




## Milborne Message - 17th December 2021

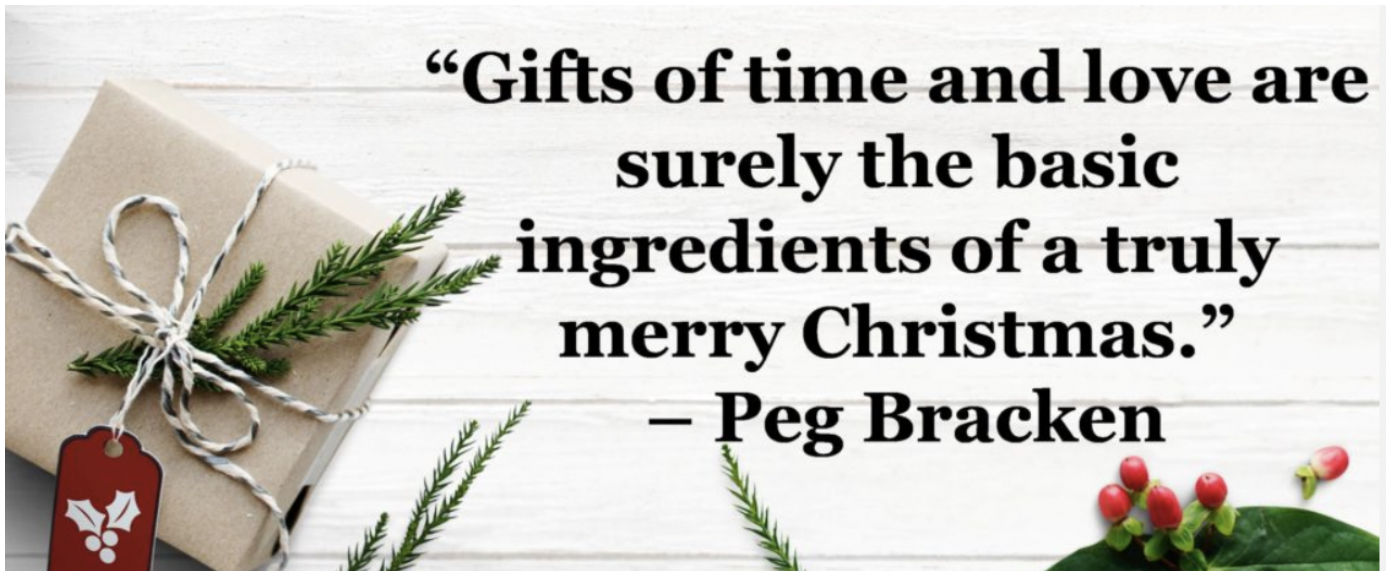


**Dear Families,**

It's so hard to believe that this is the end of the Autumn term and Christmas is almost here. We have had a lovely time over the last two weeks especially, celebrating all things Christmas. Hearing the children singing all their Christmas songs both traditional and contemporary has brought much joy to the children and to the adults. I hope you have benefitted from hearing them sing too. We have also been busy learning lots of new things and developing our social skills.

Today, in assembly we talked about the difference between 'presents' and 'presence' and that being with others or being present and kind was far more important than presents. We shared a video from St Mary's showing little acts of kindness. The children were fantastic and recognised lots of these. If you haven't seen it yet it really is worth a look. It reminds us all what is important every day and not just at Christmas and doesn't cost a thing!

 [The Small Things](#)



We have taken part in the **Milton Abbas Christmas Tree Festival**, which runs until the 6th January. The theme this year was 'Joy' . It's a really nice way to spend some time and when I went to put the tree up it was beautifully still and quiet, such a rarity in the mad rush of life. It felt very special.

You have already received a message from FOS but please hang on to all your **Christmas jumpers**, as we will be doing a Jumper swap for next year.

The children really enjoyed their **Panto Performance** this morning and the popcorn and hot chocolate treat!

Christmas can put extra strain on family budgets, I wanted to make sure that no one misses out on support available. To that end, if you think you might be eligible for a winter energy voucher, please apply below.



### Winter Energy Voucher:-

We've been allocated money from the government's Household Support Fund so we can help people cover essential costs this winter.

You may be able to claim up to £200 to cover your energy bills if you have one or more of the following:

- receive Universal Credit
- have limited capability for work
- earn below the free school meals and free prescription threshold

[Apply for our Winter Energy Voucher.](#)

**Mug Awards:-** Congratulations to Spencer, Layla, Phoebe, Erin and Lilly who all received a very special Mug award this morning in assembly. Well done for all your hard work, excellent behaviour, politeness and good manners.

**Y4 Bellringers** Well done to Freya, Harry Lucas and Gwen who rang the freedom bell this afternoon to signify the start of the Christmas break.

**Doodle:-** The Winter Calendar has already arrived in Doodle. This is a seasonal challenge where your child can unlock festive rewards by Doodling daily!

Between the **1st and 24th of December**, encourage your child to complete an x-a-day exercise each day in DoodleMaths and/or DoodleEnglish to unlock a calendar door.

They'll find accessories in DoodleMaths and the parts to build Santa's sleigh in DoodleEnglish. And if they open all of the doors, they'll also receive a virtual Winter Calendar badge!

Dorset Council are running the annual consultation on the School Admission Arrangements for 2023/2024 with effect from **Monday 29<sup>th</sup> November 2021** to **Sunday 23<sup>rd</sup> January 2022**.

Details of the consultation will be available to view at

<https://www.dorsetcouncil.gov.uk/2023-to-2024-school-admissions-policies>

Responses must be submitted either in writing to the School Admissions Team, Dorset Council, County Hall, Dorchester, DT1 1XJ or by email to [schoolorganisation@dorsetcouncil.gov.uk](mailto:schoolorganisation@dorsetcouncil.gov.uk) by **Sunday 23<sup>rd</sup> January 2022**.

Upon the conclusion of the consultation period all responses will be considered carefully and a report will be presented to Dorset Council's Cabinet meeting on **1<sup>st</sup> March 2022**.

We ask that schools and early years providers make reference to the consultation on their websites. They should also inform their parents about the consultation via newsletter and/or other appropriate social media outlets such as Facebook so they are given an opportunity to comment, if they wish to do so.

The key dates for the consultation are set out below:

Dorset LA consultation begins	29th November 2021
Dorset LA consultation ends	23rd January 2022
Own Admission Authorities (including Dorset LA) determine Admission Arrangements	28 <sup>th</sup> February 2022
Own Admission Authorities (including Dorset LA) publish Admission Arrangements	15 <sup>th</sup> March 2022
Deadline for Objections to Office of the School's Adjudicator	15 <sup>th</sup> May 2022

Own admission authority schools are reminded that they must carry out their own consultation if they are proposing changes to their admission arrangements for 2023/2024. Consultation must be carried out over a 6 week period between **1<sup>st</sup> October 2021 – 31<sup>st</sup> January 2022**.

Please see the message below from Ladybirds:

**Your village preschool is in urgent need of qualified Early Years staff in 2022.**

**Ideally, we would like to employ a person with a Level 3 Qualification and at least 2 years leadership experience as Deputy Leader with the opportunity to take over as Leader in October 2022.**

**With a countrywide shortage of qualified personnel, we realise there is a big challenge to find the right person in a village location. So, we are prepared to consider someone with less experience or someone working towards Level 3.**

**If this is of interest to you or you know someone who might be please contact Liz on 07771 512427 or [liz@milborneladybirds.com](mailto:liz@milborneladybirds.com)**

We have been using **Skills Builder** across school to improve life skills. So far over the last two terms we have focused on Listening and then on speaking. Skills builder now have a Homezone . Take a look if you can, more details and information will follow in January.

## Hello we are the Eco Crew!

We have created a group called the Eco committee and this week we have been planting lots of trees. But we would like your help to save the world by putting stuff in the right bin, reuse reduce and recycle, litter picking and planting trees.

We want to achieve the Eco flag and we are almost there! We have conducted an Eco-audit and made some plans.

We have had some ideas like recycling crisp packets, litter picking, planting trees and loads more! You can now recycle crisp packets, batteries and ink cartridges at school - bring them to reception and look for the right box.

We have been looking up facts about the world and found a machine called the ocean cleanup. It has been powered by solar panel. Last week, we met Mr Beckingham from Preventing Plastic Pollution who would like to work with us and our school to become citizen scientists and help with an international project run by Queen Mary University London.

We have got some ideas from a book like recycle glasses and jars!!! And recycling plastic bottles. Make your own cards, buy recyclable sticky tape and refuse plastic bags and use your own bags instead.

Look out for more news from your Eco-Crew and how you can help us save the

world!

By Esme, Phoenix and Eadie



**Christmas Jumper day** raised £53 plus £12.76 Gift Aid. Thank you to everyone who donated. There is still time if you would like to make a donation.

Christmas Selfie Tips and advice:-



**Advance Notice:-** as the **Queen's Platinum Jubilee** falls during the May Half Term school holiday, we have been given an extra day off in lieu. This will be taken at the end of the summer term, meaning that we will now finish on **Thursday 21st July**.

I hope you all have the best Christmas ever, whatever plans you have in place. Enjoy the precious time with your family and loved ones and I will see you all in January where I, for one, will definitely be trying to be a healthier, fitter version of myself!

Yours sincerely,

*Sharon Staddon*

Sharon Staddon  
Headteacher

### **Dates For Your Diary:-**

**2022**

**3rd Jan** - BANK Holiday

**4th Jan** - First day back in school (everyone)

### **EXTERNAL INFORMATION:-**

- **MOSAIC Bingo night:-** On **3rd December** at Royal Oak, Milborne St Andrew - Please see the attached poster for more information.
- **Dorset SEND** - <https://mailchi.mp/dorsetcouncil/send-newsletter-3125989?e=5ad5011868>
- **Family Information Service** - <https://mailchi.mp/dorsetcouncil/december-fis-newsletter-3125813?e=5ad5011868>
- **Dorset's Country side** - <https://mailchi.mp/dorsetcouncil/enjoying-dorsets-countryside-e-newsletter-december-2021?e=5ad5011868>