



## Ditchheat Primary School Weekly Newsletter - 1st December 2021

This newsletter can also be viewed on our school website:  
<http://ditchheatprimary.co.uk/>

### Headteachers update

Dear Parents and Carers,

**'To err is human, to forgive is divine'**

I didn't sleep at all last night. I felt like the Grinch who Stole Christmas. I had many emails supporting my decision not to have live Christmas performances, which was MUCH appreciated. However, I felt simply dreadful that the children, and particularly the children in Key Stage 1 for whom Nativity is such a precious thing, would be denied the experience yet again. Last year, it was not allowed as a result of Government directives. This year, the advice is more ambiguous and conflicting. I wracked my brain to think of a way that was as safe as possible so that we could go ahead.

So, the staff have been brilliant and are willing to go the extra mile to put on extra performances so that the children can have the special Christmas they deserve. I take it on the chin that it is a U turn, but rather than deny the children the opportunity if I have a solution, I accept that I have made a human error in not thinking of this in the first place..

There will be **three** performances of the 'Are We Nearly There Yet'. Tuesday 7th December at 9.30am and 2.00pm and Thursday 9th December at 9.30am. There will be **two** performances of 'A Midwife Crisis'. Wednesday 15th December at 2.00pm and 6.30pm. We will sing Carols **outside** of school on the front lawn at 3.15pm on Wednesday 8th December.

For the inside performances, there will be a limit of two tickets per family (costing £2.00 each). This means an absolute **maximum of 28 adults** at any one time. I feel comfortable that with that small number we can space out appropriately. Tickets will go on sale Friday morning (3rd December) for both Cherry and Maple's performances and Holly's performances. A member of staff will be outside.

The hall will be well ventilated. We ask that you take a Lateral Flow Test before arrival, and wear masks. At the singing of Carols, we would ask that you distance as much as possible.

Forgive me. I hope as you get to know me better you will see that any decision I make is made with integrity and in the very best interests of our wonderful little people.

Red team was the winning team last term. They are invited to wear Mufti on Monday 6th December.

Best wishes,  
Michelle Heap  
Interim Headteacher

<b>Attendance Last Week</b>			
<b>Cherry</b>	<b>Maple</b>	<b>Holly</b>	<b>Willow</b>
92.9%	100%	99.1%	92.4%
Whole School Attendance for 2021-2022 = 95.9%			

### **Consent for upcoming trips**

#### **Willow class trip to Bovington Tank Museum**

On **Monday 13th December (RESCHEDULED DATE)** Willow class will be heading to Bovington Tank Museum. Please consent via the Google form and pay your contribution via SCOPAY.

[Google Form](#)  
[Letter](#)

#### **Swimming - Willow Class - Spring Term**

Swimming will be starting for Willow class on Monday 10th January 2022. Please make sure you have consented and paid £32.00 via SCOPAY. Please click below to read the letter:

[Swimming letter](#)

### **#999 Unite the Uniforms**

Schools have been invited to come together and raise money for [#999UniteTheUniforms](#). This is to build the UK's first 21ft 999 Cenotaph which will be placed in Whitehall, London.

Your child can come into school on ***Friday 3rd December*** wearing red, blue, green or orange (colours of the emergency services). This is a non-uniform day. Willow class can take part even though they are at Carymoor, please make sure they are still wearing appropriate outdoor clothing though.

For more information please click on the link below, this will also detail how you can make a £1 donation:

<https://www.999cenotaph.org.uk/>

### **Many thanks.....**

Huge thanks to Demetri Benfield who has donated a real Christmas tree to us for the school hall. Cherry children will enjoy decorating it this week. Demetri has more trees on sale at Bruton Country Centre.

## **THANK YOU FORM THE GOVERNORS**

Following on from our Board meeting we would like to recognise the significant efforts of the FoDS team with their fund-raising efforts and on-going support to the school; particularly in light of the restricted opportunities to run events. You have been absolutely brilliant and raised a phenomenal amount of money. We are extremely lucky to have such a committed team. Thank you.

### **Christmas Lunch**

Mrs Clarkson will be cooking Christmas lunch for lower and upper key stage groups in the last week of term.

#### **Reception, Year 1 and Year 2**

Reception, Year 1 and Year 2 will have Christmas lunch on **Tuesday 14th December**. Can you please indicate on SCOPAY if your child will have the meat option or veg option. Please use these NEW codes to book your child's lunch, **C = Christmas MEAT and D = Delicious VEG**. If your child would like to bring in a packed lunch from home this is fine, they will still be part of the celebrations. We ask that you indicate **P** for that day though.

***We will have turkey (quorn roast), roast potatoes, yorkshire puddings, pigs in blankets (veg option), veg and gravy. Dietary requirements will be catered for.***

On Wednesday 15th December while Year 3, 4, 5 & 6 are having their Christmas lunch, Reception, Year 1 and Year 2 will have pizza for lunch NOT a roast.

#### **Year 3, 4, 5 & 6**

Year 3, 4, 5 & 6 will have Christmas lunch on **Wednesday 15th December**. Can you please indicate on SCOPAY if your child will have the meat option or veg option. As the lunch will be free of charge for all, we have NEW codes. **C = Christmas MEAT and D = Delicious VEG**. If your child would like to bring in a packed lunch from home this is fine, they will still be part of the celebrations. We ask that you indicate **P** for that day though.

***We will have turkey (quorn roast), roast potatoes, yorkshire puddings, pigs in blankets (veg option), veg and gravy. Dietary requirements will be catered for.***

On Tuesday 14th December while Reception, Year 1 and Year 2 are having Christmas lunch, Year 3, 4, 5 & 6 will have pizza.

Year 3 - Year 6 - Your accounts have been credited for the day your child is having Christmas lunch. Please remember to put in the NEW code for that day. Thank you.

## Team Points:

**Red:** 32    **Yellow:** 22    **Blue:** 22    **Green:** 16

### Key Dates

#### December

- **Friday 3rd** - [#999 UniteTheUniform](#) - *Non-School uniform day - £1 donation*
- **Monday 6th** - *Red team Mufti day*
- **Tuesday 7th** - *Cherry and Maple 'Are We Nearly There Yet' Production - 9.30am and 2pm*
- **Wednesday 8th** - *Sleeping Beauty Panto (in the school hall) - funded by FoDS*
- **Wednesday 8th** - *Carols on the Lawn - 3.15pm*
- **Thursday 9th** - *Cherry and Maple 'Are We Nearly There Yet' Production - 9.30am*
- **Monday 13th** - *Willow trip to Bovington - Rescheduled*
- **Tuesday 14th** - *Parent Forum at 2.00pm - Google Meet*
- **Tuesday 14th** - *Reception, 1 and 2 Christmas Lunch*
- **Wednesday 15th** - *Year 3, 4, 5 and 6 Christmas lunch*
- **Wednesday 15th** - *Holly Christmas Production - Midwife Crisis - 2.00pm and 6.30pm*
- **Friday 17th** - *Christmas Jumper day and mufti - £1 donation to [Save the Children](#)*
- **Friday 17th** - *NO Ditchheat Extra*

**Christmas Holidays - Monday 20th December - Friday 31st December**  
**Monday 3rd January - Bank Holiday**

#### January

- **Monday 3rd** - *Bank holiday*
- **Wednesday 5th** - *Flu Vaccination - PM*
- **January 10th** - *Swimming for Willow Class - PM*
- **Tuesday 11th** - *Parents evening (possibly online)*
- **Monday 17th** - *Bikeability for Years 5 and 6*
- **Tuesday 18th** - *Bikeability for Years 5 and 6*