

Stonelow Junior School Newsletter 4

7th December 2016 - www.dronfieldstonelow.derbyshire.sch.uk

Now that we are in the final weeks of the term and getting ready for Christmas, we thought we should fill you in once again on all that is going on in school. The Year 4 children have been very busy getting ready for their parts in Aladdin and the Y3 learning their songs. Year 5 have been rehearsing Christmas carols to sing at several local care homes and shopping centres. This is always a huge success and part of our community engagement work. Year 6 have been practising their Samba drumming ready for the Coffee Morning. Finally, it is our school Christmas Fair on Friday which starts a little earlier this year to try to reduce the over-crowding.

Christmas Post Box – the Christmas card post box will be put out this week for children to drop in cards. Please ensure full name and class/year group is on each envelope as they are impossible to deliver if not.

Events leading up to Christmas – In the weeks up to Christmas there are some events at Stonelow to remind you of:

- 9th December – Christmas Fair 3.00pm – all welcome.
- 14th December - Lower school Aladdin performance 2pm
- 15th December – Lower School performance of Aladdin 7pm
- 16th December – Christmas Jumper Day (bring £1 for Save the Children)
- 19th December – School Christmas lunch
- 20th December - Coffee Morning – all welcome.
- 20th December – Break for Christmas (children return to school on Wednesday 4th January 2017)

Christmas Fair – This Friday is our Christmas Fair. The doors will be open (main entrance to school) from 3pm and Y3 and Y4 children will be in the hall from 3.15pm for children to be collected by parents. Y5 and Y6 will be dismissed at 3.30pm as usual and can be met on the playground or can come into the school fair through the front door. Children have made something for families to buy and there are also games and prizes to be won. There are some amazing hampers to be won in the raffle. Come and join us.

Stonelow Coffee Morning – for all who have attended one of our coffee morning events before you will know what a success they are...all children performing something with their class and a chance to see the whole school. It will start at 10:30am and is lots of fun. No tickets needed.

Children in Need – we raised £123. Thank you.



New Hope Foodbank say 'Thank You' – our Harvest donation has been gratefully received and a letter to school stated that our donations contributed to 80,000 meals delivered to local people. Thank you for all your generosity.

Friendship Week – We celebrate this during anti-bullying week, although you don't really need a special week to make your friends feel cared about. At Stonelow we value the importance of friendship and 'Friendship Tokens' were given and received. The draw of tokens was done on Monday and 10 children can bring a friend for juice and biscuits as a reward for their friendship token being selected. We also celebrated acts of friendship on a graffiti board in the hall.

DID YOU KNOW? *Friendship Day was originally promoted by Joyce Hall, the founder of Hallmark cards in 1919, and intended on the first Sunday in August to be a day where people celebrated their friendship.*

Worry Box – The Anti-Bullying Ambassadors have placed worry boxes in school outside the Y3 and Y5 classrooms. If your child has any worries they would like to talk to one of the ambassadors about, please encourage them to write their concern on a piece of paper and post it in the box. The boxes are checked regularly by the anti-bullying team and Mrs Williamson.

Sporting Achievements

We entered both the boys and girls into the table tennis tournaments held this term. Congratulations to the girls' team who came a brilliant 2nd.

Our cross country successes continued when we went on to the District Cross Country Championships with Y4 coming 3rd, Y5 coming 4th and Y6 coming 1st overall. A big well done to all the teams, especially the girls who came first in every year group – Connie, Eve and Ruby.

£1000 for School – Coun. Janet Hill and Mrs Cooper came and presented school with a cheque for £1000 from DCC Members Community Leadership Scheme. This will be used to improve outdoor spaces. We are having a new water butt for our prize winning school garden, an insect hotel for the children to observe and use in science and a new storage shed for our gardening tools.

Congratulations – The children in Y4 entered MP Natasha Engel's Christmas card competition and we are so proud that Felicity was a runner up and her superb design is featured on the back of Natasha's card. Keep your eye out for it arriving in the post.

Reading – Our whole school priority is reading and developing reading skills and questioning. Teachers are currently training in school to further develop ways to teach reading to overcome barriers to comprehension. Along-side this we would like to ask you to make time to hear your child read a minimum for 3 times each week. Regular reading practice is crucial

because progress in inference and comprehension relies on reading fluency. As a family you can significantly help your child by doing this.

Stanger danger – On Monday this week we were notified of an incident in Dronfield of an unknown person offering a child a lift. We wanted to make parents aware so that conversations about staying safe can happen outside of school as well as in school. An assembly took place on Tuesday this week with a general theme of staying safe.

Clubs – There will be no school clubs on Monday 19th and Tuesday 20th December. They will restart on the second week back after Christmas (W/C 9th January 2017).

Wintery weather - During the winter weather we do try our best to get the children outdoors for playtimes, our daily mile and PE; please ensure your child has at the very least a warm coat to wear each day. On mornings where the playground is frozen/ dangerous, the gates will be locked. Children should enter school through the front door which will be open and a member of staff will be in the school hall to supervise. If the weather is very wet, children need to come across the playground and will be let in via the pupil entrance to keep dry. If it snows, please check the website ticker tape on the home page to find out the latest (www.drofieldstonelow.derbyshire.sch.uk), listen to Peak FM and/or wait for a text to parents for information on whether the school is open. Please do not phone the school office for this information.

Thank you for your continued support.

Merry Christmas!

Mrs Collins and Mrs Perkins