

School News

Dear Parents and Carers

The end of term is now in sight and what a very long term. A term that witnessed a great deal of illness across large parts of the school and really stretched the staff (nearly to breaking point). But it was also a term that witnessed, huge successes across so many different areas including swimming, athletics, cross-country, music, arts.

It has been a term where we have watched many of our children grow in so many ways. More recently, watching them through the 14 performances really makes the role of Headteacher very rewarding. They have performed so well to entertain lots and lots of adults coming to watch our performances (Thank you everyone who was able to come along) and making their teachers very proud. Huge thank you for all the generous donations towards the lights and costumes, it certainly made a difference and was gratefully received.

My thanks also to our amazing 'Friends of Delapre' for all the work they have been doing. The Christmas Fayre was probably one of the very best we have had. The collaborative working between Friends of Delapre, our children and staff meant that a wonderful time was had by all. I would like to thank so many of you who came along to support us at the event. I am led to believe that Mrs Simpson would have liked to have kept her Christmas Grotto, but school sadly has to return to normal. My apologies also go to Father Christmas who was seen limping out towards his waiting reindeers (my fault, I was a little too big to be on his knee). To see so many happy faces across the school was amazing and very special.

A special mention to our children and staff who have been working extremely hard throughout this term and have embraced the many changes and challenges that have come along. I remain very proud of you all.

From all at Delapre, we hope that you are all looking forward to having a rest (if you get the chance) and celebrating with friends and family over the Christmas period.

Have a great Christmas everyone and see you in 2023.

Mr Portrey - Headteacher



TERM 2

TERM 2 DATES

School closes

Friday 16th

December 2022

School re-opens

TRAINING DAY

Tuesday 3rd

January 2023

**School re-opens
to pupils**

Wednesday 4th

January 2023

IMPORTANT SCHOOL INFO -

ALLERGIES

NO NUTS

Please remember NO NUTS are to be sent in to school.

This includes;

- packed lunches
- sweets/chocolates etc. sent in for birthdays.

HOTSHOTS

BASKETBALL CLUB

**STARTS BACK
MONDAY 9th
JANUARY 2023**

**Letters due to go out
to Parents early
January 2023**

Changes to the school day

Thank you for your responses regarding the proposed changes to the school day.

A decision based on the overwhelmingly positive response from those who gave their feedback has been made.

I can now confirm the results of the proposed changes.

From 20th February 2023 the school day will start at **8:45am** for all children and end at:

Reception 15:15pm

KS1 15:15pm

KS2 15:20pm

Hot School Meals . . .

If your child is eligible for hot school meals please ensure that you have ordered their lunches **by 12 noon on Thursday 29th December 2022.**

This will ensure that your child receives a meal on 4th January 2023.

Our provider will not have spare lunches to give your child and we will ask you to bring a packed lunch in if you miss this deadline.

You are able to order for the entire half term, up to Friday 10th February 2023.

The new menus are now on the school website, under Parents / School Meals

Thank you

Mrs Gibbins



Reception Nativity!

The Reception children worked extremely hard to learn Christmas songs for their first Nativity performance. They did a fantastic job and made us all proud. Well done, Reception!

The Reception Team



The Snow Hare - Drama Performance

In our final week of term, years 1, 2 and 3 were treated to a fantastic performance by Beth and Josh from Under the Bed Theatre. With Beth being a former member of staff at Delapre, it was brilliant to see her and Josh put on a fabulous performance called the Snow Hare. Children were engaged with the interactive and mesmerizing two person show. We all enjoyed sing-along songs, actions and audience participation; it really was a Christmas treat for us all. Staff and children loved the performance, and it was great to see a live professional performance at our school. We hope to see Beth and Josh back again next year!

Mr Pawlusek



Year 3 Stone-Age Day!

This term year 3 have been investigating the stone-age. Using our fantastic book Stone-Age boy, we've explored what it was like to live in this time, what the differences are with the modern day, and investigated how archaeologists have found out about this extraordinary time. To conclude, we had our very own stone-age day. We hunted animals, foraged for food, completed an archaeological dig, went on a beast hunt, and did our very own cave art! The children had a great time exploring all these different ways of life and got to know what it would be like to be both an archaeologist and a stone age person.

The Year 3 Team



Year 4 News

Year 4 have been learning about the symbols leading up to Christmas including the Christingle in RE. Some children have worked very hard at home and made their own! We have also been looking at different aspects of maths with a wintry theme, including 3D snowman shapes, Christmas shopping spending, and Nativity coordinates!

The Year 4 Team



Strictly Northampton 2022!

The Year 5/6 Strictly team had a fantastic afternoon at the Royal & Derngate. They have been training for six weeks working hard to learn two new dances - the Tango and the Jive! Throughout the six weeks they showed tremendous dedication, hard work and resilience to perfect their moves!



It was nerve racking to be on the stage with such a big crowd, but as true Delapre children, they took a deep breath and performed brilliantly! They should all be immensely proud of the performance, showing flair and style to the judges, narrowly missing out on a medal position in 4th place!

Thank you to all of the parents that came to watch us, and the last-minute support provided by staff at Delapre. We are already looking forward to the Year 3 and 4 show next year!

Miss Williams and Mr Pawlusek

Year 6 Festive Lights Winners!

Year 6 have been working hard this term on their Science & D.T. topic - Festive Lights! The children have worked in groups, carrying out market research to find the target market, calculating manufacturing costs and then creating wonderful lighting displays.



Each group presented their designs, along with information on how they were made and what the selling price would be. These were judged and the winners announced!

Here are the winning designs from 6CG



Year 6 Cake Sale!

Well done to all those bakers whose contributions to the **Year 6 Cake sale**, back in October raised a tremendous **£361.01!**

Thank you to those of you who baked, donated and enjoyed the cakes!

Delapre Diggers - Autumn Term

Gardening Club has been very busy with a new group of gardeners. They have harvested a successful crop of vegetables which were grown in the garden...



The group were also very busy and enthusiastic about making items for our stall at the School's Christmas Fayre.

This is now the quiet time for gardening and the club will resume in the Spring, when there will be lots of preparation, sowing seeds and weeding to do.



Pumpkin Challenge!

Another amazing year of growing Pumpkins from last year's prize winner! Congratulations to all the budding gardeners who entered their Pumpkins and to those who won! Very well done!

Miss Gordon

Friends of Delapre Primary

The **Friends of Delapre Primary School** have been very busy this term raising much needed funds for the school.

Since September there have been an array of different competitions and events held in school. These have included:

A very successful **Grandparent's Day** - where Grandparents got to enjoy a slice of cake and play a game with the Grandchildren in the school hall.

A spooky **Halloween competition** to design a pumpkin where the winner got their very own design carved into a real pumpkin!

A tasty **Krispy Kreme doughnut sale** and **tuck shops**.

World Cup mufti – where we were overwhelmed by your donations of bottles, chocolate and filled jars for the Christmas tombola.

Christmas jumper exchange event - which was a great success and we received around 50 donations of jumpers. This was a great way to raise money and help the environment.

And last but by no means least, the **Christmas Fair** which was a roaring success, and we would like to personally thank all of the staff and children at school who helped with stalls during this event. We could not have done it without you! Thank you also to all the parents and carers who brought their children to this event to visit Santa, have a go on a tombola, pin a nose on a reindeer and so much more! **Collectively, we raised an amazing £2182.00!**

We are very much looking forward to what 2023 will bring and have lots of exciting ideas in store for the children...

We are a small band of volunteers who give up lots of our free time to ensure that the children in school can have these wonderful experiences so if you would like to join us, we would love to hear from you! Please contact us at friendsofdelapresch@gmail.com to get in touch.

We wish you all a very wonderful Christmas with your loved ones and we will see you all in the New Year!

Friends of DPS



Message from the Chair of Governors...

The Delapre school governors would like to take this opportunity to wish all the Delapre children, parents, and staff at Delapre a peaceful and happy Christmas season.

We realise that this year has been especially hard for many, with Covid still with us and we all being affected by the current economic climate. So we thank you all for your continued support of the school and its ethics. This has been demonstrated by the continuing success of the pupils both academically and in sport, music and gardening to name just a few areas.

Our Parent Teachers association has worked really hard this year organising a series of social and fundraising events - thank you.

We look forward to a more settled 2023, with all of us doing our best for the pupils of Delapre.

With our best wishes

Richard Warr Chair of Governors - on behalf of all the Governing body



Handy wellbeing tips and hints. . .

BALANCE is something most of us take for granted, but it's like muscle strength—use it or lose it! Integrate balance exercises into your everyday routine, it could really have a life-changing impact.



HOW LONG SHOULD I BE ABLE TO STAND ON ONE LEG?

A study carried out in America revealed that:

- People Under 40 with eyes opened averaged 45 seconds. With eyes closed, 15 seconds
- People aged 40-49 with eyes opened averaged 42 seconds. With eyes closed, 13 seconds
- People aged 50-59 with eyes opened averaged 41 seconds. With eyes closed, 8 seconds
- People aged 60-69 with eyes opened averaged 32 seconds. With eyes closed, 4 seconds
- People aged 70-79 with eyes opened averaged 22 seconds. With eyes closed, 3 seconds

Feedback from Parents ...

We would like to share with you, some of the lovely, positive comments we have received from parents this term...

Dear Mr Portrey,

We wanted to say a very big thank you to Mr Thomas for organising the Year 5 swimming at the end of last half term after they missed out in Year 3.

We had to give up our daughter's swimming lessons when the dreaded Covid hit back in 2020 and we never got round to doing them again. She'd only just began to swim a very short distance, but two and a half years later it was all forgotten and her confidence had gone in the pool, so much so she was fearful of letting go of the noodle on our holiday back in August. So when the letter came home about Year 5 getting the opportunity to do a week of swimming we knew it would help her.

She went from being put in a group with non-swimmers, because she was, to then being moved up to the next group the following day with Mr Pawlusek. Now we don't know if it was peer pressure but she was determined that she would swim unaided the width of the pool on her back, which she did. The following day she swam a width on her front! She was so proud of her achievement and we were too.

We've now got her weekly lessons and yesterday, only being her second lesson, I witnessed her swim four full lengths of the pool completely unaided and jump/dive in at the deep end too. The difference from two weeks ago is absolutely astonishing.

If it wasn't for Mr Thomas organising the swimming and for the Year 3 teachers doing the lessons she wouldn't have progressed so quickly. So thank you ever so much for giving them the opportunity to do this it really was very much appreciated. And also thank you to you too for driving them there and back.

Kindest regards
Parents of Year 5 Delapre Pupil

Dear Mr Portrey,

On behalf of all teachers everywhere, thank you for your newsletter. I wish that all Head Teachers had your courage and strength to address parent behaviour.

May you and your staff, all have a lovely half term.

A Delapre Parent

Dear Mr. Portrey,

I wanted to send you some positive feedback, following some recent observations.

The students at reception meeting and greeting for parents evening, were extremely polite, happy and helpful. This was my first visit into

school since our daughter, started in September in reception. I must say, the students were more than happy to guide us to where we needed to be. They are a credit to the school.

In addition to the above, I'd like to let you know of a class P.E lesson we could view from our house last week (You may remember, I contacted you sometime back about the school hedge. I appreciated your assistance with having this sorted, even though it was outside of your control and remit). A student was last to finish the cross country run. When the remaining students had finished, the class rallied together chanting and cheering positively to encourage them to finish. When the student crossed the finish line the classmates joined in celebration to congratulate them. It is really positive to see this behaviour and attitude from young people, it was also great to see it was also encouraged by the P.E teacher, I think this may have been Mr. Thomas.

It is very beneficial for us to see these behaviours demonstrated at such an early start of our Daughter's schooling journey at Delapre.

Best regards,

A Delapre Parent