

DORNEY SCHOOL



RESPECT * COLLABORATE * GROW
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Newsletter 6th December 2024

Dear Parents,

Another amazing week at school! Teachers are carefully planning purposeful lessons amidst the excitement of the run up to Christmas. Thank you to our wonderful parent helpers who decorated the Christmas tree – the lights shine bright on dark mornings and even darker evenings.

Grandparents' Day

This has to be one of the highlights of any school year. I am not ashamed to say that I thought we would have a handful of grandparents visiting the school for the event. In fact, we had over **75** of them queueing to spend time with their grandchildren and other pupils at school. We thoroughly enjoyed their company and their tales of what school was like in yesteryears. I was privileged and humbled to speak to many who regaled tales of expertise, experience, hardship and travels. There was so much wisdom in that one visit, that if we could capture the stories in books, it would fill a whole library.

Thank you to all grandparents who took time out of their busy schedules to visit our school. We are especially grateful to those who made this journey from faraway places and some who started before 5am to get to our school on time. I hope the warm welcome, hot drinks and mince pies helped a little bit.

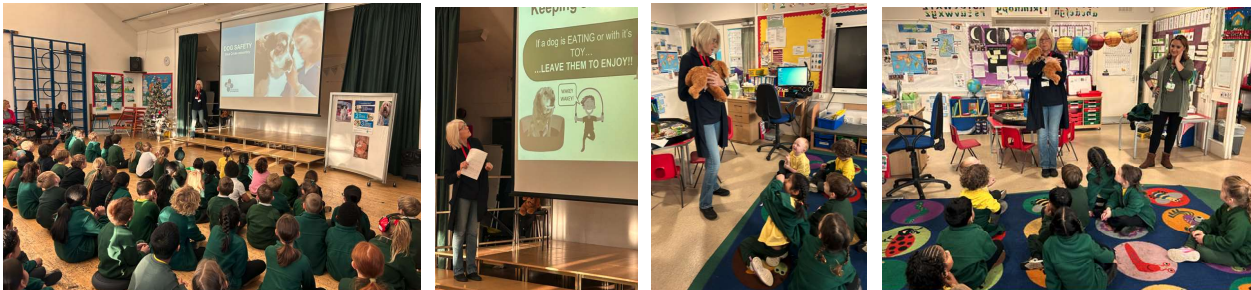
Parents, please thank each and every one of these wonderful people, and let them know how fantastic they are. They are sometimes, the 'invisible' layer that support your (our) children through their love, care and nurture. We will be organising many more events to ensure grandparents are involved at school. We hope that many can join our Santa fun run, Carol concert and, we are trying to organise an extra show for the Nativity so that many more can attend. Here are some mementoes from the morning. Do share this newsletter with grandparents.





Visit by Blue Cross

Jane from the Blue Cross charity led an assembly on keeping safe around dogs. She brought her toy dog, Ted to illustrate how to care for dogs, and how to ensure children and families keep safe around these pets. The children learned how to ask owners' permission, how to stroke a dog and signs to look out for when a dog is unfriendly or in distress. She also talked about abandoned dogs that Blue Cross care for in their shelter. She also visited Reception class to help our youngest children understand safety. If you are interested in helping out or donating to this wonderful charity, please use this link <https://www.bluecross.org.uk/donate>



HSBC Award

Today, HSBC attended our assembly to give our school a beautiful cut glass award for our continuous focus on maths and money. They thanked us for working with the company in helping the children understand the world of banking, transactions, personal safety, and how we need a secure foundation in maths to help us with our future dependence on money.



Football Match

Today, the Dorney football team will play a friendly match against the team from Lent Rise. This is truly exciting as we hope to develop a school squad for other football tournaments. Watch this space for the report and further news.

Santa Fun Run Wednesday 11th December 2024 at 2pm

All children to come to school in their PE kits on this day and bring in a £2 donation to help raise money. All money raised will be split between The Florence Nightingale Hospice Charity and School funds. Please see their Just giving page for more information: <https://www.justgiving.com/ffnh>

Reception, Year 1, Year 2 and Year 3 will run laps of our school field.

Years 4, 5 and 6 will complete laps of Trumpers field.

All parents and grandparents are welcome to spectate and we would love Parents and Grandparents to run along with the children for a £2 donation while we also promote the importance of active lifestyles. Santa Hats will be provided in exchange for the £2 donation on the day.

Parents who attend may collect their children at the end of the event.

Foodbank Christmas Collection

Thank you to parents who have brought in items the foodbank is collecting for families facing hardship this Christmas. We still have this week to receive more donations. Please see the list of items the foodbank is collecting below:



The foodbank would also be grateful colouring books, colouring sheets, coloured pencils, crayons, and felt tips for the children who visit the foodbank with their families.

Dates for your Diary

2nd to 13th December 2024 Maidenhead Foodbank Christmas Collection – for more information please refer to Parentmail

10th December 2024 10am – 11am SEN Coffee Morning for Parents

11th December 2024 2pm Santa Fun Run – for more information please refer to Parentmail

13th December 2024 Christmas Disco Organised by PTA

Do purchase the tickets online:

<https://www.tickettailor.com/events/dorneypta>

13th December 2024 9.15am R/Y1/Y2 Nativity Play for R/Y1/Y2 Parents

18th December 2024 – School Christmas Lunch – The Kids Lunch Company is offering hot roast turkey breast or sage/onion stuffing roll with Christmas snacks and cakes on this day. It would be nice for all children to bring Christmas Crackers they can pop with their friends when they are having their lunch.

19th December 2024 – Christmas Jumper Day/Class Christmas Parties/**2.15pm** Christmas Carol Concert for all Parents – Please use the Trumplers' Field car park and make your way around to the gate next to the staff car park which will open at **2.10pm**. You will be able to collect your children after the concert from the usual collection place.

Safeguarding

A message from Thames Valley Police

Say 'no no no' to buying an e-scooter this Christmas

The festive season is almost here, and we know many people will be considering asking for, gifting or purchasing an e-scooter. We want to ensure that anyone doing so is aware of the law and dangers surrounding e-scooters.

E-scooters are classed as motor vehicles under the [Road Traffic Act 1988](#). This means the rules that apply to motor vehicles, also apply to e-scooters including the need to have a licence and insurance.

It's not currently possible to get insurance for privately owned e-scooters. Meaning if you use a one in public, you risk it being seized. You can ride them on private land, such as in a garden, but only if you have the permission of the landowner to do so.

Where a rental trial scheme is running, rental e-scooters can be used on public roads, some cycle lanes, and other public spaces. When riding a rental e-scooter you **must** follow [road traffic laws](#). If you don't, you could face prosecution.

Inspector Mike Darrah said "Many people may not understand the laws surrounding privately owned e-scooters, which prohibit you from using them in public areas.



“There is also a risk of severe injury, and incidents which involve a collision with an e-scooter are investigated in the same way as if riding or driving any other type of motor vehicle.

“We are already working in partnership with schools and colleges to ensure students are aware of the laws surrounding e-scooters, and I am urging parents to consider the risks if they are looking at gifting an e-scooter.”

In November 2024, Thames Valley Police seized 80 e-scooters and e-bikes, with 33 of these seizures being e-scooters. Last night (3/12), 10 e-bikes and e-scooters were seized in an operation carried out in Oxford.

Matthew Barber, Police & Crime Commissioner for Thames Valley, said: "Whilst for many, e-scooters are a convenient way to get around, it is nevertheless illegal to use a privately-owned e-scooters anywhere on public land.

"Aside from the risk of injuring and concerns about the fire risks from some batteries, you risk having your e-scooter seized by the police.

"So, my message this Christmas is simple: don't buy an e-scooter as a present."

Have a lovely weekend especially for those busy with Christmas preparations. I hope to see many parents (and grandparents) on Wednesday for the Santa Fun Run!

Mrs S Lee
Headteacher

Celebrating Significant Achievements

Zach (Year 6) had the privilege to walk out onto the Wembley pitch with the England Women’s Football team in their friendly match against the USA. According to Zach, the whole experience was awesome and attendance on the evening was the highest ever for a women’s game! Here is Zach with one of the Lionesses, Georgia Stanway. We are so proud!





Reception

Kaiyan for progress in phonics and reading
Avni for working hard on handwriting

Year 1

Zhuri for working hard on her handwriting and presentation of work

Year 2

Dottie for settling in really well in Year 2 and becoming a valued member of our class
Rhea for trying her best at everything she does in every lesson

Year 3

Lola for her amazing effort in the classroom and showing kindness to others
Maia for her amazing effort in PE this week with Mrs Hughes

Year 4

Aneeka for her fab listening in class and challenging herself in Maths
Amayiya for beautiful book presentation and wonderful ideas for writing

Year 5

All of Year 5 for excellent collaboration and orienteering skills during our trip! Well Done!

Year 6

Harley for his excellent descriptive writing n English. Well Done!
Phoebe W for her efforts to find a solution in Maths and taking more care than she already did in English

