



Newsletter

December 2023



Although it has only been a few weeks since the last newsletter school has continued to be a busy and exciting place to be. We are ending the term full of happy memories and eventful experiences. Please read on! In the meantime, I wish you all a fabulous Christmas holiday and all the best for 2024 when it arrives.

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FODs- Gift Stall

Thank you to all of the volunteers who enabled the gift stall so success. Overall you raised an



amazing **£680!** Just incredible and thank you to Jo Brown and her team for organising and to all who donated a gift or contributed funds. Enjoy your gift if you are the lucky recipient 😊

Pupil's Parliament Update

We feel that the Pupil Parliament is a really important feature at DJS. It gives all the children a chance to have their voice heard and put forward ideas which would benefit our school.

This term, each class voted for new Pupil Parliament representatives and these children have attended meetings to put forward and share ideas.

During the Autumn term we have focussed on improving our reward system at DJS. We currently have a Dojo Dollar system where the children can choose a reward when they hit certain amounts of dojos throughout the year.

Our pupil parliament felt that we could improve some of the rewards to include privileges around school. Each class came up with ideas which we shared at our meeting and chose the best ones (including early lunch passes and sitting on a chair in assembly). Look out next term for some privileges which can be chosen from the Dojo Dollar shop!

Next term we intend to start a project to improve the covered areas on our playground. We will need to think of some fund-raising ideas so get your thinking caps on!

Coming up:

- 8 January School reopens to pupils
- w/c 29 Jan- Y5 bikeability- more info to follow
- 1 Feb 530pm-7pm- Y5 & Y6 DISCO-FODS
- 8 Feb- Special Person stall- FODS
- 8 Feb- break up for half term
- 9 Feb- INSET school closed to pupils

Year 3 Stone Age Day

On Friday 1st December the Y3 children had Stone Age day. The children dressed up and completed a range of activities including cave painting by candlelight, flint (soap) knapping and artefact excavation. They finished the day off with 'The Great Gather!' where the children worked in teams to find as much food as they could for their tribe.

What a wonderful day the children had!



External Professional Reviews

I wanted to share some positive comments from external professionals who have visited our school this term. We regularly have focus visits in school (beyond Ofsted!) to help us evaluate our provision and to learn from other professionals. Professionals carry out a range of activities including observing teaching and learning, looking at books and of course talking to pupils- they will always talk to a broad range of pupils across the school to enable a balanced view of experience.

This term Jean Watt (an HMI inspector) visited to look closely at our history curriculum. She was extremely complimentary about our curriculum and the work in pupil's books, but most of all she was blown away by the children she spoke to about their learning and understanding- especially in the area of chronology.

Three local head teachers also visited our school this half term, focusing upon personal development. They were over the moon with our personal development approach and practice and took many ideas away back to their schools. Below are just some of the wonderful comments:

- A warm, supportive, calm and inclusive ethos permeates DJS and positive relationships abound.
- The school values underpin every aspect of school life. They have evolved into a highly effective moral and ethical framework. This means that children have every chance of succeeding in their next stage of education and beyond.
- Pupil's understanding of the Protected Characteristics and Equalities is very strong and, by Y6, their ability to articulate their views with sensitivity and respect is exceptional.

We are so proud of your wonderful children and the staff in school for all of their hard work in an area that permeates every element of school life!

Year 4 Roman Day

Roman day was a great success! The children learnt lots about many aspects of Roman life. From soldiers, drills and kits to Roman technology, togas and armour. The day was packed with lots of exciting learning! Thank you parents for your continued support with the outfits, the children looked brilliant!



Assembly Safety Themes

This term in our assemblies we have the theme of safety we have **(stopping and thinking)** and rail below will give you an insight into reinforce the messages.



been covering all of our school values. Within specifically been focusing on **road safety safety (using a level crossing)**. The links part of the learning if you would like to

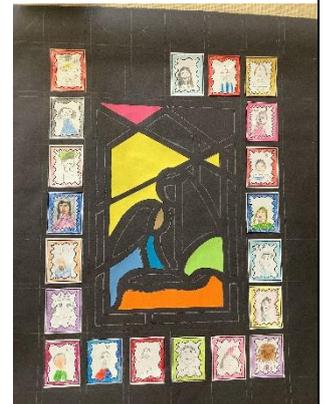
<https://switchedonrailsafety.co.uk/resources/switched-on-scenarios/>

<https://www.think.gov.uk/resource/expect-the-unexpected/>



Year 3 Christmas Tree festival

As part of their RE curriculum, each Year 3 class went to visit Millhouses Methodist church to enjoy their Christmas Tree Festival. After a warm welcome, the children completed a fun treasure hunt around all the wonderfully decorated trees on display and made some art to create a collective paper stained glass window. A big thank you to all the parents and carers that joined us to help out, and to the members of the church for their hospitality and enjoyable activities.



Year 4 Performance

What an excellent performance Year 4 created and shared in the penultimate week of term. An excellent show all about the importance of community at Christmas, which showed the amazing talents of the children. Singing, acting and dancing were all on show on the stage, with an excellent orchestra performing alongside.

An extra special well done to the children who sang solo or in small groups, as well as Toby who performed a piano solo.

Thank you to all at home who supported with learning lines and hearing those songs being sung on repeat since November!

Finally, many thanks to the Year 4 team who worked tirelessly to encourage the children to create such a fantastic performance.

Events & Dates 2024

FODS events this year

Please make a note in your calendar to help support school with these events this year.

- 1st February – Y5/6 School Disco 5:30pm – 7pm

Any volunteers really appreciated

- 8th February – Special person stall (connected to Valentine's Day)

Any volunteers really appreciated

- 7th March – Y3/4 School Disco 5:30pm – 7pm

Any volunteers really appreciated

- 29th June – Summer Fayre

Lots and Lots of volunteers really appreciated- just an hour each will really enable the fayre to be a huge success!!

School Calendar- 2024-2025

INSET DATES 2024-2025 (SCHOOL CLOSED TO PUPILS)

2nd September 2024

3rd September 2024

21st July 2025

22nd July 2025

23rd July 2025



Dobcroft Does Christmas

What a fabulous time we have had at Dobcroft this term! Classrooms have been sparkling with decorations and the school has been looking very festive as a range of different activities have taken place to mark the season. Y3 have visited the Christmas Tree Festival to see the range of beautifully decorated trees and were given a wonderfully warm welcome to the church. Within school, children were given a challenge with one of our Dobcroft traditions - party hats! Again this year, the brief was given that all the hats must be made of recycled materials - the children rose to the challenge fantastically as you can see from the pictures! Resplendent in hats, the

children made their way to the hall for the annual Christmas Lunch, which was delicious thanks to our catering staff. The celebrations culminate on the final day of school as the children arrived in their party clothes, bringing decorations and food for their year group parties! Such excitement in the arrangements and setting up of group celebrations - and lovely to see the children being able to socialise and celebrate together. We also came together as a school to share a final assembly of the year with festive songs and readings. What a wonderful end to the term we have had.



Year 3 & Year 5 Class Assemblies

In addition to the year 4 and year 6 performance we are introducing class assemblies in year 3 and 5. This is to increase the opportunities that children have to perform and showcase their talents and to enable more opportunity for parents to come into school to see the wonderful work your children do. The assemblies will be individual classes rather than the whole year group and will last approximately 20 minutes. They will be immediately after registration in the morning so parents can stay after drop off and catch the show before heading off to other commitments during the day. We really hope you can make the performance and appreciate some of them are short notice. Our intention from September is to share the dates at the beginning of the school year so you can get them in your diary!

Y5B Jan 25th – 9:10

Y3SH Feb 22nd – 9:10

Y3EF March 7th – 9:10

Y3JF April 26th – 9:10

Y5WB May 2nd – 9:10

Y5CT May 24th – 9:10

Support Dogs

This term, we were visited by the charity 'Support Dogs UK' who led an assembly all about how service dogs support children and adults with autism, disabilities and epilepsy. We even got to see 'Burnsie', the charity's ambassador dog, showcase the training learnt to support those who really need it.

We then had a fundraising 'Dress as a dog day' to support the charity and their cause. As a school we raised a total of **£593** which will certainly make a huge difference to people's lives.

Thank you very much for your support and kind donations.



Parent Thank Yous

There have been so many parents and volunteers this term that it is difficult to do individual thank you's. However the following groups of parents have really made a difference and enabled many events to run smoothly- Mrs Mellor- a regular support in year 6 maths lessons. All parents who have helped in weekly year 4 swimming lessons. All parents who have helped out at FODs events. Y3 parents who have helped children with their sewing projects, parents who have run an assembly relating to their career, interest or culture and parents who have run our cross country club 🐾. Together you have all made a big difference and we really appreciate it!