

## Newsletter – December 2021



As the end of the term draws to a close, I'd like to say a massive thank you to you all for the continued support you have shown towards our school, and as a staff we fully appreciate how you have once again worked with us to keep our whole school community as safe as possible and we know at times this may not have always been easy. We will continue to maintain the safety measures we have in place when we return after the Christmas break and as always, we will endeavour to keep you updated with regards to any new guidance given to schools from Public Health England and/or the Department for Education.

The Autumn Term has proved to be an extremely busy time at East Dene. Once again, our children have surpassed our expectations and they have continued to shine and achieve many great things since returning to school in September. We have seen a greater number of children participating in many varied sporting events and clubs, with one of the highlights being when a group of our Y5/6 children played at New York Stadium in the half time break during the Rotherham United Vs Portsmouth FC football match. We were incredibly proud of them and pleased to announce that they got through to the next round!

Our school council members have also been very proactive this term. They started the year collecting ideas from their classes of ways to improve and support the wider community. The whole school came up with some truly inspirational ideas and a vote was taken for the 4 main priorities to be addressed this year:

- A cover for the bike store
- Supporting the RSPCA
- Creating a gardening group
- Fundraising for the school reading shed

Weekly meetings have taken place with our Y5/6 council members so that they could keep the rest of the school updated.

Our Y3/4 school council members have visited St James Church to decorate a Christmas tree to represent our school within their Christmas Tree Festival.

Our Y5/6 school council members also visited Park Road Cholera site formal launch and as a result of this invited local councillor Wendy Cooksey into school to talk about her role within the council.

Our school council also organised a very successful sponsored event to raise money for the Schools Challenge Cash for Kids at Hallam FM, where we raised a whopping £1,000.80

We know that our wonderful school council members will continue to work hard to make improvements to our school over the coming months!

Reading has continued to be a focus this term at East Dene and we are incredibly pleased with the progress our children are making in this area. We love to celebrate pupils reading achievements by announcing weekly Star Readers as well as our Bookworm's Reading Challenge winners, who went to the following children for the Autumn term:



Ruby-Jo in Y5/6  
Ario in Y3/4  
Alan in Y1/2

Please look out for our half-termly Reading Newsletters for more information about the different reading events we are holding in school as well as top tips for encouraging active readers at home.

This term we have also started to introduce the Cornerstones 2022 curriculum, to further strengthen our foundation subject provision across school. As part of this, children will have greater opportunities to develop their knowledge and understanding of subjects such as Art, Design & Technology, History and Geography. We will be sharing more information about this new curriculum with you all in the New Year and we look forward to a time when we will be able to invite you in to see the curriculum in action and to celebrate the wonderful knowledge rich projects completed by our children!

We have also been fortunate to host many fund-raising events this term for a range of charities including MIND, Children in Need and Hallam FM Cash for Kids to name but a few. We would like to thank you all for supporting our school in helping such charities and especially when we know that due to the ongoing impact of the pandemic, times are hard for many of our community. We feel incredibly lucky to be part of such a caring and generous community.

## Happy Holidays

Finally, from everyone at East Dene Primary, we would like to wish you all a Merry Christmas and Happy Holidays. Please do take care over the festive break and stay safe and healthy and I look forward to welcoming our children back on **Wednesday 5th January 2022** (please remember Tuesday 4th January is an INSET Day).