**Weekly SchoolComms e-mail – Thursday 23rd November 2017**

Dear All,

Please find attached the weekly SchoolComms e-mail. Thank you.

LUNCH MENU FOR W/C Monday 27.11.17 IS WEEK 2.

A reminder that all dinner money must be handed in, on a Monday morning, to the class teacher. The money must be in an envelope, marked with the days the lunches are required, and the child’s name. Thank you.

**ALL**

**Colchester Sports Award**

I am delighted to share with you that our school has been chosen as the 2017 winner of the School Award for Development of PE and Sport for Young People. The award was presented at the Colchester Sports Personality event on Monday evening and where we beat off strong competition in the form of Colchester County High School for Girls and Heathlands Primary amongst others. Congratulations and big thank you to Mr Osborn and Sarah Simons who have arranged so many sporting events over the past year to give over three quarters of our pupils the chance to represent their school. No award ceremony would be complete without a winner's photo so please see attached!

**Year 5 Maths Competition**

Continuing the winning theme, a HUGE congratulations to the year 5 maths team who were crowned champions at the upper KS2 maths competition held at Manningtree High School this week. They fought off some tough opposition (including teams of yr6 pupils) to win with a total of 68 points! With maths big in the news at the moment, the pupils involved clearly have bright futures ahead of them! Well done to Harry, Otis, Issy, Andrew, Rowan and Dylan.

**Children In Need**

Thank you to everyone who participated in last week’s fund raising events. There were some really fabulous hair-styles and lots of spots were given out on the day. We are pleased to share that a grand total of £305 was raised which will be sent off to help those in need. Thank you to Madame Duah and the school council for all their work in organising this event.

**Fenwicks Christmas Parade**

Over the last few weeks, the KS2 art club have been working on a carousel horse for the Fenwick’s Christmas Parade. They have done a beautiful job in decorating our horse, named Star Dust, and a picture is on the school website:

http://www.dedham.essex.sch.uk/how-we-learn/class-pages/year-1-class-page

If you would like to come and watch the parade (Sun 26th Nov at 4pm on Colchester High St.), Miss Peake is planning to be stood near the town hall. Please note that parents will still need to stay with their children at all times.

**Health & Safety message**

I have been made aware of a couple of incidents this week that have taken place outside of the school grounds so I’d like to take this opportunity to make the following reminders:

* Please take extra care to look out for children when parking before and after school, particularly when crossing the pavements to enter and exit private drives.
* Please also ensure you are not blocking the driveways of residents (even partially) as this can lead to confrontations which are not pleasant for either party. This applies to properties on Crown Street as well as Parsons Field.

**Parent Group**

**Christmas Market – Saturday 2nd December**

The Christmas market is fast approaching so please provide whatever support you are able to.

Thank you to all who have very kindly donated items for the hampers. Class reps will be wrapping the hampers tomorrow morning so last minute contributions will need to be provided to them first thing.

Raffle tickets were distributed last week in book bags. Should you require any additional tickets please contact the school office. Can any unsold tickets please be returned to the school office as soon as possible.

Also any further donations to the goodie jar, children’s tombola and cake stall are gratefully received; the boxes are located in the school entrance. Cakes can be brought to school on Friday 1 Dec or brought to the cake stall on the day of the market. We are also in need of some extra help to stock the mulled cider stall. If anyone is willing to make some please let us know. Very simple recipe attached.

Please support your reps if you are able to with running the stalls on the day. This is a large undertaking and they really do appreciate your help.

If anyone can help on the day to set up and pack up the stalls we welcome you with open arms as many hands make light work.

Kim Spencer will be at school next Monday, Wednesday and Friday selling tickets for the Father Christmas Grotto at pick up for anyone who wishes to book a slot. Tickets cost £2.50.

Easy Fundraising- Also another Easy fundraising plea, it really is a very simple concept and such a stress free and easy way to raise money for the school. The company only has your email address, no bank details. You just follow the link [https://.easyfundraising.org.uk/causes/dceps]https://.easyfundraising.org.uk/causes/dceps register and then shop through the app or the website. Many regularly used companies are on here eg John Lewis, Ebay, Amazon to name a few of the 3000 + registered, it would be great to see an increase in members and money raised for the school. If you would be so kind as to take a few minutes to register we would be very grateful.

Thank you to all who ordered Christmas cards and of course thank you to the staff for assisting the children in designing them. We raised £239 which is fantastic!

We understand that this is a really busy and expensive time of year and so we are grateful for any support you can offer, thank you for all your help and support it is very much appreciated.

Fiona, Natasha, Helen, Kate and Jessie

**Cakes Needed!**

Please donate cakes, or 50p for the Christmas Fair cake stall.

**Please bring to school on Friday 1st December (school office) or cakes to the stall on Saturday 2nd December from 2pm.**

From mince pies, to cupcakes to scrumptious chocolate cakes, victoria sponges or fruit cakes!

Thank you!

**BBQ – Help Needed !**

Thank you to everyone you has kindly offered to help on the BBQ this year. We still need some help serving between 5-6 so if anyone can help out then please contact Cheralyn on 07825322470 or Mel on 07990 587566.

 Kindest regards

 Cheralyn Hubbard

**OTHER**

**Enrichment Activities**

Attached to this Bulletin are flyers regarding possible enrichment activities. These are organised by external organisations, whilst Dedham Primary School is happy to share these opportunities with our parents and students we have no responsibility for them.

**Dedham Arts Groups Exhibition**

Thank you to everyone who supported the Dedham Arts Group and their 50th anniversary exhibition over half term. Those of you who were able to make the exhibition would have seen artwork by the group themselves and also some wonderful artwork by our pupils. The Arts Group have informed us that they were able to donate over £2500 to EACH from the exhibition.

**Parish Magazine**

If anyone is interested in helping to put together the Dedham Parish Magazine each month, please contact Max Wilkinson on 01206 322814 or email dedhameditor@gmail.com . No journalistic skills are required but someone comfortable with using a computer and someone with an eye for design would be perfect for the role!

**Adult Learning Courses**

The new ACL course guide for 2018 (Jan-July) will be delivered via Royal Mail to 98% of Essex residents. Courses include: free fast track GCSEs in English and maths, photography, Spanish, floristry, humanities, childcare, first aid, German, French , hairdressing, barbering and much more. For more info or to enrol visit [www.aclessex.com](http://www.aclessex.com) or call 0345 603 7635. Essex library card holders will receive a 10% discount on ‘creative experience’ courses.

**Brantham Leisure Centre – Christmas Party**

Please see details attached.

**Manningtree Christmas Market – Saturday 9th December, 10am-6pm**

Please see details attached.

Thank you.