



Learning together, growing together

Dorin Park School and Specialist SEN College

17.12.20 – Autumn Term Newsletter

Dear Parents/Carers,

It has been a busy term for our pupils and staff.

We have worked hard to keep our staff, pupils and their families safe at Dorin Park, and are proud of the fact that we have remained open to all pupils during the autumn term.

Pupils and staff have had to get used to a new way of working in school. They got through the recovery curriculum, moved to a new timetable, and worked hard on assessments and catching up on anything missed because of COVID. They have still managed to laugh and smile at every opportunity. The way staff and pupils have adapted to these challenges is just wonderful.

A **HUGE** thank you to them all for the work they do to make Dorin Park such an amazing place to be.

Thanks also to those who have organised charity/kindness events, such as gifts/carol singing for the care home next door, donations to Children in Need and other such charitable events. Our families/staff are so generous.

The ever kind **Moston Garage** donated many, much enjoyed, gingerbread men & mince pies. Thanks!

A big thank you also goes out to our PTA for their support, their gifts, and their fundraising this term. They are always looking for new recruits. If you are interested in supporting them, let them know (pta@dorinpark.co.uk). A thank you here too to **Jay**, for being a brilliant Santa for the day. And thanks to **Big Yellow Storage Chester** for the free storage space provided to the PTA.

Last but not least a thanks to our Governors. They too have had a busy year, working hard to ensure our school has a voice and supporting staff to do their best for all our pupils/families. Best wishes to them for a restful Christmas.

Please keep a look out for any messages from school during the Christmas Break. If there are any local changes regarding COVID restrictions impacting on school we will inform you.

Otherwise we expect to see pupils back in on TUESDAY 5TH JANUARY 2021, ready for an exciting new term. (Staff are back in on the 4th January for a training day).

Happy Christmas and best wishes for 2021.



Acting Head Teacher – Jane Mills

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STAFFING UPDATES

Ewan Griffiths, Cherry class teacher, is leaving for new adventures. Staff and pupils will miss him. He is a very well thought of, valued member of staff. He tells us he will miss everyone here, and thanks everyone for their support. We wish him well in his new venture, and as it is local we could still support him. **The café, Garden Social**, will hopefully be opening towards the end of January. Based at **40 Catherine Street in Chester**, serving teas, specialty coffees, pastries, sandwiches, small breakfasts and lunches, with produce from small local bakeries and suppliers. Updates on Instagram (www.instagram.com/gardensocial40) or Twitter (www.twitter.com/gardensocialCH1).

Kate Connah, one of our experienced middle leaders, will be the teacher in Cherry class in January and **Jamie Barker**, who is an experienced EYFS/Primary teacher and has been with us for a little while now, will be the new teacher in Willow class. They are both very excited and looking forward to working with their new classes.

Jane Mills is taking early retirement. She has absolutely loved being able to support the school through the autumn term, and tells us she will be having some time to spend with family and not doing too much work!. Jane sends her thanks to all parents, staff, and pupils for their kind wishes, emails, cards and gifts. She tells us this is the best school she has ever worked in and she has lots of wonderful memories to take with her.

Lucy Lee, will be joining as new Headteacher. We are very excited. Pupils and staff have met her a couple of times. Lucy tells us she can't wait to work with everyone. We are sure she will love it here.

A BIG thank you also goes out to our regular supply staff who have supported us this term. We couldn't have done it without you.

SITE

The Seniors playground has taken a bit of a bashing in recent years, and has had some remedial work done to keep it useable. In 2021 we are looking to revamp the whole area. School Council and staff will do some research into wishes/needs/wants to help with a plan of action for the work required. The playground will continue to be zoned to allow **Bubbles** to have time outside.

Birch class are continuing to make use of the CRC. Hopefully they will be allowed under the COVID restrictions to get their business up and running and invite us all for coffee and cake in their **Birch Café**.

Car park and transport. Thank you for your patience this term. We now have considerably more vehicles on site at the same time. We are limited in our ability to alter start and finish times due to most of our pupils relying on Local Authority transport. In January, we will trial a new finish time for the Apple/Willow class children who are picked up by parents. We hope this will reduce the amount of traffic arriving and leaving at the same time and ease the flow of traffic.

CELEBRATIONS

We have had several **'just for fun' challenges** for pupils and staff this term...

- **Mrs Mills** kindly donated prizes, ranging from sweets and toys to £20 gift vouchers for spending in class.
- **Birch Bubble won the Best Visor competition**, with many runners up winning prizes too.
- **Ash Bubble won the Happy Bubble challenge**, again with lots of runners up winning prizes.
- **Lime Bubble won the Best Christmas tree/room bubble.**
- **Avril Sutton won the staff Best Christmas Jumper prize.**
- We have had our Christmas parties and Virtual Discos in our bubbles.

We have not been able to do our usual assemblies or events where we gather in the hall. We have though managed to have great fun in hosting virtual events.

Oh my word, the Christmas shows/performances! What can we say, other than they are such *feel good* events. Big thanks to the staff/pupils who made this possible.

ACHIEVEMENT AWARDS

Headteacher's Special Award

Zac Grimward

100% attendance

Jayden A, Hamza A, Dylan AJ, James B, William B, Malcolm B, Alfie C, Aedan D, Isla F, Alice G, Rebecca G, Jack H, Rhys H, Sophie Ho, Olivia J, Holly K, Roxanne M, Elsie M, Kate M, McKenzie M, Krystal N, Owyn P, McKenzie P, Michelle PH, Rhys R, Emily S, Oliver S, Olivia T, Megan W, Thomas W, Noah W

98%+ attendance

Jamie A, Nicole B, Dyllen B, Anisha B, Oliver B, Sophie-Mae B, Peter C, Casius C, Harley D, Lucy D, Sarah-Louise E, Lillie F, Zac G, Sophie Ha, Sam H, Millie H, Corey-Lea J, Luke J, Nathaniel McD, Ellis M, Jacob N, Mason SR, April S, Aiden T, Riley T, William W, George W, Mazie W, Lewis W, Oliver W, Stanley W

Primary

- | | |
|----------------------------------|-----------|
| • Excellence in sport | Oliver W |
| • Excellence in literacy | Beritan S |
| • Excellence in numeracy | Aidan B |
| • Best attitude to learning EYFS | Jasmine A |
| • Best attitude to learning KS1 | Peter C |
| • Best attitude to learning KS2 | Willow T |
| • Social and play skills | Lillie F |

Seniors

- | | |
|---|------------|
| • Best attitude to learning KS3 | Ben B |
| • Best attitude to learning KS4 | Jamie A |
| • Emotional health and wellbeing award | Reece B |
| • Excellence in creative arts | Katelyn R |
| • Excellence in english | Maisy de M |
| • Excellence in independence curriculum | Summer P |
| • Excellence in maths | Rhys R |
| • Excellence in personal and social development | Anjuma B A |
| • Excellence in science | Ellis M |
| • Excellence in sport | McKenzie M |

- Best attitude to learning (all of Birch class!)
 - Malcolm B, Bethany BS, Alex H, Samuel H, Jodie LD, Leo LH, Jack PW, Natasha P, Lewis Wi

FESTIVE SCENES!



Santa looking very comfy



Elves busy at work preparing presents for good little children!



Who's the dude with the hat?! Wow, I see Kevin the Carrot too!



Cool Christmas Tree (and penguin friend)