



Together we grow, together we flourish

La
Coe

Letter from Mrs Huish 15.03.2021

Dear Parents,

What a term we have had! However, we are finally back and our hearts have been warmed once again. We have had so many smiles and excitement upon return and only the second day back one member of staff said *"It is so wonderful. Everyone is back in sync already and it almost feels like we were never apart."* I am fortunate to have my office window overlooking the playground area and the sound of children singing and playing has truly been music to my ears!

Coming back to school, we have really focussed on giving children opportunities to reconnect and socialise. This was what the children told us that they had missed the most. We have posted some beautiful pictures of happy children this week playing and learning together. These are available to see on our social media sites: Facebook and Twitter too. We have had so many exciting things going on this week. I thought I would share some with you!



Following on from your feedback in December about the newsletters, we are trialling a new fortnightly newsletter in place of the huge monthly one that you fed back was quite often too large to take in. This is a trial, but hopefully this way we can still share wonderful news whilst not overwhelming you with excessive amounts! You may have noticed the stunning watercolour of our school on top of this letter. This was created by Lyla-Grace who is one of our Year 6 pupils and is incredibly talented. Thank you to Lyla Grace for creating this picture of our school. We have definitely treasured it and plan to eventually have it framed on display in our Reception area.



Speaking of artwork, have you seen our new piece of artwork in the Year 3 outdoor area? The children in school made this from recycled milk bottle lids. Mr Taylor has put it up to brighten up the play space. We think it really does the job!

Another incredible opportunity that the children have been part of this week across the school is tree planting. Mrs Hutchinson has arranged for lots and lots of new saplings for the children to plant. This has been part of the BBC Countryfile initiative to plant over 700,000 new trees in the UK: one for every Reception child in the country. We have then logged these on the BBC Countryfile website so everyone across the country can see that Dartington School are playing their part in combating climate change! Saffron found 9 worms, so we all agreed that we must have very healthy soil at our school. We can't wait to see the trees grow!

Best wishes
Mrs Huish



Community Award

This month's community award goes to Laurelin who has blown us away with taking action during homeschooling and writing a letter to Dartington Greenbelt. We love how Laurelin has shown our school values and thought hard about making a difference! Here it is for you all to enjoy!

Dear Greenbelt,



BAT CORRIDOR MAINTENANCE

I have recently seen (and heard) part of your company illegally maintaining the local bat corridor: a man-made wildlife refuge. I am writing to persuade you that this is not a good idea, and to complain on behalf of many other people who are unhappy about the devastation it may be causing.

For my first point, many homeschooling children cannot concentrate whilst the hedge trimming is present nearby. Could **you** focus on mathematics whilst people are trimming a nearby hedge? I myself decided not to try to learn and remember facts and instead focus on trying to prevent further problems.

To put forth a second point, I would like to say that you are doing something illegal. Even if you checked beforehand that no birds are carrying nesting materials, you will disturb loads of birds either mating or gathering nesting materials that our eyes simply can't see. Birds' nests are *supposed* to be camouflaged, aren't they?

For my third point, do you realise that you are damaging a much-needed wildlife haven? Apparently, some of your customers have already made a complaint. I am not a customer, but I find trimming hedges intolerable - and, of course, very noisy.

For my fourth and final point, do you not preach being environmentally friendly and kind to nature? Well, hedge trimming in the nesting season is not. Why not cut it in the middle of winter, which is much more kind to the environment?

To sum up, just think: if you were a little bird, happily gathering nesting materials, and then, out of nowhere, men in bright orange jackets came along and chopped off your nest, made you fly away and lose your mate, how would you feel? That's what all the birds feel like.

I hope that you now see why you should not cut hedges (or anything else) in the nesting season.

Yours faithfully,

Laurelin [redacted] age 8

Community News

DRA (Dartington Recreation Association) have asked for your support in completing a consultation form for Meadowbrook planned projects and to research future ideas. The more evidence we can provide to demonstrate that the community supports our plans to heat the pool, open the adapted bike track etc the more chance we have of securing funding and as always we value our communities opinion. The survey is open until March 18th. This is the link: <https://forms.gle/Et3FtaJHDxN1MTYw6>

Coffee Mornings

With the success of the lockdown 'Care and Share' sessions, we would like to continue offering coffee mornings based around a theme. These will be virtual and a link will be shared in advance. These are the two we will offer until Easter:

Wednesday 17th March 11:00 The Curriculum vision: How is your child finding it so far? Have you noticed a difference since last year? What do they really enjoy? We are on a journey of development, what feedback do you have for us? Meeting link <https://meet.google.com/pfq-wzjm-nfe?hs=122&authuser=0>

Wednesday 24th March 11:00 SEND: What happens when you or someone else notices a need in a child? What support is in place?

Welcome to our school: Our new starters

Welcome to our wonderful new pupils Oliver, Thomas, Penelope, Ilvy, Mateo, Aquilla and Eugene. We look forward to getting to know you all!

Dates for your Diary:

17th March 11:00 Parent Coffee Morning: The Curriculum

19th March Red Nose Day: wear red and bring in 50p for a worthwhile cause!

24th March 11:00 Parent Coffee Morning: SEND Graduated Response

31st March Last Day of Spring Term

1st April Non Pupil Day

19th April First Day of Summer Term