



# Great Denham Primary School

Inspiring excellence; everyone, everyday

EXCELLENCE . . . . RESPECT . . . . COURAGE . . . . DETERMINATION . . . . FRIENDSHIP . . . . EQUALITY

Autumn Newsletter 15

18th December 2020



## A message from the head...

What a term it has been! But we have made it - I can't thank you all enough for the support you have shown to us this term. Your children have been an absolute pleasure to have back in school and have settled back into school life beautifully.

Congratulations to our Nursery and Reception children on completing their first term at GDPS, they have settled in so brilliantly.

Please can I remind you how important it is that you read the COVID letter that was sent out last week and again today. It gives important information regarding what to do if your child develops symptoms or has to go for a test over the holidays. It is particularly important in the next few days once school breaks up. I will be checking the new Covid email daily and it is essential that you email this address if you have a positive case so I can let the appropriate bubbles know.

I hope all our families have a wonderful break. Have a very merry Christmas and a happy New Year and we very much look forward to seeing all the children refreshed and ready to enjoy their new projects in the New Year; the children return to school on Tuesday 5th January.

Denise Burgess

Follow the school on Twitter  @GreatDenhamPS

## YEAR 5 UPDATE

Nothing has made us feel like we're back in the Ancient Egyptian times more than our marvellous middle dress up day! The costumes were just amazing - well done all and a huge thank you for your efforts!

The children enjoyed dancing like an Egyptian, before exploring the process of mummification through sensory feely boxes! We even practised embalming each other (with toilet roll) and put our skills to the test by racing our 'mummies' outside, which was interesting and memorable on such a windy day! During the afternoon, the children learnt about Ancient Egyptian farming and used their science knowledge about forces to make their own working 'shadufs' in groups. These were tested in water and the winning groups rewarded!

This week's letters home – look for them on our school website under

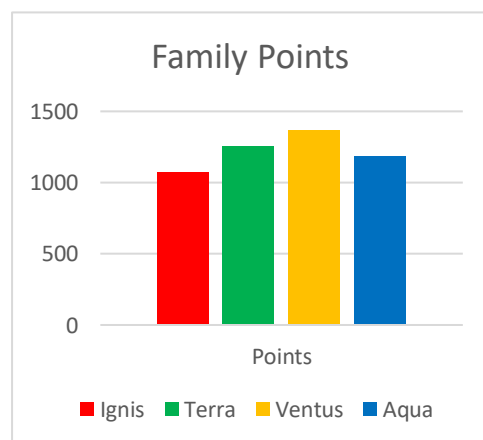
parents/letters home/2020-21

Vela – Swimming

Year 5/6 – Maths interventions

*Today we say a sad farewell to Mrs Gourlay our deputy head. Mrs Gourlay has been at our school since it opened in 2012 and has been head of Ignis family. We thank her for the massive contribution she has made to our school over the years and wish her every success in the future.*

**Our Family Points winner this term is Ventus with 1,369 points. Congratulations! A treat will follow in the New Year.**





*It's been a busy and exciting project, finalised this week with a heated debate about what to do with our mysterious artefacts; the 'Prince of Egypt' film and some tasty Ancient Egyptian foods!*



## REMINDERS

**Is your child starting Reception next year?**

Tours are available to book via Eventbrite, check the school website for further details.

### DIARY DATES

- **Tue 5<sup>th</sup> Jan** – Children return to school
- **Thu 7<sup>th</sup> Jan** – Y6 Stunning Start
- **Fri 8<sup>th</sup> Jan** – Class Y5 Swimming starts
- **Fri 15<sup>th</sup> Jan** – Bedford Borough Council deadline for applications for Reception September 2021
- **Thu 21<sup>st</sup> Jan** – Theme Day lunch (menu to follow next term)

## Stars of the week

**Little Stars:** Jaco

### Stars of the Week:

Cassiopeia – Harry, Tucana – Alice, Orion – Harry, Aquila – Freya, Pavo – Sebastian, Cygnus – Nesonna, Volans – Jordan, Delphinus – Paige, Serpens – Lukas, Andromeda – Robert, Pegasus – Flora, Perseus – Eli, Auriga – Liam, Vela – James, Lyra – Eliza, Lacerta – Kevin, Circinus – Freya, Phoenix – Isaac.

### Values:

Cassiopeia – Evie, Tucana – Aliyah-Marie, Orion – Teigan, Aquila – Omar, Pavo – Layla, Cygnus – Aiyla, Volans – Dominic, Delphinus – Lola, Serpens – Harry, Andromeda – Imogen, Pegasus – Emilie, Perseus – Alesha, Auriga – Grace, Vela – Amelia, Lyra – Aseel, Lacerta – Noah, Circinus – Isobel, Phoenix – Ayan.

### Sports Stars of the Week:

Reception – Soraya, Colbie & Harry  
 Year 1 – Lincoln, Megan & Maxwell  
 Year 2 – Eleni, Valentina & Joseph  
 Year 3 – Ramsey & Emilie  
 Year 4 – Roxy & Aalijah  
 Year 5 – Rylee & Bella  
 Year 6 – Eivissa, Elias & Rosie





# All things Christmassy



This week children were randomly selected to come and have a chocolate from Mrs Burgesses advent calendar!

**11<sup>th</sup> day of Christmas**  
**Samantha**



**12<sup>th</sup> day of Christmas**  
**Alex**



**13<sup>th</sup> day of Christmas**  
**Charlie**



**14<sup>th</sup> day of Christmas**  
**Tianna**



**15<sup>th</sup> day of Christmas**  
**Nardo**



**16<sup>th</sup> day of Christmas**  
**Bella**



**17<sup>th</sup> day of Christmas**  
**Laila**



**18<sup>th</sup> day of Christmas**  
**Amy**



**19<sup>th</sup> day of Christmas**  
**Wanny**





# LOCAL EVENTS & ADVERTS



## Christmas with St James's Church

Sunday 20 December

4.00pm Nine Lessons and Carols

Christmas Eve

4.00pm Christingle

11.30pm Midnight Communion

Christmas Day

10.30am Family Service

All services will be held via Zoom

To join, just go to Zoom and enter meeting ID 998 074 6039

*Unfortunately we will not be able to hold our usual events and services in church this year*

## Shine a light of hope!



## Christingle Celebration

4pm Christmas Eve (via Zoom)

Email [stjameschurchbiddenham@gmail.com](mailto:stjameschurchbiddenham@gmail.com), call/text 0778 6886 710 or message us on Social Media and we will deliver your Christingle to you.

Join us for our Christingle Celebration when we will make our Christingles and celebrate the light of Jesus together, or make them in your own time.

St James's Church, Biddenham  
All Saints Church, Kempston  
Raising funds for The Children's Society



St James's Church,  
Biddenham

## Let's Celebrate Christmas Together!

### Decorating the Churchyard

As events this year have changed how we can celebrate Christmas at St James's we would like to decorate the Churchyard so we can still make the church a focal point of hope and love in these difficult times. We need your help to make as many decorations as we can.

### Christmas Stars



We have created a template for you to make Christmas stars out of plastic milk bottles! The template and instructions are attached. Ideally the star can be made from a 4pt plastic milk bottle, but any size will do. If you'd like to, once you've made your star you can write a message of hope, or the name of a loved one, around the edge of your star with a permanent marker.

### Christmas Rocks!

If you have some acrylic paints or permanent markers handy, then paint a pebble with a Christmas theme. Snowflakes, angels, a Nativity scene...whatever takes your fancy!



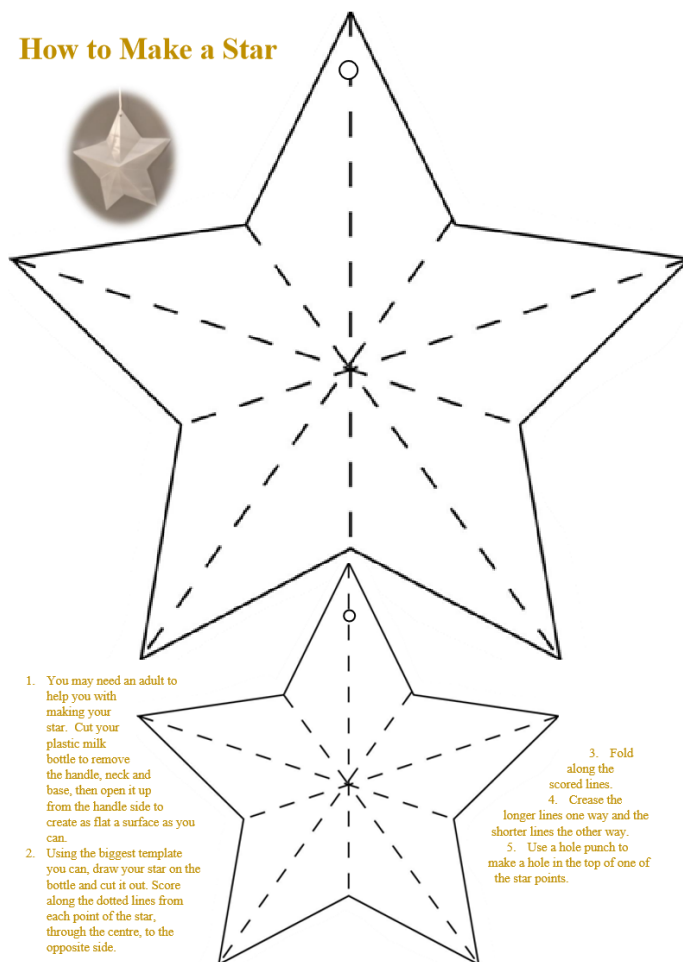
### Deliver to St James's Church Porch

Once you've finished your stars or pebbles, deliver them to the Church porch and place them in the collection box. The decorations will then be placed around the Churchyard, so please come back to see where your decoration is, and to see our growing Nativity scene and other decorations.

### Can we Help You?

We know that the current time is very difficult for many people. If you need support or just someone to chat to/listen please don't be scared to contact either Rev Eric Lomax on 01234 328452/07805 879537 or the Biddenham/Great Denham support network on 01234 815393/help@biddenham.org.uk

### How to Make a Star



1. You may need an adult to help you with making your star. Cut your plastic milk bottle to remove the handle, neck and base, then open it up from the handle side to create as flat a surface as you can.
2. Using the biggest template you can, draw your star on the bottle and cut it out. Score along the dotted lines from each point of the star, through the centre, to the opposite side.
3. Fold along the scored lines.
4. Crease the longer lines one way and the shorter lines the other way.
5. Use a hole punch to make a hole in the top of one of the star points.