

Christmas: mini newsletter

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From everyone at Dame
Catherine's.



We hope you're all enjoying our end of term film. Chris has been checking the number of views and after 24 hours we were up to well over 100. Thank you so much for the fantastic feedback and positive e-mails. We think you'll agree that there won't be another school with anything like this! Thank you so much to Chris for such a cleverly written and produced film. We are slightly worried we might lose him to Hollywood so please be careful not to give the film to anyone influential!

Description	X
The Wonderful World of Dame Catherine's	
 Youtube Damecatherines	
5 Likes	144 Views

Dame Catherine Harpur's School presents their 2021 Christmas variety spectacular!

We are exceptionally proud of the talented children we have in school. Whilst last year's film was borne out of necessity and we felt it was a safer bet to go the same way this year, we have learned a lot from these projects, namely that it can really help the children in so many ways. Covid has brought real challenges, but our aim has always been to ensure that the children don't miss out. Developing different approaches such as these films has taught us quite a lot. The fact that children act out little scenes in the comfort of their own school without an audience brings a different experience for them. We have noticed them grow in confidence, and when they see what they see what looks it like on screen, they are so proud of themselves.

When we hear so much in the news about children missing out at school, we feel exceptionally lucky and proud to say that we don't feel that way this term!

Christmas market: it was a fantastic atmosphere a couple of weeks ago at our mini-Christmas market. We always make the most of such opportunities for children to be involved and the older children did an amazing job setting up, taking down and running the shop, as did all children in joining in with the music. What's fantastic is that we don't really ask them to – they just take initiative and do it! The event was incredibly well supported so thank you to everyone who came along.

Thank you also to everyone who managed to join us on Wednesday at the Village Hall.

I think we've all missed these sorts of events and it meant a lot to see smiles from parents and children and hear so many laughs too!



Looking back over the past few weeks: we've had an incredibly busy time. We spent a lot of time outside in Children in Need week and the weather was kind to us.

Squirrels and Rabbits really enjoyed having some picnics outside. And children had a bike /scoot / anything they could find around the playground. Some managed over 50 laps. Children and staff had a few dancing lessons from 2 children in Wildcats on the Friday afternoon.



And as the term ends, it is great to see the children having fun together. Time spent organising their own activities and games reminds us how important this is in developing their wider skills.

With things getting a touch more tricky pandemic wise, it has been lovely that children can still enjoy celebrating their birthdays with their friends in school. A bonus of our small community. The Wildcats are clear that there is nothing like a good party, a dance and some party food.





Squirrels had fun making paper and playing in the snow over recent weeks.

Now we're all ready for Christmas.



From wearing silly glasses to making gingerbread biscuits.

A note from our SMT (governance group)

On behalf of the SMT, I'd like to extend our thanks to Lorna and the staff team for all their hard work, enthusiasm and energy over what has been a challenging year. Despite the constraints they have, in true DCHS style, managed to inspire and engage our children with a diverse and exciting curriculum offer, as well as lots of fun and smiles along the way. As a governing body, we have been continuing to monitor learning and progress through regular visits, as well as planning the next stages of the school's development plan and supporting day-to-day management challenges of this ongoing pandemic. Most of you will be aware that we ordinarily hold an AGM in the latter part of the first term, or soon after Christmas, to update the parent body on the focus of our work for the forthcoming year, summarise new policies and generally review the previous financial year. Last year, due to the restrictions, we held this online but attendance was low and so we felt that this year it would be of greater benefit to post-pone the meeting until we can meet face-to-face, and involve the wider school community. If, in the meantime, you

have any questions or would like to raise any issues directly with the SMT, please do not hesitate to contact me.
Wishing you a very Merry Christmas and a healthy New Year.
Amanda Harmer (Chair, SMT)
admin@damecatherines.org

The New Year

Our first day back is an INSET Day (Tuesday 4th January.) Children are back in school from Wednesday 5th January.

Have a fantastic Christmas break everyone. We hope you keep well over the next couple of weeks and have lots of fun family time together.

Everyone at Dame Catherine's