



DOWNHAM PREPARATORY SCHOOL AND MONTESSORI NURSERY

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Christmas Newsletter 2019



This year we have, once again, had a very full calendar of events, which has culminated this week with our traditional, end of year Christmas celebrations.

Last week, we watched Reception class and Years 1 and 2 perform a beautiful Nativity. There were many spontaneous, hilarious moments, which had us all in fits of laughter and poignant moments, which reduced us to tears. That same afternoon we held our traditional Preparatory School Carol Service in the church, with seven lessons read by the children, beautiful singing from the school choir and a very special performance by Year 7 who sang 'Walking in the Air', which resulted in the hankies making another appearance! Parents and grandparents joined in the traditional carols and the service finished with our ever popular rendition of Jose Feliciano's 'Feliz Navidad', sung in Spanish. The collection of £183 was given to Church funds.

After the service we all met in the school hall for tea, coffee and mince pies served by the Friends of the School.



We are now looking forward to next week when our Nursery pupils will be presenting their Christmas performance to family and friends.

Last week, our younger pupils attended a performance of 'My First Panto – Rapunzel' at the Garage Theatre in Norwich. Older pupils are looking forward to their trip this week to the Corn Exchange, in King's Lynn, to see the pantomime 'Aladdin'.

The Preparatory School term ends on Friday with parties and a special Christmas lunch which, for the first time, will be cooked on site, in our new school kitchen.



During this year we have, once again, been busy raising money for different local charities.

There was great excitement when the school was chosen as one of the stops on the inaugural flight of the new Magpas Air Ambulance. The helicopter landed in the field next to the school and the children had the opportunity to see inside and talk to the crew, who thanked us for helping to raise funds towards the purchase of the new helicopter.

At Harvest Festival we collected food and toiletries for our local Food Bank, who were very grateful for the generosity shown by our parents.

The charity that we have supported for many years is EACH, the East Anglian Children's Hospice. Last week our pupils all took part in a Santa Fun Run and we are still collecting the sponsorship money. The new hospice is now finished and as a thank you for our support over the years, we have been invited to tour the new facilities.

The Friends of the School have helped to organise many fund-raising events this year. Mr Laffeaty and Mr Leaman extended the school playground to make it big enough to instal a new, more challenging Jungle Gym. They have finally completed the build this week and the children will be able to use it next term.

The Friends have also purchased a super, new, disco sound system, complete with flashing lights, Bluetooth and a Karaoke function. The children are looking forward to trying it out for the first time at the end of term parties.

Our thanks to all the 'Friends' and parents who have helped us in many different ways this year: - cooking and serving refreshments at the children's parties, Bonfire Night, Sports Day, School Show, home sports fixtures and the Carol concert. Parents have also helped at the swimming pool, listening to children read and accompanying us on school trips and outings.



In the Summer term the whole school performed Chitty Chitty Bang Bang. We last performed this show ten years ago. Many of the children who starred in that performance saw our show photographs on Instagram and contacted us to say how much they had enjoyed taking part and the lasting memories they have of all the school shows. This year's show was a great success and we are already planning next Summer's production!



Our sports teams have had another successful year and they have won many medals and trophies.

A special mention and congratulations to Esther and William Broad in Year 7. William has been selected to play in the Boys' Under 12 Norfolk County Cricket team and his sister Esther has completed

trials for selection to play in the Girls' Under 13 Norfolk County Cricket team.

It has been a very busy and productive year. Elizabeth Truss MP opened our new Science block; and last week we launched our new website. Thank you for following us on Instagram and for all the encouraging comments you have posted.



I would like to take this opportunity to thank all the teachers, teaching assistants, apprentices and ancillary staff for all their enthusiasm, hard work and dedication to the school and our pupils.

On behalf of us all at the school and my family, I would like to wish you all a wonderful Christmas and a happy and healthy New Year.