



SJB/Plo  
9<sup>th</sup> December 2022

Dear Parent/Carer

How can we be in the final stages of 2022 already and how can it be time to share a few reflections on the year, as well as some practicalities for the week ahead?

Reading my letter from this time last year, I cannot believe that it is only a year ago since we were concerned that a certain virus would dampen the Christmas festivities and whilst I acknowledge that some scars are still healing, we are seeing more and more people thriving as we have all been back together. It would be unfair to not note the longer term impacts that some people have felt from lockdown and to acknowledge that we continue to work with many students and families who, as well as struggling to get back to normal, are now faced with the burden of the cost of living. It's about time we were all given a break isn't it?

In an ideal world Christmas would be a happy time for all when we are looking forward to spending time with family and friends and eating lots of lovely treats. But with the cost of living crisis it is even more important that we remember that it is a particularly difficult time for some and to this end, we will once again be collecting for the local food bank to help out those who may be struggling more than most. Whilst it is wrong that people are in this position, it does fill me with pride that our school community is so generous and I thank you for sparing what you can. The arrangements for our Foodbank collection are:



Please bring your food into Reception between Monday 12<sup>th</sup> December and Friday 16<sup>th</sup> December (nothing perishable and a list of suggested items is at the bottom of this letter). Thank you in advance for your generosity!

Please remember that we will continue to check our 'safeguarding@' email, so if you do need us, we will respond and help.

The tree is up and our sixth formers have decorated the classroom doors with the most imaginative creations! We have also been getting into the spirit of celebrating with our amazing school production "Mary Poppins" with some stupendous singing and acting talents.

As we move to the last week of term, I wanted to share with you the overview of that week:



What is happening the last three days of term....	
Wednesday 14 <sup>th</sup> December	<p><b>Memories day:</b> This is a special day off timetable when we take the time to remember loved ones no longer with us and how to deal with emotions in a positive way; our spirits can then be lifted by a Christmas Quiz; Christmas Lunch and rounded off by a good old Christmas Movie!</p> <p><b>Christmas lunch:</b> If you haven't already got a ticket, I can thoroughly recommend it! Tickets are £3.20 and can be bought from the canteen or reception.</p>
Thursday 15 <sup>th</sup> December	It's time to swap your Dene Magna jumper for a Christmas jumper if you have one! The brighter, the better and please do not worry if you do not have a jumper. Festive headbands, earrings etc... are fine!

<b>Friday 16<sup>th</sup> December</b>	School starts at the normal time and at 11.00am we are returning to our beloved tradition of a Christmas assembly / concert where years 7-11 gather and celebrate the year that has been and sing one or two cherished Christmas songs. Christmas jumpers can be worn again and we will be announcing the latest standings in the house cup.  12.00 – End of School – Buses will be here (except for the Stagecoach bus)
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Amongst all this cheer, we do have some bittersweet farewells to some members of staff who are leaving us at the end of term:

A special mention to Steve May, our longest serving member of staff, who is retiring after 27 years of teaching Design and Technology at the school. He plans to spoil himself with trips and visits and to carry on creating and making!

We are also saying farewell and thank you to Natasha Roderick (English) who will be working for a Charity; Joe Watts (Maths) who is spending January in the USA and Misha Cormack (Wellbeing) who is relocating to the Southeast. Thank you all for the support you have given to us all.

Congratulations to Heath Adams on his promotion to Head of Design and Technology; to Aaron Underwood who is taking over the leadership of Dowty House and also to Elizabeth Kitonga who is Lead for Food Technology.

The new year is always symbolised by renewal and as we look forward to it, we are delighted to be welcoming the following new staff into our school community:

Kelly Ratcliffe (DT Teacher, started with us 5th December. Welcome Kelly!)

After Christmas, we welcome Sara Dillon to the English department; Matt Osborne to Social Sciences and Sara Lewis to Maths. We are also delighted that Marie Hamm will be joining us early February as the new Mental Health and Wellbeing Practitioner, providing invaluable support to our students.

Looking ahead to the New Year, and whilst I am never very good at New Year's resolutions, I am going to share my hopes and wishes for the new year at Dene Magna with you.

Positive change happens when we all try to be the best version of ourselves we can possibly be. We all have the power to make a better future by simply being kind to yourself and others; an old fashioned idea but a great one is to treat others as you would like to be treated. It costs nothing and gives so much!

On behalf of everyone at Dene Magna, please stay safe, enjoy a great festive break and a happy and healthy New Year! We look forward to seeing all students back in school and ready to learn on Tuesday 3 January 2023. I would also like to take this opportunity to thank you for your continued support in all that we do at Dene Magna.

Yours sincerely



Stephen Brady  
Headteacher

<b>Tinned Potatoes</b>	<b>Sponge Pudding</b>	<b>Tinned Fish</b>
<b>Jam</b>	<b>Tinned Tomatoes</b>	<b>Toilet Rolls</b>
<b>Toothbrushes</b>	<b>Toothpaste</b>	<b>Rice Pudding</b>
<b>Coffee</b>	<b>Custard</b>	<b>Instant Mash</b>
<b>Tinned Vegetables</b>	<b>Biscuits</b>	<b>Washing Up Liquid</b>
<b>Washing Powder/Liquid</b>	<b>Festive Items</b>	<b>Diabetic Approved Food</b>