



# NEWSLETTER

## Thursday 3<sup>rd</sup> December 2020

www.dedham.essex.sch.uk

Telephone: 01206 322242

### Head Talk

Dear families of Dedham CE Primary School,

There has been much speculation in the media recently regarding schools closing early for Christmas. The aim being to reduce the risk of self-isolation and supporting staff and pupils to enjoy their Christmas with families. I want to share with you clarification on this position from the Local Authority and Department for Education.

The Government have been very clear about the expectation that schools remain open to the end of term and this has been repeated in new guidance issued last week. The Local Authority have also come to the conclusion that to issue blanket guidance to move away from on-site learning and to remote learning for the last week of term is not something they can endorse. The main reasons behind their decision include:

- Within the Coronavirus Act 2020, under the Temporary Continuity Directive, the Secretary of State can direct schools to remain open.
- They would require schools to remain open to vulnerable pupils and children of critical workers, so a full switch to a remote learning offer would not be possible.
- The impact on parents needing childcare would be significant.

They do advise that it is incumbent on schools to be 'extra cautious' as we approach the Christmas holiday period. I am aware that many of you are disappointed that I have decided that children and staff will not be able to send Christmas cards in school this year, but this is led by this desire to be 'extra cautious' and do everything we can to protect

the health of everyone and any plans we might have for the shortened festive period.

In school, we will endeavour to keep the 'magic' of this time of year alive for our whole school community. This includes Class R and Class 2 producing a nativity which will be shared online with their parents in the last week of term. Also, each class will be decorating their classroom door with a Christmas theme, making Christmas cards within class bubbles and on Thursday 17<sup>th</sup> December it is Christmas Dinner day when we will encourage everybody to wear a Christmas jumper. Crackers and Christmas music will be enjoyed by everyone! We are considering an online theatre production too!

Displays around school are looking great and I thought you would enjoy seeing a few pictures.

My very best wishes to you all,

Mr David Larnar  
Headteacher



Progression in writing from Class R to Class 6



Class 1 inspired by Andy Warhol



.....and Henri Rousseau



Snowman writing by Class 2



Stone Age Boy writing by Class 3



Christmas windows by Class 3



Remembrance work by Class 4





Class 4 clay work....Faith, Hope, Peace, Love



Writing about Ancient Greece by Class 5



Ancient Greek pots created by Class 5

### LUNCH MENU FOR W/C 7<sup>th</sup> December IS WEEK 3

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.

### Free school meals - Have your circumstances changed?

If you believe your circumstances have changed during the period of lockdown and you could be eligible for free school meals then you can find the criteria and application process by following the link below;

<https://www.essex.gov.uk/free-school-meals>

### Primary School Applications for September 2021 – Reminder for new Year R Parents

The opening date for applications from parents for a primary school place in Year R from September 2021 was 9th November 2020. The closing date for applications is 15th January 2021. Please ensure your application is submitted on time.

Applications can be made via the website [www.essex.gov.uk/admissions](http://www.essex.gov.uk/admissions)

### Bad weather/school closure

In the event of bad weather forcing the school to close, please note that notification will be shown on the [homepage of the school website](#), [Essex County Council's emergency school closure website](#), local radio stations as well as contacting families via School Comms and our school Twitter feed. Please



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understand that the decision to close the school is not taken lightly, and is only made after full consideration of the safety of the school site.

## Head Lice

For your information there have recently been a number of cases of head lice in school. While lice are nothing more than a nuisance, it is important that children are checked on a weekly basis so that any head lice can be dealt with quickly and before they can be allowed to spread. As there have been a couple of cases, we would ask you to check your child's head as soon as possible.

For further information on head lice please see your pharmacist or visit [www.nhs.uk/conditions/head-lice](http://www.nhs.uk/conditions/head-lice).

## Parent Group - Christmas Raffle

We've now smashed through our £500 target on our raffle totaliser tree and are fast approaching the £1000 mark. We have some fantastic prizes up for grabs in this year's raffle so please do share with your friends, family, neighbours, work colleagues, etc. Please email [dedhampg@gmail.com](mailto:dedhampg@gmail.com) if you need extra tickets or raffle books for this weekend.

Dedham Christmas Raffle Prizes
£100 Buyagift Voucher
£50 Smyths Toys Voucher
£120 Dinner & Drinks for 4 people at The Lion Brasserie in East Bergholt Voucher
£50 Oakhouse Beauty Voucher
Soft Toys
£20 Paintballing Voucher
Handmade Christmas Decorations by Holly Harrison - Watson
Mid-week 4 ball round of golf at Stoke by Nayland Hotel, Golf & Spa Voucher
£10 Amazon Voucher
Kelly Bronze Turkey Voucher
Football Coaching Session at Marley Andrews Soccer School
£20 Red Lion Book Store Voucher
Tennis Coaching Session with Matthew Watson Tennis
Wandering Sole Reflexology Voucher
Magnum of wine donated by Frontier Fine Wines
Christmas Hamper donated by Kingsleigh Residential

Please remember to return your stubs and cash to the office by Monday 7<sup>th</sup> December to be included in the draw next Friday 11<sup>th</sup> December.

Thank you for your continued support.

Kind regards

Christine, Kate & Lara

[dedhampg@gmail.com](mailto:dedhampg@gmail.com)



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## News from St Mary's Church, Dedham



we're back this Sunday 6<sup>th</sup> December  
and we'll be exploring the theme  
**Advent brings love**



### The Journey to Christmas

#### Welcome to our Christmas Services for 2020

We really hope that you will be able to join us over Christmas after what has been such a difficult year. *God Rest you Merry Gentlemen* is one of the oldest known carols dating back to the 16th century, nevertheless, how apt is the Christmas promise in it's chorus *Oh Tidings of Comfort & Joy*. We pray that you know God's comfort and joy this Christmas-time.

**Book ahead:** seats for Carol services, Christmas Eve and Christmas Day services need to be booked in advance via our website  
*Reverend Antony Wilson*

#### Friday 18<sup>th</sup> December

6pm, Carol Service, Dedham

#### Saturday 19<sup>th</sup> December

6pm, Carol Service, Dedham

6pm, Carol Service, Ardleigh

#### Sunday 20<sup>th</sup> December

11am, Carol Service, Dedham

11am, Carol Service, Ardleigh

6pm, Drive in Carols, Ardleigh Car boot site

#### Christmas Eve, Thursday 24<sup>th</sup> December

3pm, Crib Service, Dedham

3pm, Crib Service, Ardleigh

11pm, Midnight Mass, Dedham

11pm, Midnight Mass, Ardleigh

#### Christmas Day, Friday 25<sup>th</sup> December

8am, Holy Communion, Ardleigh

10am, Family Communion, Dedham

#### Sunday 27<sup>th</sup> December

11am, Benefice Service, Dedham

