



NEWSLETTER

Thursday 10th December 2020

www.dedham.essex.sch.uk

Telephone: 01206 322242

Head Talk

Dear families of Dedham CE Primary School,

You may have read in the media this week that the DfE have suggested that schools could bring forward the end of term to Thursday 17th December. In order to close one day early we would have to forego a non-pupil day (staff training day) in 2021. After considering the implications for parents regarding childcare with one week's notice, the school providing meaningful staff training on the 18th December and speaking with a number of local headteachers, **I have decided that the end of term will remain as Friday 18th December.**

Public Health England have also directed schools to be contactable up to and including Thursday 24th December to support test and trace. Please do read the attached letter (**Information for Parents regarding COVID19 Contact Tracing over the Christmas Holiday period**) carefully so that you are aware of your responsibilities should your child test positive for Covid-19 between 18th December 2020 and Christmas Eve.

Christmas is very much in the air at school! Christmas trees are appearing, the turkey has been ordered for school Christmas dinners and Class R and 2 are working hard on Nativity performances which are to be shared online with their parents on Friday 18th December.

Also, Reverend Antony visited school yesterday, highlighting the joy of giving and lit the third candle on our Advent wreath.

My very best wishes to you all,

Mr David Larnar
Headteacher

Mrs McGinn is expecting a baby!

We are delighted to share the news that Mrs McGinn is expecting her first child in May 2021.

I'm sure you will want to join with us in sending Mrs McGinn and her husband our congratulations and best wishes for their new adventures ahead!

LUNCH MENU FOR W/C 14th December IS WEEK 1

Please remember that Thursday 17th December is the pre-booked Christmas meal.

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.

Christmas lunch day (Thursday 17th December 2020) is also a Christmas themed non-uniform day!



To make our Christmas lunch day more special we would like everybody to wear Christmas themed clothing. This could include a Christmas jumper or even a little tinsel! We would suggest a donation of £1 which would



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go to our Parent Group who have supported so many wonderful projects over the years.

Water bottles on Christmas lunch day

Please could you ensure your child brings a water bottle to school on Christmas dinner day. We plan for each class to eat their Christmas dinner in their classroom. Staff feel this will help them to make the lunch a very special occasion with music and crackers.

ANNUAL REPORT BY THE GOVERNORS FOR THE ACADEMIC YEAR 2019/20

Please see the attached annual report by our Governing Board reflecting on the challenges and achievements of the academic year 2019-20.

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

Dedham & Ardleigh Parishes Star Trail Activity

Attached to this School Comms is the Follow the Star - Christmas Star Trail activity sheet for Ardleigh and Dedham Parishes. Happy hunting!

DEDHAM PRIMARY SCHOOL AND ARDLEIGH PRIMARY SCHOOL
DEDHAM AND ARDLEIGH PARISHES

Follow the Star - Christmas Star Trail

The trail has 16 stars:

- 8 are displayed in windows on or near Dedham High Street, and in the church.
- 8 are displayed in windows near Ardleigh Cross, and in the church.

On each star you will find a number and a letter.

Fill in the spaces below with the letter that matches the number to reveal the words with a Christmas theme.

You can place your completed form in the red box in Dedham Church (red safe, to the left of the door) or in Ardleigh Church (red box inside the church).

Happy hunting!

Two words are in Ardleigh:

1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8
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The other two words are in Dedham:

9	10	11	12	13	14	15	16
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Please enter the prize draw with the collector from Ardleigh or Dedham, or from both.

Please submit your entry by 20th December. The winner will be notified before Christmas.

Name:

Contact:



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Parent Group - Christmas Raffle

We'd like to say a big thank you to all those who have bought and sold raffle tickets over the past few weeks. We're busy counting the money and will confirm the final total in next week's comms.

Mr Larner will complete the draw at school tomorrow and all winners will be contacted by phone or email next week to arrange delivery of the prizes before Christmas.

Thank you for your continued support.

Kind regards

Christine, Kate & Lara

dedhampg@gmail.com

News from St Mary's Church, Dedham



We now have a dedicated page on our website where you can find out more about upcoming services and events at St Mary's Church, Dedham. This week there are details of the *Journey to Christmas with their Nativity Trail*. It can be found at the link below;

<https://www.dedham.essex.sch.uk/news-from-st-marys-church-dedham>