



**DODFORD FIRST SCHOOL
NEWSLETTER**
Every Day, a Learning Journey

Fockbury Road.
Dodford,
Bromsgrove, B61 9AW
office@dodford.worcs.sch.uk
Headteacher: Mrs Lisa Parkes

'The gift of love and the gift of time: both priceless'

This is a time of the year where many of us take a pause, spend time with ones we love and think of others. With this in mind, we have set children the challenge to give two gifts that cannot be bought. Two gifts that reflect kindness and come from their heart. The gift of love and the gift of time. Children have been speaking about how they are able to generously give these gifts in school, not only during the festive season, but throughout the year. Research has show over and over again that by giving to others and to our community, we can increase our own happiness and the happiness of others. We thank you for the support you have given to our school over the past year and ask you to support our children's challenge to harness the gift of love and the gift of time. As two children remind us:

'Time helps people...you can spend time with them and be kind to them...even though we are all different, we can still help people. You should always be kind, helpful and caring' (Owls)

Reverend Bev endorsed this message as she spoke about how each of us are unique and have a great light that shines within us. A light that not only helps us to be our true self, but also to help others. We thank Reverend Bev and the Dodford church community for enabling children to sing their carols in church this week. It was one of the most beautiful occasions this year with children raising the roof—tunefully! If we measure success by volume then Rudolph the Red Nose Reindeer is definitely a school favourite.

End of Term Message from Dr. Jonathan Shapiro
(jshapiro@dodford.worcs.sch.uk)
Chair of Governors

We are delighted to announce that Mrs. Lisa Parkes will be returning to our school building as Headteacher as children return to school in January. We express our heartfelt thanks to Mrs. Eggleton and the staff team who have worked tirelessly to keep children at the heart of all we do at Dodford school. Mrs. Eggleton will continue in her role as Deputy Headteacher.

Mrs. Parkes is looking forward to her return and to re-connecting with the children, parents and wider community: something she has deeply missed whilst recovering and working from home.

Mrs. Parkes and I jointly express our thanks to Mrs. Crawford and Mrs. Athey from the Crown Meadow team for supporting our school as the Autumn Term draws to a close. The Crown Meadow team will not disappear altogether, but will continue to work with Mrs. Parkes and I to ensure a seamless handover. You will find more details about the handover and support further on.

On behalf of our school governors, may I take this opportunity to wish all our children and their families a happy and healthy Christmas.

**PLEASE READ
OUR**

COVID UPDATE

**ON THE FINAL
PAGE**

ATTENDANCE

WRENS— 93%

ROBINS 1— 92%

ROBINS 2— 79%

OWLS 3— 100%

OWLS 4— 98%

HOUSE POINTS:

AVON: 197

TEME : 202

SEVERN: 182



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Headteacher Handover

Both Mrs. Crawford and Mrs. Parkes will be present in school to greet all children and their families back to school on Wednesday 5th January as part of their seamless leadership handover. Mrs. Eggleton will be here as usual too! Crown Meadow and Dodford will continue to work together every day for the first week, ensuring the handover is rigorous. After that, Crown Meadow will continue to support our school for two days a week through to February half term. This will ensure Mrs. Parkes can return to school well and stay well, building up to full-time presence on our school site. We thank you for your understanding: Mrs. Crawford and Mrs. Parkes will be available on the first day back, should you have any questions or simply wish to say Happy New Year.

School Values Focus through our NED character

Being an eco school with a focus on sustainability, we ask you to support children to continue giving love and time throughout the festive season. Building on these gifts, you will see our school values coming to the forefront as we focus on two school values per half term, exploring and celebrating the impact of values in action. Watch this space—we know Mrs. Eggleton (who leads on our school values) has an abundance of energy and a passion for ensuring children thrive at Dodford school—the term ahead looks both ambitious and exciting!

Courses to help boost employability skills

Worcestershire County Council is offering a range of short online courses aimed at supporting adults in Worcestershire find employment and progress their careers. The courses provide the opportunity to gain a qualification in I.T, Maths and English and focus on core employability skills such as planning and conducting successful career development moves. Worcestershire County Council is also offering a Job Seeking & Employment Advice Appointments open to anyone and offers support on a wide range of common challenges, including CV writing, interview skills and advice on qualifications and career paths.

Starting in January, the courses are open to everyone and are suitable for those who are currently seeking new work opportunities, wanting to change career direction or progress in their current job role.

Courses include: Maths and English skills boosters, computer and digital skills, and Award in Employability Skills (available to book through advice appointment [here](#))

If you are interested in booking any other adult learning courses, please visit Worcestershire.gov.uk/courses

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Christmas Charity

NewStarts in Bromsgrove wish to pass on their sincere thanks for your generous donations this week. Mrs Crawford's boot was full of carefully selected and kindly gifted food, toiletries and pet food. It shows the power of our small, yet perfectly formed school family.

Spring Charity

A team of Year 3 and Year 4 children will be working with Mrs. Parkes to develop and launch a 'Love & Gratitude Day' on Monday 14th February. The ethos of the day is for children to re-connect with their local community following Covid impact, expressing their gratitude and appreciation for the help they give at the time it is needed.

This may include:

- * writing letters of thanks to the local doctor's and dentists
- * thanking staff who help to run our local village hall
- * visiting local services to let them know we are deeply grateful for their support.

If you know local community groups who have gone the extra mile to help others, please speak to Mrs. Parkes early January.



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Headteacher's Awards

We are delighted to announce the Headteacher's Awards this term. These awards recognise and celebrate one child from every year group who has shown great attitude towards learning and advocating our school values. Congratulations to all children: we are very proud of you.

Wrens: Leila Robins (Y1): Beatrice Robins (Y2): George
Owls (Y3): Annabel Owls (Y4): Freya

Star Readers this Term

Congratulations to the pupils who have earned their bronze reading stars during the autumn term. Class by class, we have seen secure achievements. Children have chosen their free books to take home as their reward. Thank you to all parents who continue to read with their children. Research shows that reading often is of pivotal importance to children's holistic development.

Number of children per class: **Wrens: 8, Robins - Year 1: 7, Robins - Year 2: 7, Owls – Year 3: 7, Owls – Year 4: 9.** A full list of names will be in the next newsletter edition.

Never Forget The Difference You Make

We would like to take this opportunity to thank members of our school family who have supported our school to keep children healthy, well and learning every day. This is no easy task as every day whilst safety and education is of the utmost importance we also deal with the maintenance of our beautiful building amongst other things. This week, our note of thanks goes to the **Dodford Parents' Association (DPA)**. The DPA have worked collaboratively with us to ensure Christmastime in school has been very special indeed for our children. Here is a snapshot of the DPA impact over the last 3 weeks. The DPA:

- * worked collaboratively with us to keep our community safe, turning the cancelling of the village fayre into a positive with Christmas stalls on our playground
- * Christmas stalls raised in close to £200 —money which will be ploughed back into your child's education
- * organised and provided party food
- * ran a full day of Christmas crafts involving every child in school
- * led the Christmas raffle (£269 raised) with the most incredible hampers as prizes!

Thank you DPA—please know dedication is appreciated.

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After School Sports Clubs Start

Thursday 6th January

Monday 17 January

Kids Inventors Day

(Dress up as a famous inventor)

Friday 28th January

Big Garden Birdwatch

Friday 4th February

National Number Day (NSPCC)

(Dress up for digits NSPCC theme)

Tuesday 9th February

Safer Internet Day

Monday 14th February

Love & Gratitude Day

(Dress in a colour that represents love to you)

COMING SOON!

14th—18 March

STEM Week



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A note of thanks from staff

We are staggered by your kind words, generous gifts and words in cards which not only wish our staff a Happy Christmas, but also recognise their dedication to your child's education. Thank you for your kindness.

We have also noticed an increase in notes of thanks and positive feedback through discussions with parents and in emails. It is always helpful for us as a school to reflect on what is going well and what we can develop further. Thank you for your feedback.

Staying Covid safe

Today, we have received a third positive case in school. We ask you to be extremely vigilant about signs and symptoms as we work relentlessly to limit the risk of transmission for our families. We ask that you continue to notify school if your child tests positive via **keep-intouch@dodford.worcs.sch.uk up to 3.30pm on Sunday 19th December**. Whilst we are not responsible for Track and Trace (the NHS are), we will be able to inform families about any positive cases. The more we work together, the more our community is protected. Thank you.

A final note from Mrs. Parkes, Mrs. Eggleton, Mrs Crawford and Mrs Athey

As school leaders, we are all incredibly proud of our Dodford children. Every single child behaved impeccably during our walk to church on Wednesday and sang with gusto! It was heart-warming to hear children cheerily thank Reverend Bev as they walked out of church. Our Dodford children are a credit to this local and wider community.

We thank you for your support as parents and families this half term. Mrs. Parkes is very much looking forward to returning to the school building in January. The Crown Meadow team will continue to support leadership whilst Mrs. Parkes builds up to full-time presence in school. The good news is that all staff members are staying at Dodford into January. This means your child will continue to be taught by their class teacher and the wonderful team of teaching assistants. We are hopeful that Mrs Randall (school office superstar) will return to school in January too—she is amazing. As she builds to greater time inside school Mrs Cairns will continue to help out (she is also brilliant!)

The doors of communication are open and we endeavour to keep you up to date with changes as they occur. In the meantime, please do have a happy and peaceful Christmas.

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Feel Good Friday!

Children have had the most incredible last day of the school term.

Extra time per class with Jon the Sports Coach saw children taking part in Christmas sports and team games. A great way to keep fit and healthy whilst reaping the rewards of collaboration.

This afternoon, a very special guest appeared at Dodford School! We feel sure the children will tell you exactly who arrived. He happened to be wearing a bright red outfit, black boots and gave gifts to all. As with all visitors, he was asked to sign the visitor's book and show proof of his identification (which revealed his home address to be 'The North Pole!') and his name to be 'Santa Claus'.

Needless to say, he was warmly welcomed by all children (and staff!)

*Merry Christmas
and a
Happy New Year*