



**Perseverance, responsibility, thankfulness, forgiveness, respect and friendship in Action**

**BITS & PIECES NEWSLETTER 15 2021/22**

**17th December 2021**

**A Message from Mr. Daniels**

Dear parents and carers

I would just like to take this opportunity to wish you and your families a very happy Christmas. For me personally it has been disappointing not to be able to finish my time at Dursley with the children but I know the staff have continued to serve the community outstandingly in my absence.

I feel honoured to have had the opportunity to lead such an incredibly dedicated team and with them create such a wonderful place for our children to flourish.

I say our, as my wife Umbareen and I chose to send our own son, Rowan to the academy all those years ago. I remember those years with such fondness and as I help him now apply to University I am reminded of the importance of that choice.

As parents, we want the very best for our children and I whole heartedly believe that is what Dursley offers its community. We want them to succeed academically but first and foremost we want them to be happy and to grow up in a place where they feel cared for and loved. The challenge lies in getting that balance right and whilst not always perfect, I believe this is what makes Dursley special.

We come into this profession to serve, to serve and help make a difference. To be a teacher is not easy and to rise to this challenge every day is not easy. Yet this is what is asked of the staff every day. As a head teacher it is humbling to witness this and I am in awe of those who chose to do it.

As a head teacher we know that we are custodians of an institution that means so much to so many people. That responsibility is great but I leave very proud of what we have achieved together, having built on the wonderful work of my predecessors. I wish the next head teacher all the best, knowing she comes to not only a wonderful school to lead but a very special community to serve.

Together We Shine Brightly

Paul

**Farewells and Hellos**

Today, as well as saying goodbye to Mr. Daniels we also said farewell to Mrs. Jones, Miss. Eccles and Miss. Ind-Smith. We would like to wish them all well in the future and we remind them to stay in touch with us all. When we return on Tuesday, January 4<sup>th</sup> 2022, we will have some new and some familiar faces welcoming the children back.

Our new principal Mrs. Holford-Wright will be working closely with Mr. Wright and the rest of the staff, whilst getting to know the children and the school.

We also have two new, but familiar faces in key stage one. Mr. Lord will be teaching in Larch class on Tuesday, Wednesday and Thursdays alongside Miss. Kibblewhite who will continue as class teacher on Monday and Fridays. Mr. Lord has been in the academy many times in the past and we are very pleased to welcome him back.

**Holidays During Term Time**

Whilst I realise absence through illness is unavoidable, I do have concerns about children missing school through holidays and the impact this makes on their learning. Children also need to be present for important assessments throughout the year – **there are particularly important tests for Year Six and Year Two in May and Year One in June. I cannot, therefore, authorise any requests for family holidays except in exceptional circumstances.**

Our new teaching assistant in Larch class is Mrs. Watts. Mrs. Watts has been working in the academy as a teaching assistant, most recently in our reception classes. She has been popping in to Larch class to help out recently and the children have made her feel very welcome.

### **A message from Mrs. Holford-Wright**

Dear Parents and Carers,

As I am sure you are aware, after the Christmas break I shall be joining Dursley Primary Academy as the new Head teacher. I am delighted to have the opportunity to become a part of the Dursley team and am looking forward to meeting everyone properly in January.

I have been able to visit school a couple of times this term and have had the opportunity to talk to your children in their classrooms, listening to their ideas, reading their work and answering many of their questions. I have also been able to start to get to know the brilliant and dedicated staff team. I am extremely grateful to everyone for being so wonderfully welcoming.

My intention is to hold some 'Coffee and Chat' events for parents and carers in the Spring Term so that I can get to know the wider school community. I will keep a close eye on government guidance and dates will be set for these events as soon as restrictions allow. In the meantime, I will be at the gates and in the playground at drop-off and pick-up times so please come over to meet me.

Finally, have a safe and happy Christmas with your families and I look forward to seeing you in the New Year.

Yours sincerely,  
Toni Holford-Wright

### **Caterlink Menu**

Please see attached menu from our food providers for next term.

### **Contacting School**

If you need to contact the school, either for calling in an absence or for general enquiries, please can you call us on 01453 542304 or email us at [admin@dursley.gloucs.sch.uk](mailto:admin@dursley.gloucs.sch.uk).

## **Christmas 2021**



### **Whole school service**

Our service today at St James' was led by our year five and six children, who performed some songs, readings and shared some special words for Christmas. The children did a marvellous job and sang beautifully and we were very proud of them.

The whole school joined together to sing a special song called This Is Your School for Mr. Daniels, written by Mrs. Walton based on the tune of We Are The World. The children have been practising the song and it sounded wonderful to hear them singing it proudly in the church.



It was also a time for presenting Mr. Daniels with his gifts and cards from the children and their families. Thank you to everyone who was able to come to the church this morning to say goodbye.

### **Year 3 and 4 Christmas Concert**

Our Year 3 and 4 children performed a short Christmas concert with songs, readings and poems on Wednesday 15th December at 2:30pm and 6pm. The Children treated their family and friends to some wonderful singing and some

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groovy dance moves! I think everyone who saw the performances will agree with me that we were delighted with how well the children did and proud of their efforts.

### Christmas Lunch

On Wednesday we had our Christmas lunch day. The children who chose to have a Christmas meal were treated to a specially decorated hall and tables with crackers and had Christmas songs playing to get them in a really festive mood. The children who chose to have a lunch box weren't forgotten and had their crackers in their classroom. This is the busiest day of the year for our catering and midday staff, and we would like to thank them for providing us with a delicious Christmas meal and for all the other lunches we have tucked into over the year.

### Christmas Party Day

On Thursday, the children had their Christmas parties. Our reception children had party games and a mini disco whilst wearing their best Christmas or fancy dress, and followed the activities with snacks.

Years one and two partied in their classrooms, with disco dancing, pass the parcel and a variety of other party games to keep everyone entertained before they moved on to their snacks.

Years three and four had party games and competitions in the hall, with plenty of energy burnt off ready to enjoy their snacks in their classrooms.

Years five and six took over the gym, with their heavily contested best decorated table competition! This year the standard was extremely high, with all the children putting a lot of time and effort into their displays. The judges, Mr. Wright and Miss. Mills had a very tough decision to make!

### Dursley and District Round Table

Sunday 19<sup>th</sup> December Santa will be making his way around the Highfields area with his band of helpers from the School Association! The volunteers are not able to knock on doors this year, so make sure you're listening out for Santa from 4:30pm on Sunday. Here is this year's route. Santa will start at Yellow Hundred and will Finish at the New Crest Nicholson development at the bottom of Long street.



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## Christingle/Crib Services at St James, Dursley - Christmas Eve



To help with social distancing there will be two services this year

3pm 24<sup>th</sup> December

5pm 24<sup>th</sup> December

We would love for you, your friends and your family to join us at one of our Christingle celebrations and bring hope to more children's lives.

All donations are in support of the Children's society and can be made at the service

*We are unfortunately unable to guarantee social distancing at these services. All adults are required to wear a face covering in church unless they have a medical exemption. In the unfortunate event that we should need to cancel the services – please come and collect a Christingle from the porch at St James on Christmas Eve and light up your window with Christmas hope!*

## School Association



### Goodbye to Mr. Daniels

The school association presented Mr. Daniels with a beautiful tree on behalf of all the parents as part of his leavers' service this morning. We hope that his tree will remind him of us!

Thank you for all the help and support you have provided to the school association over the year.

## School Association Meeting

Our next meeting is planned for Tuesday 11<sup>th</sup> January and will be at the Old Spot. Everyone is welcome to come and join us.

## VIRTUAL 50/50 BUCKET for 2021/22

The winner of our December 50/50 bucket is **number 11 Liam Beasant**. Congratulations Liam!

If you would like to be in with a chance of winning on our monthly prize, please consider signing up to the school VIRTUAL 50/50 BUCKET for 2021/22.

Based on the 50:50 buckets that we have at the school fairs, and so called "100 clubs" it is a great way to support your association whilst having a bit of a flutter! Simply complete and sign the subscription form sent out last week and sign up for £2 a month (or £24 annually) per entry. This buys you one membership number (which will be randomly allocated); this will enter you into the monthly draw. All participants must be parents, guardians or staff of Dursley C of E Primary Academy School. The draw will take place during Worship on the last Friday of each month (or virtually if no Worship is held). The winner will receive 50% of the membership fee taken that month. The remaining 50% goes to the School Association to help fund equipment, resources and opportunities for pupils. In 2020/21 the average prize was more than £60, and if we sell more tickets, the prize could be higher. If you win, a cheque will be posted to your home address. The name of the winner will be announced in the newsletter, on Facebook and the school's website. Any queries, please contact the school association on [schoolassociation@dursley.gloucs.sch.uk](mailto:schoolassociation@dursley.gloucs.sch.uk)



### Cake Sales

Our next sale will be hosted by Elm and Palm classes on Friday 14<sup>th</sup> January 2022!

We would like to take this opportunity to wish you all a very Merry Christmas and a happy and healthy 2022!

David Wright

## Together we shine brightly

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