



Christmas Message from Mrs Waters.

Dear Parents/Carers,

We started the Autumn term hoping we would be returning to a more normal routine. In many ways we have been able to do this - no more rows of tables in classrooms, joint playtimes/lunchtimes, reading books going home etc. However, there are lots of things we still haven't been able to do such as invite you all in for Shine times, Book Buzz and parents' evenings. We also continue to meet for virtual Shine times as a school family.

Sadly, the National COVID picture is not looking good and measures are slowly being put back into place. We don't know what will happen next. However, I do know one thing...**the staff at DIS will continue to work tirelessly to support your children and ensure they shine as brightly as they can!**

This term has been challenging for all schools and DIS is no exception. I am so grateful to my team for the way they work together to create fantastic learning experiences for our children. This takes a huge amount of time and energy with staff working long into the night and at weekends. We know there are times when our decisions may disappoint some of you and times when we get things wrong. However, this is never intentional and our aim is always to work with you to create the very best school we can for our little stars.

On behalf of the staff, I would like to say **THANK YOU** for all your support this term and a special thank you for the Christmas cards, gifts and good wishes we have received. Your kindness means a great deal to all of us.

Keep safe, take care
Mrs Waters

Message from Sue Hartropp, Chair of Governors

Dear Parents and Carers,

I am sure you would all wish to join with me and the governors in saying a huge thank you to each and every one of the Dogsthorpe Infant School staff, for everything they have done for the children, and for you, this term. Last Christmas, none of us would have imagined that we would still be stuck in the middle of the COVID pandemic for Christmas 2021, and that we would have had another very difficult Autumn term. But despite everything, the school has remained open, and the children have been taught and looked after in the best way possible, thanks to the dedication and determination of all the teachers, teaching assistants, admin support staff, kitchen staff, caretaking and cleaning staff, the senior leadership team, and most importantly, Mrs Waters. The governors and I are full of admiration for you all, to be able to do such a fantastic job in such difficult circumstances. Thank you!

Lastly I wish all of the staff, and all of you and your families, the best possible Christmas, a good holiday, and a well-earned rest. And we really look forward to seeing all of you again in 2022, just as soon as we can.

Netsupport/Salvation Army Toy Appeal

We have received this message from the Salvation Army in response to your generous donations to their appeal:

Just dropping you a line to say thank you so much to you and the team for all the lovely donations that arrived from your school. There was so much variety and toys for different age groups. Your donation was fantastic! Please be assured these toys will be distributed to vulnerable children living in the Peterborough area and will make a big difference to their lives.

Kind regards
Rachel Dockerill, Community Centre Manager

Term Dates

School closes at 3.15pm on Friday 17th December.

Spring Term 2022

School Opens: 8.45am on Weds 5th January 2022

Half-term 14th - 18th February 2022

School Closes Friday 1st April 2022

Please note: should the government make any further changes over the Christmas period then we will send a message out via Parentmail. Please ensure you check this regularly.

Christmas Fundraising Update

Our Christmas Jumper day raised £123.28 - this will be split between the Save the Children Charity and the school fund.

Well done to the winner of our amazing Christmas Hamper - the raffle raised £155.00 which will go towards funding the exciting curriculum events we have planned for the Spring Term. Unfortunately, our budget does not always stretch to covering the costs of curriculum visitors to school so we could not have them without your support and generosity.

Foodbank

Dogsthorpe Infants is an agent for foodbank vouchers. If you are currently going through a difficult financial time and need a food parcel please speak to Mrs Waters, Mrs Hibbert or Mrs Gardner. You can be assured that this will be kept confidential. E-Vouchers are now available so can be sent to you electronically. If you require a voucher over the holiday period, please email Mrs Waters/Mrs Gardner on: office@dogsthorpe-inf.peterborough.sch.uk

The Foodbank is open as follows over the Christmas period:

Fri 24th Dec - Dogsthorpe open, 11am-1pm

Sat 25th Dec - Closed

Mon 27th Dec - Closed

Tues 28th Dec - Bretton open, 11am-1pm

Wed 29th Dec - Closed

Thur 30th Dec - Hampton open, 7pm-9pm

Fri 31st Dec - Dogsthorpe open, 11am-1pm

Sat 1st Jan - Dogsthorpe open, 11am-1pm

Mon 3rd Jan - Closed

Staffing update

In January, we will be welcoming Miss Johnson (Specialist Support Teacher) back to school following her maternity leave.

We also look forward to welcoming Mrs Bland back during the half-term.



Foodbank Donations

As you may be aware we have a foodbank in the Methodist Church next to the school which is well used by the families of the Dogsthorpe Community. We have always held an annual collection for the Foodbank but as they need supplies the whole year round we have decided to have a permanent Foodbank drop-off point in school. If you would like to donate any items, at any time, please bring to the school office.

The Foodbank always needs the following items:

Tins of: meat, vegetables, fruit, rice pudding, soup, beans

Pasta & pasta sauces, noodles, instant mash

Biscuits/cake

Tea/coffee/sugar

Longlife milk or cartons of juice

Squash/pop

Cereals

Crisps/sweets

Toiletries

Toilet Roll

They are currently in desperate need of:

Tins of meat - things like stewed steak, corned beef, hotdogs etc

Cartons of juice

Jars of Pasta sauce

The Foodbank is also happy to accept donations on the days they are open.

Many thanks for your continued support of this vital community resource.

Keep Learning!

We know the Christmas holidays can become very hectic. However, please try to continue hearing your child read as much as possible. Hopefully Santa may bring them a new book or two to help with this!

There are some great holiday activities on the website to keep you busy and keep an eye on Class Dojo too!

A final message from Mrs Waters...

On behalf of everyone at Dogsthorpe Infants, I would like to wish you all a very **MERRY CHRISTMAS and a HAPPY HOLIDAY!**