

Dear families,

I want to thank you all for making me feel so welcome whilst Mrs Guntrip has been absent over the last few weeks. Mrs Guntrip is unwell and we are not expecting her back straight after Christmas as she needs time to get better. In the meanwhile, I will be here with you all supporting Dunsford and I will keep you updated. I know that you will all join in with me in wishing her a speedy recovery.

It goes with saying that things have looked slightly different this week, however, children in Maple and Willow have been offered lots of inspiring learning opportunities to enable them to consolidate all their learning and to apply all the skills and knowledge that they have acquired over the last term. In maths, they have been problem solving and reasoning in fun and practical ways as they explore addition and subtraction using physical objects. In English, they have continued to compose letters to Father Christmas and have enjoyed lots of festival stories and short tales, including the Nativity story that has embedded their understanding of 'Why Christmas is important to Christians'. Children's amazing map reading skills have allowed them to conclude their Geography unit as they have made geographical comparisons between our delightful rural village and the urban city of Exeter. They have also been thinking about the effects of the Winter season in preparation for science next term.

Children in Cedar and Oak have consolidated their mathematical thinking from the Autumn term and immersed themselves into story telling in English. The children have really enjoyed reading, listening to, and writing stories this week, especially the Christmas ones.

### Christmas School lunches and carols

Sadly, we were unable to all get together for Christmas like we had hoped for, but the safety of our school community is our priority. We are hopeful that next year there will be opportunities for us all to come together. Thank you for your understanding and support.

Alongside our amazing learning, children and staff have really enjoyed indulging in creative activities to help them celebrate the build up to Christmas!

Children have used natural materials from the forest to make Christmas decorations, enjoyed sharing carols together and of course enjoyed our delicious Christmas lunch. I think our personal favourite craft was the rocking reindeer! Thank you to those of you at home who have sent in a photos of your Christmas crafts too.



### **Mel Stride's annual Christmas Card competition 2021**

This term, some of our cedar class children entered a competition for local primary school pupils to design a Christmas card for Mel Stride, our local MP. We are very proud to announce that Arthur M was a runner-up in the competition and his design will feature on the card that Mel will send to more than a thousand people, including the Prime Minister. Well done Arthur and thank you for representing our school!



### **Happy Holidays with the Healthy Activity Fund**



Children across Devon schools in the Learning Academy Partnership (LAP) have received a super surprise and have been awarded £15,000 from the Devon Healthy Activities Fund (HAF) from the Department of Education.

This Christmas, with the assistance of the HAF, our Senior Administrators, Mrs Webber has organised and provided our FSM families and EHCP children with a super selection of fabulous food, Christmas crafts, family fun and lots more!

### **Re4orm**

Re4orm have kindly donated some Christmas gifts for our vulnerable children across the School Trust. We would like to say a huge thank you to Re4orm for this and for all of their kindness in supporting our families.

### **Star of the Week**

To help us all to celebrate everything that our school community has offered, this week, our stars of the week include everyone; all our children, families and staff that have ensured an incredible term has been had by all.

I would like to thank you all for your continued support especially through these last few challenging weeks. I am amazed at our school community spirit! I wish all the best to the families affected in some way.

On behalf of our Dunsford team, I would like to wish you a very Merry Christmas and a prosperous, safe and healthy New Year! We look forward to seeing you all on **Wednesday** 5<sup>th</sup> January 2022.

Mrs J Stephens  
Executive Head of Academy

