



# DEER PARK

## newsletter

FRIDAY 15TH DECEMBER 2023

ISSUE 6

### HEADTEACHERS HELLO



Dear Parents,

As we approach the festive season, I'd just like to reflect on what a remarkable first term it has been - filled with learning, growth, and cherished memories.

The heart-warming musical, drama and dance performances by our talented students were a delight to watch - thank you to all who supported it.

In the true spirit of the season, our school community has come together to participate in numerous charity fundraisers spreading warmth and kindness to those in need. We're immensely proud of our students for their generous contributions and dedication to making a difference.

I hope you all have a restful and happy festive break.

Best wishes,  
Mr Jones & The Deer Park Team.



### MEET MRS SMITH



My name is Mrs Smith. I teach English and I am the new Literacy Coordinator. I started teaching at Deer Park School in September, however, I actually started my teaching career at Wildern School in 2012. I am from Northern Ireland and moved to England when Mr Jones and Miss Litton offered me my first English teaching position - I never did end up moving back home!

During the past 11 years of my teaching career, I have taught in Hampshire and South Korea. Teaching in Korea was a fantastic experience and gave me a great insight into a different culture and education system. Travelling is something that I love to do and I have been very fortunate to have had lots of different travel experiences throughout the years - this is why I always tell my students that teaching English offers so many opportunities!

Besides travelling, I love to go for long walks and to read and write. I take as many opportunities to get some quiet reading time as I can these days, as I now have a 17 month old son to chase after!

I have had such a great start to the year at Deer Park School. The pupils here are fantastic: enthusiastic and engaged. I have loved sharing my passion for English with them and I am so excited to share many more great opportunities with them all.

Have a lovely and safe festive season.

Mrs Smith

**TERM DATES FOR THIS ACADEMIC YEAR**  
PLEASE CLICK [HERE](#) TO VIEW TERM DATES FOR  
THIS ACADEMIC YEAR (2023-2024).

## YEAR 7

Year 7 have completed their first full term at Deer Park...and what an enjoyable experience it has been! The last couple of weeks will be packed full of festive delights for your child to get involved in, and will be rounded off with our end of term 'celebration assembly' where students will be recognised for their achievements in a range of areas whilst reflecting on how successful their transition to secondary school has been.

I hope that all of Team 2028 have a restful and wonderful festive break, and return recharged for the New Year. Happy Christmas!

Mrs Wilson.



## YEAR 8

Another term has flown by, and Year 8 have continued to impress in their commitment to challenging themselves. Some highlights of this term include the amazing trip to Bletchley Park, Cipher Day in school and of course the end of term celebration assembly. As the sun sets on 2023, Year 8 can look forward to a crucial 2024, which of course will see them decide on their Key Stage 4 pathways and then actually start them!

One final thank you to all of the parents who continue to share their child's achievements with me - Year 8 are an incredibly talented bunch, and the students love the recognition in assemblies.

Have a wonderful Christmas.

Mr Gregory

## YEAR 9

The final two weeks of the Autumn term have been action packed for Year 9, with a large number involved in various trips, performances and rewards, including our national winners of the Channel 4 competition visiting a Podcast masterclass in London. The group were surprised by a congratulatory message from none other than Jordan North and William Hanson in the days before their trip to London.

Elsewhere we had a number of the year group involved in the Christmas concert earlier this week with a range of different performances; each a credit to themselves and to the year group.

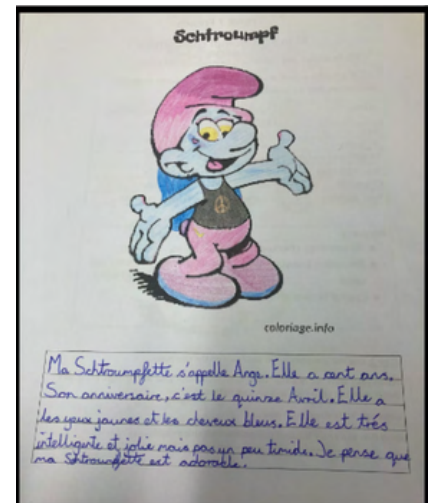
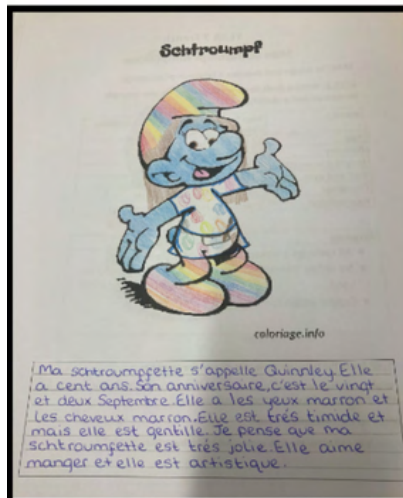
In our Celebration Assembly this week, a number of students received awards for their effort in subjects this term, showing how successful their transition to KS4 has been. Congratulations Year 9, on another successful term.

I'd like to end by wishing the cohort and families a peaceful and enjoyable festive break, and look forward to seeing you all in the New Year!

Mr Smith

YEAR 7 - FRENCH

Year 7 Students have been creating their own description of a Smurf in French. They wrote some really creative descriptions using their knowledge of French description and introduction vocabulary. Bon effort!



YEAR 8 - ICT

Year 8 took part in Solent Coding Days, along with 45 other schools in the Solent Area. They used their coding skills to create a platform game and complete set challenges. They all did amazingly well! A special congratulations to our coding stars who will all receive certificates - Grace R, Caleb W, Carlo P, Zara D, Kristina V, Oliver C, Oliver K, Charlotte S, Daisy-May E, Oakley R, Owen B, Izzy B, Callum B, Jacob M, Jack B, Bella, Bernie R-W, Isabelle L, Emily F, Tommy S-R, Jake A, Brogan M, and Faye A.



YEAR 9 - DESIGN & TECHNOLOGY

This half term the year 9s have been using the brazing hearth to melt down pewter and make metal pendants. To create the moulds they designed on CAD software, laser cut in MDF and poured molten pewter into them to create the shape. Fire, sparks and hot molten metal! What's not to love!



## MATHS CHRISTMAS CHALLENGE

All year groups will be taking part in the annual #GCHQChristmasChallenge on Thursday 14 December. Students will be set the task of cracking seven fiendish puzzles and using the answers to help uncover a hidden festive message! You can have a go at home too; the challenge will be available for anyone to download on the GCHQ website from Thursday 14 December. Look out in the new year for photos of our certificate winners (and solutions!).

## FOOD PREPARATION & NUTRITION GCSE

These photos are a celebration of all of the hard work the two year 9 classes have put into their Food Preparation & Nutrition this Autumn term at Deer Park School. This includes - vegetable soup, salad, samosas, burritos, guacamole, stuffed peppers, crumble, filo pastry tarts & Christmas choice!

They have made really good progress in their practical skills, time management and teamwork. They keep a record of all of their practical work and reflect back on each practical lesson.

Thank you and Well Done Year 9.

Mrs Marshall



## PHYSICAL EDUCATION & SPORT UPDATE

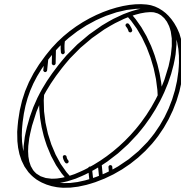
### Cross Country

Congratulations to our runners this week who attended the Eastleigh & Winchester district team trials. Special mention to James H & Jayden C (year 8), who have been selected for the Eastleigh team to run against the top runners from other districts in the county round (January).



### Rugby Club

**\*NEW\*** starting Monday 15th January, 22nd, 29th, 5th Feb.  
Four weeks till February half term (3-4pm)



### KS4 PE

Quick fire questions to support your child's learning  
 What is aerobic exercise  
 What is anaerobic exercise  
 Please complete the self study quiz shared via google classroom.



## HOUSE NETBALL & BADMINTON CHAMPIONSHIPS

This week saw each house compete in Netball and Badminton tournaments - it was a fantastic event. Huge well done to everyone that participated!

### Monday 11th December 2023 - Badminton

1st	Fallow	
2nd	Elk	
3rd	Roe	
4th	Sika	
5th	Doe	
6th	Hart	
7th	Javan	



### Tuesday 12th December 2023 - Netball

1st	Roe	
2nd	Fallow	
3rd	Doe	
4th	Elk	
5th	Javan	
6th	Sika	
7th	Hart	

## NATURAL HISTORY MUSEUM TRIP

Students from year 9 Geography visited the Natural History Museum last week to see the restless planet exhibition in line with their natural hazards unit. They also attended a 'meet the scientist' talk where they were introduced to a current PhD student researching water extraction and contributions to climate change. They heard all about careers in Science and the different paths that they could take in Science and Geography! It was a fantastic and informative day. Miss Emmett & Miss Philpot



## CHANNEL 4 WINNERS TRIP

Following on from last month's Channel 4 announcement in assembly, our winning team of 6 headed to London to meet up with the team at Audio Always.

We met Jess Fisher from 4Schools and headed to the studios for a Podcast Masterclass with Executive Producer Ben Cartwright. The students all had a go at recording podcasts and then in walked ... William Hanson - etiquette expert and podcast celebrity!!

The students were very professional and Executive Producer Ben even said that he would consider them if he needed a stand in! Well done team!





## STUDENT LEADERSHIP



At Deer Park we are very proud to be a Bronze Award UNICEF Rights Respecting School. A Rights Respecting School is one in which the United Nations Conventions on the Rights of the Child (UNCRC) are placed at the heart of everything that we do.

It is a school in which students and staff work together as a partnership, student leadership and voice is highly valued and plays a crucial role and students are empowered to enter the wider world being active global citizens. As a part of this, we launched our Focus Groups for this year recently that will;

- Work in partnership with members of staff
- Meet weekly during tutor time
- Set their own aims and goals with a particular focus linked to their own group
- Drive change within the school, local community and nationally

### RIGHTS, RESPECT, COMMUNITY FOCUS GROUP

Members of the Rights Respecting & Community group are ambassadors helping to promote a rights respecting environment across the whole school and community. They will organise and promote key events including the Shoebox appeal, Basics Bank Appeal, Fairtrade Fortnight and UNICEF soccer aid.



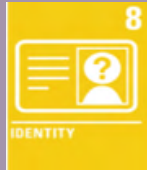
### ECO FOCUS GROUP

The Eco focus group is passionate about the environment, whether in school, the local area or wider planet. They will run awareness campaigns and like to get active with eco projects to encourage biodiversity, a cleaner environment and sustainable way of living.



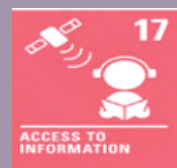
### DIVERSITY FOCUS GROUP

The diversity focus group will promote and celebrate diversity at Deer Park and within our wider community. They will help put together activities within the tutor programme and help shape celebrations throughout the year to name but a few activities. They will also attend the EARA conference three times a year



### DEER PARK TV FOCUS GROUP

This group will raise students' awareness of online safety. It will also look to improve how students can use any technology in lessons and in self-study to support our learning. They also aim to set up of Deer Park radio/TV station!



Thank you to all students that have signed up to these focus groups, we will keep you updated with everything they are doing!

## FOOD BANK APPEAL FOR MISSION SOUTHAMPTON

A huge thank you to everyone that contributed to this years Basics Bank Food Appeal. As a school we donated over an incredible 600 items that will help members of the local community. Thank you all!



## WREATH MAKING AT SNOWDROP PLACE

Earlier on in the week Mrs Downer & Mrs Denman took some students to Snow Drop Care home to make some Christmas wreaths. The students and the residents had a fantastic time, they were even treated to hot chocolate and were a real credit to the school.



## YEAR 7 - NEW YEAR MESSAGE FROM PARENT TO CHILD

As we move towards the end of an incredibly successful first term here at Deer Park, we recognise the huge efforts of your son/daughter in settling into a brand new school. We thought they would therefore enjoy a motivational/inspiring message from their parents to give them a little lift for the start of the new year and new term. Please write your message, along with your child's name and tutor group on this [form](#) and we will print and put onto a lovely Deer Park postcard before handing out in tutor time. We would like the message to be a surprise for them so please keep it a secret!!



## CHRISTMAS JUMPER DAY!

On Friday 8th December, Deer Park was awash with Christmas Jumpers all in aid of the annual Save the Children event that raises money for children who need it most. As a school we raised an impressive £192.17 - thank you to everybody that participated.





## CHRISTMAS CAROL SINGING AT HILLIERS

On Thursday 30th November pupils from Deer Park brought some Christmas cheer to the public shopping at Hilliers Garden Centre. It was a lovely festive evening - huge well done and thank you to all those that joined in!



## FIRST AID UPDATE

As the weather turns colder, illnesses are on the rise. If your child(ren) needs a paracetamol during the school day, you will have already provided consent when completing their registration forms. We have a supply of paracetamol (tablet form) in the First Aid room, so we ask that you do not send this into school. We can administer this from 11am. If your child(ren) takes this in liquid form, we ask that you complete a Parental Agreement Form before sending anything in with them. Medicine **MUST** be handed into the school office to be administered under supervision, and **NEVER** kept in students bags. These forms can also be used for other medications, including prescription and over the counter.

Please click on the relevant year group to access and complete the Parental Agreement Form when required.



[Year 7](#)

[Year 8](#)

[Year 9](#)



Once medication has been given, you will receive an email from Medical Tracker, our online system which we use to record illnesses, accidents and medication use. Please may we ask you to update us with any changes to email addresses or telephone numbers.

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## INSIGHT

Medical conditions - if your child(ren) has been diagnosed with a new medical condition, or you have an update about an existing condition, please may we ask that you email [firstaid@deerparksecondary.org](mailto:firstaid@deerparksecondary.org) before making changes on INSIGHT. A member of the First Aid team will then be in contact with you.

Thank you and Merry Christmas!



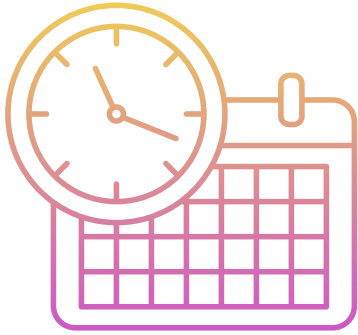
## LITERACY



### Classics for Christmas

This year, we are giving parents the opportunity to give our pupils the gift of reading for Christmas. You can make a donation to our 'Classics for Christmas' fund to contribute towards a classic story for us to add to our library. You can donate between £1 and £10. The option to pay will be on Parent Pay.  
Mrs Smith, Literacy Coordinator.

# UPCOMING DATES



## Careers Fair - 17th January

Parents are invited to come back to the Careers Fair from 3pm. We are encouraging as many parents as possible to join us as possible. More information will be sent in the new year.

Date	Activity	Year Group
2.1.24	School Opens for Spring Term 1 - Week A	All Years
11.1.24	Year 7 Group Photo	Year 7

## EXTRA CURRICULAR CLUBS

Please find attached next half term's Extra Curricular timetable. Students are still welcome to join any club that they haven't already signed up to even if they have already begun

### FINAL EXTRA CURRICULAR TIMETABLE SPRING 1 TERM

## ABSENCES

Please, where possible, could you contact us before 8.30am if your child is unable to attend school. Absences can be recorded via the Insight App or by e-mailing [absence@deeparksecondary.org](mailto:absence@deeparksecondary.org). Alternatively please call the school on 01489 351100 and select option 1 to report your child absent.

## Lost Property

All lost property is kept in the hygiene room (next to first aid) . If your child(ren) has lost anything, please ask them to collect anything that belongs to them.  
Thank you.



# FREE TEEN PROJECT



## HAMPSHIRE Teen Project

11 - 16 year olds      Christmas Holiday  
Monday 18th Dec -      10:00 - 15:00  
Thursday 21st Dec

**Free Hot lunch included**

Free for young people eligible for benefits-related free school meals



[www.personalbesteducation.com](http://www.personalbesteducation.com)  
01794 510225



# TEEN PROJECT LOCATIONS



## BOOK NOW

Please complete the registration form found on our website:

[www.personalbesteducation.com/teens/teen-projects/](http://www.personalbesteducation.com/teens/teen-projects/)

[www.personalbesteducation.com](http://www.personalbesteducation.com)  
01794 510225



## Dream Empire Events FESTIVE FAIR

Free entry & free parking.

**Sunday 10th December 2023 10am to 4pm**  
Boorley Green Community Centre 121 Wallace Ave, Southampton SO32 2RQ

*Meet Santa without having to book!\**

Father Christmas - Stalls - Mulled Wine - Hot Food - Refreshments  
Local Businesses - Face Painter - Craft Stalls - Gifts - Crafters  
Free Kids Craft Table - Music & More

[www.dreamempiremarkets.co.uk](http://www.dreamempiremarkets.co.uk)

\* Visiting Father Christmas is charged at £8 per child. Each child receives a gift



# CAROLS IN THE SQUARE

SUNDAY **17** DECEMBER 2023  
2pm – 6pm

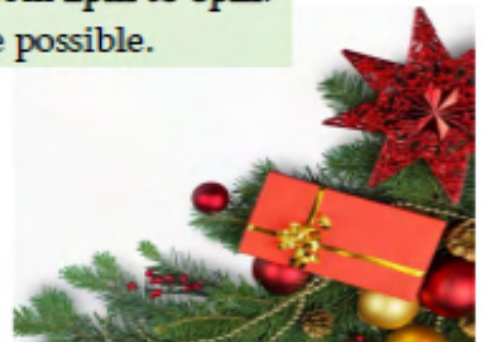
Botley Parish Council presents  
singing led by **All Saints Church Choir**,  
music by the **Southampton Grad Band**,  
and of course a visit from **Father Christmas**

## ROAD CLOSURE

Botley High Street will be closed to traffic from 2pm to 6pm.  
Parking is limited, please walk where possible.



For more details contact  
the Council Office  
on **01489 787181**



Merry Christmas



from St Luke's Church

## CHRISTMAS SERVICES

17TH DEC 6:30PM	CAROL SERVICE
19TH DEC 7PM	REFLECTIVE SERVICE
24TH DEC 4PM	CHRISTMAS EVE ALL-AGE CELEBRATION
24TH DEC 11PM	MIDNIGHT COMMUNION
25TH DEC 10AM	CHRISTMAS DAY ALL-AGE SERVICE

**ALL ARE WELCOME**



[STLUKESHEDGEEND.CO.UK](http://STLUKESHEDGEEND.CO.UK)  
ST LUKE'S CLOSE, HEDGE END SO30 2US

