

DUNANNIE THURSDAY LETTER Issue 11

24th November 2011

Dear Parents

As the penultimate week of term approaches preparations are truly underway for our Christmas celebrations! Next week we are looking forward to Lighting up Christmas, which will be held in the Hall at 2pm on Wednesday and Thursday. I do hope you have signed up for your tickets. There are a few housekeeping notes about the concerts: following both concerts tea and mince pies will be served in the Library for parents whilst the children change and have a snack in their classrooms. There will be no swimming on Wednesday for the children and Reception class will stay in school all day. The Nursery concert will be on the 8th December at 9.00am. A detailed breakdown of the last two weeks of term is attached.

Last week certainly finished with a flourish! It was lovely to see so many parents at the FoD's coffee morning, especially those from the Nursery who had come to remind themselves about life in Dunannie. Year 2 children were very impressive as our ambassadors and guided Nursery parents through the classrooms showing every detail in a most informed and enthusiastic manner.



Later that morning we greeted Allen Parton who came to receive a cheque for £206. This was presented to him by Jonty who was responsible for alerting us to this extraordinary charity earlier in the term. Allen came with E.J. (Endal's successor) and Clooney and showed us a few of the amazing things they can do and told us more about the charity and the local training centre. We were so inspired by his visit that we are going to continue raising funds. In the new year Allen is going to bring some training puppies and in the not too distant future a film is going to be made of his life starring, he hopes, Colin Firth and Kate Winslet!! Perhaps they will need some local extras!

Friday was also Children in Need day ... and I am pleased to say we raised £90.

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Year 2 assembly was a triumph. The children spoke so well and have obviously absorbed a great deal about Victorian history which they demonstrated in their play about a Victorian household. They showed us the William Morris inspired wallpaper that adorns their models of Victorian parlours and even installed their own electricity. They also crossed the channel and sang a most memorable version of "Castle in a Cloud" from Les Miserables. It was clear that they have very much enjoyed this project and we as an audience loved watching the assembly! Congratulations to you all and thank you Jacqui, Jo and Ellie.

Best wishes





REMINDERS

We urgently need to borrow by tomorrow two pairs of white cotton trousers, some old painting overalls and four Ali Baba baskets for the play.

-  **CHRISTMAS COUNTDOWN:** Tickets for the play will be sent out tomorrow; all additional requests have been accommodated. During the last week of term the Dunannie Times will be on sale. Library Books: please can you make sure that all books are returned to the green book box in the library by Monday 5th December. The collection of shoes for Africa will finish at the end of this term.
-  **MUSIC INFORMATION AND PLATFORM CONCERTS:** The dates have been rearranged slightly from the calendar information: **The Brass Woodwind and Piano Platform Concert** is on Tuesday 29th November at 6.15pm (not Thu 1st Dec). **The Brass Woodwind and Piano Platform Concert** is on Tuesday 29th November at 6.15pm (not Thu 1st Dec). Dunannie pupils have not signed up for this concert yet, however the list is not closed and pupils may still be entered for either concert, in discussion with their music teacher. **The Strings and Vocal Platform Concert** is on Thursday 1st December at 6.15 (not Tuesday 29th November) and the following Dunannie pupils are involved:

Isabelle Bluestone	Y2
Leela Walton	Y2
Esme Curry	Y3
Mabel Watson	Y3

It is anticipated that both concerts will end by 7pm.

-  **ACTIVITIES:** There will be no activities next week only Swallow club for the next two weeks. Please sign up on the board or telephone Marian. A letter will be going out on Monday about activities for the Spring Term.
-  **ABSENCE FROM SCHOOL:** If a child is to be absent or has been absent from school, parents are required to write stating the reasons. Parents are also required to write a note for any child who is not swimming or participating in any other school activity. The general rule is that if a child is well enough to attend school they are well enough to go swimming and be involved in all the school activities.

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YEAR 3 NEWS

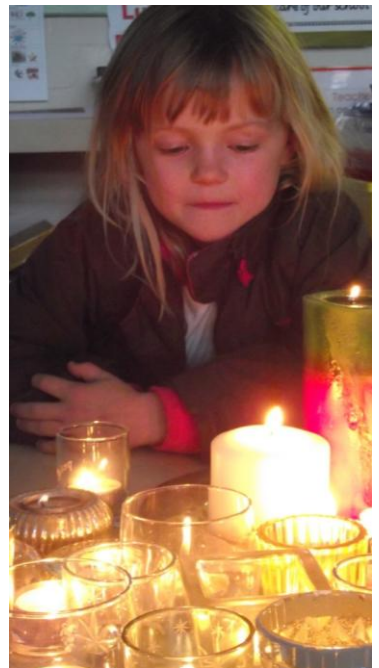
Year 3 have been watching candles! We thought about why candles might be used and what effect the light has on the surrounding atmosphere, and recreated our ideas with words and images on black paper.



In science lessons too, light has been our focus. As well as measuring our shadows on a sunny day, we successfully blacked out the IT room and experimented with torches to produce fine beams of light. The challenge was to make the light bend. We used mirrors to reflect the light and send it off in a different direction. Some of us made the light zig-zag!



Another challenge was to use glass prisms to try to split the light and show us some of the spectrum of colours in a white light. It was quite difficult to manage, but each group was successful in the end and produced a range of colours. We used colourful spinners, too, *to show how the colours blend together to form a whitish blur* when they spin really fast.



Thanks to Bridget for setting up some amazing experiments for us!

We are all looking forward to next week's "Light Up Christmas!"

With best wishes from Catherine, Ros and Gemma





NURSERY NEWS

We are busy preparing for our Nursery Christmas Concert. This will take place on Thursday 8th December at 9am for Nursery parents to watch and enjoy! The children will need to arrive at Nursery at 8.30am to allow time to get ready and have a prompt start. Coffee will be available in the main school after drop off.

Please can the children wear plain blue jeans to Nursery that day - otherwise, other blue trousers or white or blue leggings. If this proves tricky for anyone, do come and see us as we will be able to help.

We are continuing to think about dark and light. Stories have had a nighttime theme - 'Owl Babies' being a favourite. The children (and staff) had great fun last week coming to Nursery for a bedtime day! Donna made a superb cooked breakfast for everyone which all got eaten and many children asked for second helpings! The photographs taken that day are up at the back of the Nursery: you are welcome to come and see them.



This week the children have made some effective wax relief candle pictures using wax crayons and paint. I'm sure you'll agree they are stunning.

Thank you so much to Vicky, Jules, Anjali, Caroline, Nat and Raine who helped this week with the costumes for our concert.

Sharon, Donna, Harriet, Belinda and Jo

