

DEBDEN PRIMARY ACADEMY NEWSLETTER

Friday 1st December 2023

Dear Parents,

We have reached December! This is always a really busy and exciting time here in the school, and this year promises to be no different. Below is a run-down of the latest news from the last couple of weeks, in addition to a look ahead to our festive events and activities.

FODS Update: *Last Sunday we held our fabulous Christmas Fayre and we are delighted that it raised £1,109! Father Christmas was thrilled to meet 64 children in his grotto, 80 teddies found a new home and everyone won a lot of sweets on our festive games.*

The FODS team have been really busy since half term and we're pleased to tell you that the massive Bag2School collection earned £425, our biggest total ever. Christmas card sales raised £216, also a high point. 92 children came to our Super Mario movie nights raising £357.

Last night we held a very successful Christmas wreath making event led by Alison Hare for 40 people and we will have a fundraising total in due course.

Don't forget our Christmas Raffle is ongoing and all the fabulous prizes you can win including from Kappa House in Newport, Just Play in Shire Hill, Little Monsters Dunmow, the brilliant class hampers and many more prizes.

Also look out for Elfridges information from us next week!

We're very fortunate to have had several new people getting actively involved this season and if you're interested in helping to support your school and its pupils, please get in touch.

Thank you to our amazing FODs for all of the work that they do to help our school.

Staff Welcome: A warm welcome to Mrs Maria Barca, who has joined our team as a learning support assistant from this week. She will be mostly working in the Dragonflies Class, but you may see her pop up in other areas of the school from time to time! I hope that you will join me in making her feel welcome as a part of our school community.

Goodbye Mr M: This week was Mr McKeown's final week as our regular sports coach, as he leaves his role with Kidzactive to embark on an exciting new career. Mr M has been a brilliant coach at Debden for a number of years now, and has been central to our growth from perennial sporting underdogs to local athletic powerhouses! He is also an all-round top guy and I know that he will be deeply missed by everyone at Debden, but we wish him all the best for his new job.

Mr O'Sullivan will take over the sports coaching and before/ after-school clubs at Debden in the short term, until Mr M's replacement takes up his post in the new year.

Wonderdome: On Monday, the children thoroughly enjoyed a trip into Space with WonderDome. This involved a giant dome being erected in our school hall, in which the children were taught about space and engaged with interactive displays. From planet formation to the birth and death of stars, from launching rockets and visiting other planets, the children were motivated and inspired. What a fantastic and unforgettable opportunity!

Santa Dash – Note from Mrs Caparelli: Debden are taking part in the USSP Santa Dash on Wednesday 6th December. The children will be taking part in themed fitness activities including running, skipping, dancing all set to Christmas music. Please can children come to school in PE kit (including Ducklings) and are invited to wear a Christmas jumper. Please remember hair needs to be tied back and earring removed on PE days. Thank you.

Some festive dates for your diary

- Tuesday 12th December – Christmas Jumpers/ Christmas Dinner/ Elfridges
- Wednesday 13th and Thursday 14th December – Nativity Performances
- Friday 15th December – FODS raffle drawn
- Wednesday 20th December – 9.20am – Christmas Service
- Wednesday 20th December – Last Day of Term

Have a wonderful weekend.

Kind Regards

Mr Hawley