families - thank you!

Hope you have a lovely weekend.
Denise Burgess

Follow the school on Twitter  @GreatDenhamPS



Please join me in welcoming Melody & Kyle (Year 2) and Zara (Year 4) who joined us this week



YEAR 3 UPDATE

Year 3 have had a fantastic first term. In particular, the children were thrilled on their return to discover an enormous chocolate bar on the floor of their classrooms. On closer inspection they discovered this was no ordinary bar but, in fact, was filled with a wonderful variety of new books for our class book shelf! All the children have been devouring their way through the new books. Discovering new authors and genres has been a real delight for us all.



This week's letters home – look for them on our school website under

parents/letters home/2020-21

Race to the north pole
Y5&6 - Young Voices @ O2
Spring Term Menu

REMINDERS

Christmas Party

Party clothes all day next Wednesday - Christmas craft morning followed by Christmas buffet lunch and class parties in the afternoon with DJ Alan on zoom!

Santa Dash

Please can children wear their P.E. kit to school with trainers and if they want a Christmas jumper, top or hat!

Collection time for last day of term

On the last day of term the school will close at 12.30pm.

Collection times as follows:

Terra Ventus 12.30-12.45pm

Ignis Aqua 12.45-1.00pm

Reception 12.40-1.00pm

Nursery 12.40-1.00pm or at 11.45am if your child does not stay for lunch

Stars of the week

Little Stars: Toby

Stars of the Week:

Cassiopeia – Miles, Tucana – Amber, Orion – Aysar, Aquila – Zachary, Pavo – Layla, Cygnus – Marlo, Volans – Joshua, Delphinus – Hameeda, Serpens – Teddy, Andromeda – Tami, Pegasus – Catalina, Perseus – Mije, Auriga – Aisha, Vela – Ophelia, Lyra – Ishaq, Lacerta – Alexa, Circinus – The Whole Class, Phoenix – Brian.

Values:

Cassiopeia – Layla, Tucana – Colbie, Orion – Olivia, Aquila – Freya, Pavo – Phillip, Cygnus – Usma, Volans – Kyle, Delphinus – Maxwell, Serpens – Rayyan, Andromeda – Florence, Pegasus – Ella, Perseus – Saheim, Auriga – Sabil, Vela – Rylee, Lyra – Ilyas, Lacerta – Wanny, Circinus – Weronika, Phoenix – Umair.

Sports Stars of the Week:

Reception – Hugo, Alice & Jaxon
Year 1 – Zachary, Amy & Madeleine
Year 2 – Essie, Freddy & Niamh
Year 3 – Oisin & Catalina
Year 4 – Mije & Amelia
Year 5 – Sophie & Hamza
Year 6 – Lemar, Joshua & Micah

Link to celebration assembly
<https://youtu.be/0R0x926pGZA>



Guitar Lessons

If you are interested in your child learning Guitar at school with Jennie Wilson, please contact her directly on jm_wilson@hotmail.co.uk



DIARY DATES

- **Mon 7th Dec** – Y4/5 Bikeability
- **Wed 9th Dec** – Christmas “Classroom parties & lunch”
- **Thu 10th Dec** – Y3/4/5/6 Extra-Curricular Clubs end
- **Fri 11th Dec** – Santa Dash Wear P.E. kit and a Christmas jumper / top / hat!
- **Fri 11th Dec – 10am** – BC/ASC bookings open for the spring term
- **Mon 14th Dec – 10am** – Friday PM Clubs bookings open for the spring term
- **Mon 14th Dec** 3.15-3.45pm – Jigsaw demo (PSHE curriculum)
- **Tue 15th Dec** 8.30-9.00am & 3.15-3.45pm – Jigsaw demo (PSHE curriculum)
- **Fri 18th Dec** – Christmas Jumper day
- **Fri 18th Dec** – Last day of Autumn term

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Ofsted **Parent View**

Parent View gives parents / carers the chance to tell OFSTED what you think about your child's school.

By sharing your views, you'll be helping your child's school to improve.

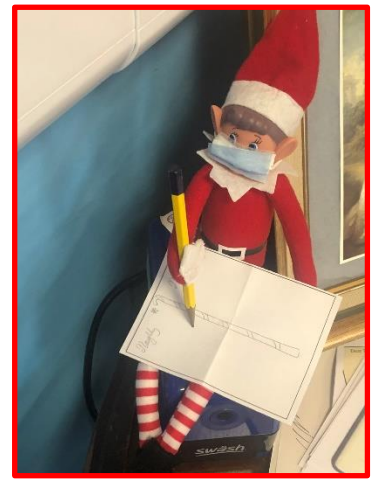
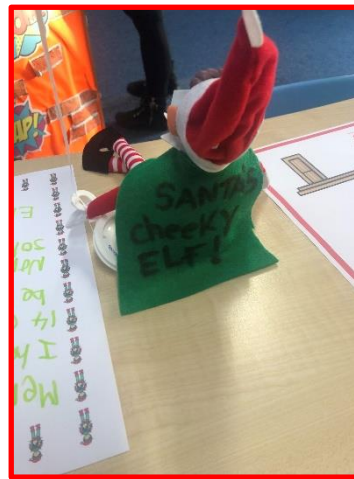
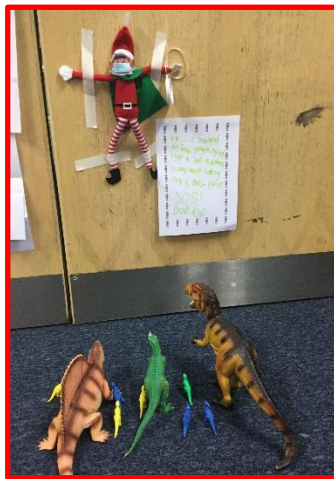
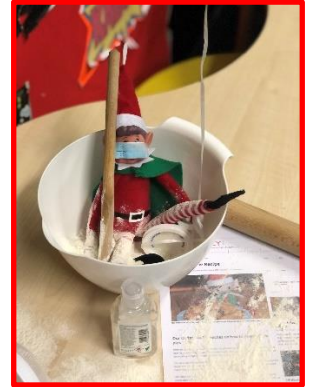
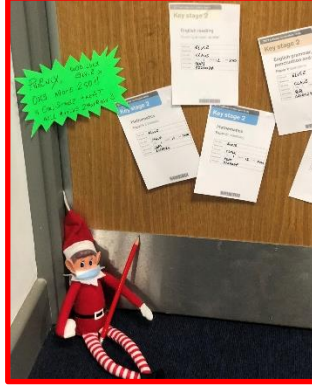
<https://parentview.ofsted.gov.uk/>



All things Christmassy



Elf on a Shelf - each class has their own class elf who is causing some mischief!



This week children were randomly selected to come and have a chocolate from Mrs Burgesses advent calendar!

1st day of Christmas
Alice



2nd day of Christmas
Amelia



3rd day of Christmas
Lauren



4th day of Christmas
Tommy



LOCAL EVENTS & ADVERTS

Christmas with St James's Church

Sunday 20 December

4.00pm Nine Lessons and Carols

Christmas Eve

4.00pm Christingle

11.30pm Midnight Communion

Christmas Day

10.30am Family Service

All services will be held via Zoom

To join, just go to Zoom and enter meeting ID 998 074 6039

Unfortunately we will not be able to hold our usual events and services in church this year

Shine a light of hope!



Christingle Celebration

4pm Christmas Eve (via Zoom)

Email stjameschurchbiddenham@gmail.com, call/text 0778 6886 710 or message us on Social Media and we will deliver your Christingle to you.

Join us for our Christingle Celebration when we will make our Christingles and celebrate the light of Jesus together, or make them in your own time.

St James's Church, Biddenham

All Saints Church, Kempston

Raising funds for The Children's Society



St James's Church,
Biddenham

Let's Celebrate Christmas Together!

Decorating the Churchyard

As events this year have changed how we can celebrate Christmas at St James's we would like to decorate the Churchyard so we can still make the church a focal point of hope and love in these difficult times. We need your help to make as many decorations as we can.

Christmas Stars



We have created a template for you to make Christmas stars out of plastic milk bottles! The template and instructions are attached. Ideally the star can be made from a 4pt plastic milk bottle, but any size will do. If you'd like to, once you've made your star you can write a message of hope, or the name of a loved one, around the edge of your star with a permanent marker.

Christmas Rocks!

If you have some acrylic paints or permanent markers handy, then paint a pebble with a Christmas theme. Snowflakes, angels, a Nativity scene...whatever takes your fancy!



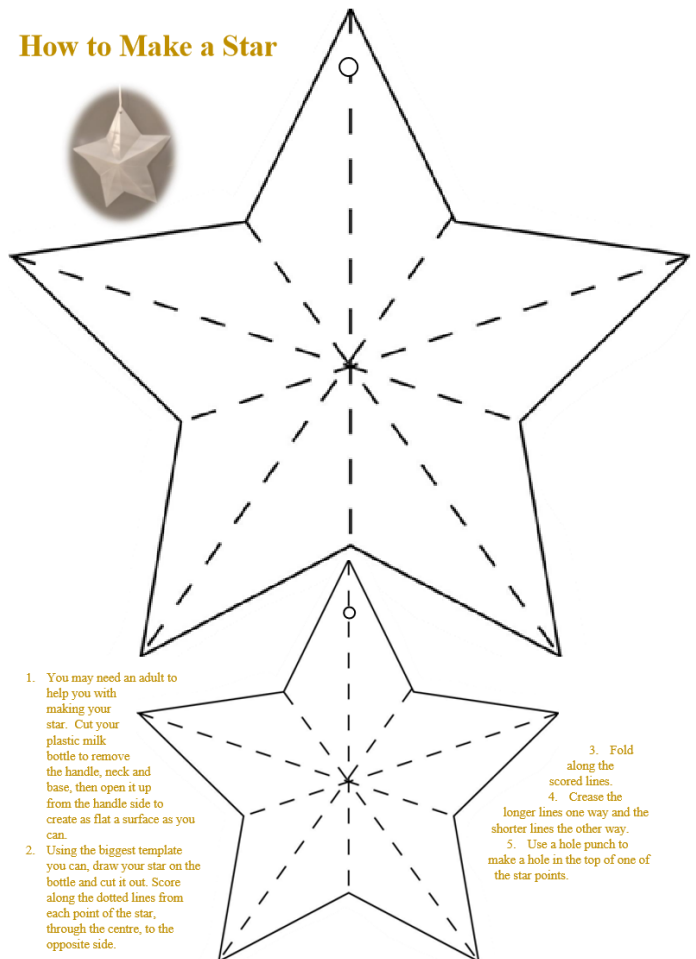
Deliver to St James's Church Porch

Once you've finished your stars or pebbles, deliver them to the Church porch and place them in the collection box. The decorations will then be placed around the Churchyard, so please come back to see where your decoration is, and to see our growing Nativity scene and other decorations.

Can we Help You?

We know that the current time is very difficult for many people. If you need support or just someone to chat to/listen please don't be scared to contact either Rev Eric Lomax on 01234 328452/07805 879537 or the Biddenham/Great Denham support network on 01234 815393/help@biddenham.org.uk

How to Make a Star



1. You may need an adult to help you with making your star. Cut your plastic milk bottle to remove the handle, neck and base, then open it up from the handle side to create as flat a surface as you can.
2. Using the biggest template you can, draw your star on the bottle and cut it out. Score along the dotted lines from each point of the star, through the centre, to the opposite side.

3. Fold along the scored lines.
4. Crease the longer lines one way and the shorter lines the other way.
5. Use a hole punch to make a hole in the top of one of the star points.