



SCHOOL BULLETIN

DARTINGTON C OF E PRIMARY SCHOOL & NURSERY

Headteacher Update

Dear Parents/Carers,

As I mentioned in my last letter, we could not be more proud of the children and how beautifully they have settled back into school eager to learn!

Peace

Our children are remarkable. They have a lot to navigate in this world, yet they start each day smiling and accepting everyone around them. We have been discussing in our Act of Worship the value of Peace. We felt that this was such an apt value to start with during these times when our children are learning to live in a new world, learning to be kind to others and themselves, making good choices and managing their own emotions whilst being aware of others as well - amazing!

Through our value of Peace we have unpicked three kinds of peace:

- Peace being the absence of sound
- Peace being the absence of conflict or war
- Peace inside ourselves (inner peace)

This third one has been the most abstract one to understand. We have been talking about mindfulness and how this can be a tool to help the children to grow and flourish. A tool to help them to pause, be present, feel calm, reflect and find their inner peace.

I was really impressed by the Red Kites who wrote an acrostic poem about Peace this week to share in assembly. They really thought about our other values too!

Red Kites Poem

P - Persevering to create a peaceful world

E- Enthusiastically living life to the fullest and having empathy for others

A - Appreciating the world we live in

C - Creating a calm space to grow your creative mind

E- Enlightening and encouraging others to try new things

We all have moments of mindfulness in our everyday lives. When we are in forest school noticing the colour of the leaves or making sound maps, when we feel the sensation of sand between our toes, when we feel the rain fall on us after a hot day, when we feel butterflies in our stomach or

hear the sounds of the Woodpeckers in the trees outside Miss Humphries classroom. But what does this word actually mean and why is it important for us to feel at peace?

As well as this, there are lots of other really exciting things happening around the school and our monthly newsletters are a way of illustrating some of the wonderful curriculum opportunities that the children are experiencing.

Forest School

Last year you told us how important outdoor learning is to you and how much you value Forest School. The way that it had been set up originally meant that Forest School sessions were limited. As a result of your feedback we have now addressed this. We have invested in Forest School and Mrs Wallis is delivering Forest School sessions each and every day, throughout each week. The children are loving the Forest School sessions and we are pleased that we can extend the provision and provide the children with a strong outdoor education.

We have carefully invested in forest school this year which Mrs Wallis is thrilled with. She can now invest in some of the exciting resources that she has had her eye on for a while and I know that the children have loved having such a lot of dedicated time in forest school each week.



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Together we grow, together we flourish

Black History Month

Please keep your eye out for some exciting learning opportunities coming up such as Healthy Eating Week and Black History Month where the children will be extending their learning of equality and diversity in the world in which they live. Led by the wonderful Mrs Honey, every class will be involved in deepening their understanding of a really important topic celebrating the enormous contribution Black Britons have made to our vibrant and diverse society.

Our culture has been enriched and our society has been made stronger because of the people who travelled here to build new lives in the UK, as well as the achievements and contributions of their descendants and this is really important for the children to hear. Mrs Calder has also been working hard to improve the diversity that the children see in books in their classroom so they can deepen their sense of love for others and not feel afraid to express who they are despite their differences.

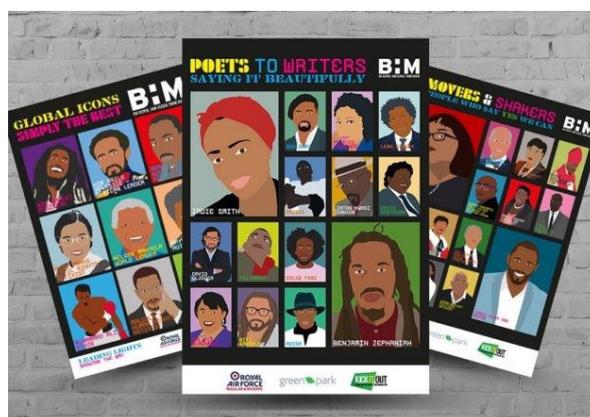
We would love to involve you in any way we can. If you think that you could contribute anything to support the children in this, please let us know!

Thank you once again, for working with us to create such a harmonious start to the year.

Warm Wishes

Mrs Huish

Headteacher



Dates for your Diary

OCTOBER 2020

5th	Black History Month
12th	Children's flu spray (for those who have consented)
W/C 12th - 23rd	Parents evening: These will be held virtually and more information will be coming shortly
23rd	Individual Photos
26th - 30th	Half Term

NOVEMBER 2020

2nd	Non Pupil Day
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DECEMBER 2020

9th	Christmas Dinner
Day	
18th	End of Term

JANUARY 2021

4th	Start of Spring Term
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FEBRUARY

15th - 19th	Half Term
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APRIL

1st	Non Pupil Day
2nd	End of Term
19th	Start of Summer
Term	

MAY

3rd	Bank Holiday
28th	Non Pupil Day
31st	4th June - Half Term

JULY

23rd	End of Term
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Executive Headteacher Update

Dear Parents/Carers,

I am very proud to continue as Executive Head at Dartington C of E Primary School. My role is to support the leadership team as they develop the curriculum and develop the improvements. I am in school throughout the week but the day to day management of the school is expertly led by Mrs Huish and the leadership team.

It has been wonderful to see and hear the positive feedback regarding how the school is developing. It has also been helpful to hear from parents when things have not gone so well. We have been able to pause, think and reshape. The feedback has been invaluable and I hope that you recognise the team are working relentlessly to ensure that Dartington continues to be happy school.

As a result of your feedback, we have extended the Forest School provision. We have transformed the sandpits into outdoor learning areas which teachers can use flexibly. We have spent the year re-writing the curriculum which now has strong links with the local area and our values so that it is distinctive to Dartington.

We told you when we arrived at the school last year that the provision for children with a SEND need was inadequate. Working with the SENDCOs from across the Trust schools improved the provision to ensure that it is meeting the Equality Act, Code of Practice and children all have individualised plans. This is still an area for focus as we embed this new, effective way of working and we are determined that all children will continue to get a great education.

Whilst COVID-19 has disrupted schools we are working hard to ensure that this academic year, it does not impact on your child's education in the same way. As a partnership of schools (The Trust) we have put together a remote learning plan so that in the event of a bubble isolating or a lockdown, we can transfer our curriculum to a remote offer. Working as a partnership of schools has ensured that the pupils will benefit from a stronger provision and the impact on their education will be minimised. We will write to you about this.

Last year we kept you informed of our concerns about the school. The team has worked incredibly hard to address these and the school is in a much stronger place, we are still working on some areas and our main focus is to embed the curriculum offer that the team has created.

This has happened because of the way we have worked with the support and partnership working with our Learning Academy Partnership Trust family. The team of staff are passionate about the school, pupils and community -they want your child to have a great school. Partnership work with parents has been much improved: coming to coffee mornings; attending parent meetings; chatting to us on the gate; taking time to fill out parent surveys; letting us know if something is not working for your child.....all of this helps us shape the improvements and get it right for the school. Thank you.

One of the benefits of the changes we have made, since working in partnership with the Learning Academy Partnership, is that we are becoming the school of choice for the local community. As a result of the good new stories that you are sharing and what we are doing, more and more parents are choosing Dartington. This year the Reception intake was the largest it has been in a number of years. Year groups are filling fast. It is wonderful to see local parents choosing their local school.

What does the increase in pupil numbers mean for your child? It means that next year's funding would increase by 100K as a result of the increase. We still have approximately 100 spaces to fill. So I wanted to thank you for speaking positively about the school in the local community, recommending the school to friends and family and encouraging more children to attend our school. Ultimately this benefits your child as it provides the funding for us to deliver a great education.

Looking forward, this academic year, despite the challenges of COVID, is going to be a great year for Dartington and I look forward to working with you as the school continues to grow and flourish.

Miss Cleverly
Executive Headteacher



Office News

I hope that our new signs have supported you in keeping our community safe. We now have 2M social distancing signs to remind everyone to keep as safe as they can!

Individual Photo's will be on 23rd October, further information will follow

Secondary School Applications

If you have not already applied for a place for your child please note that the closing date for applications is 31 October 2019. Families can apply online by visiting www.devon.gov.uk/admissionsonline. If Devon County Council do not receive an application by the 31st October, there is a strong possibility that your child will miss out on a place at their local and/or preferred school and this may cause a lot of upset and distress that could easily be avoided.

Dear Parents/Carers,

I would firstly like to say how lovely it has been getting to know you all and making me feel so incredibly welcomed here at Dartington!

I would like to write about something very dear to my heart. Many of you may not be aware but I have a condition called Alopecia. Alopecia is an autoimmune disease that attacks the hair follicles.

Because this month is Alopecia Awareness Month, I would like to write up a little something about what I do to help raise awareness!

Hair loss comes in many forms and believe it or not, I am completely bald! I wear wigs and luckily I have quite a few which is why each week I have a different hair style – in many cases its actually quite fun switching it up from time to time!

Currently I am working with an incredible charity that help women in underprivileged areas in Africa who suffer from hair loss, to give these incredible women the opportunity to own a wig! If you would like to get involved by donating, please stop by at the office and I would love to have a chat with you. I am also collaborating with famous wig brands to help women and men find the best natural looking wigs on the market. If you know of anyone who has hair loss or might be suffering in silence, please don't hesitate to stop by and have a conversation with me.

Due to my online presence, raising hair loss awareness and supporting women going through cancer, I have been given many opportunities to work with fashion companies such as Missguided to help redefine today's beauty standards in the fashion industry.

Hair Does not define beauty!

More to be revealed soon...



Miss Barber



We are thrilled to be able to welcome new children to our school family this term, since the beginning of term the following children have joined our family;

Wissal, Ben, Eli, Jack, Jess, Ella, Acer, Leo, Ludo, Finley, Rudy, Oliver, Jake, Novaehya, Flora, Matilda, Angus, Michael, Louis, Fin, Oscar, Olivia, Arcadia, Barley, Indigo, Solly, Mairead, Isla, Pip, Stanley, Etawyn, Bo, Eve, Uma, Ellie, George, Florence, George W & Rosie.

Welcome to the Dartington Family!



Just to update you, we have said farewell to Mr Whitehurst this term, who has been an incredible member of the pastoral and Breakfast Club team here at Dartington. He has gone on his own exciting adventures and we wish him all the best on his new journey. We have been interviewing for his role and we will let you know who has been successful as soon as someone has been appointed!

Communication

How have systems of communication improved across the school?

We have been building processes throughout the school to offer you clear, convenient and streamlined systems that help you to know what is happening in school and enable you to work in partnership with the staff to enhance the provision for your child.



How do I know about school events?

All school events will be detailed in the School Bulletin well in advance so that you can plan your diaries ahead of time to ensure that you don't miss anything. This bulletin also has updates from the Headteacher, Executive Headteacher about how the school is developing and each individual class.

Where would I find information about the school curriculum?

You should have just received the Autumn Curriculum Booklet for your child's Year group. This goes out termly to detail everything you need to know about the learning that your child will be experiencing across the curriculum.

How do I know specific things to my child's class?

This information is available in the Class Weekly Newsletter that is sent to you every Friday. This newsletter informs you of what the children have been learning that week, so you can follow on those conversations at home, and gives you reminders of daily things such as PE kits or wellies for Forest School.

How do I speak to my child's teacher?

Your child's teacher is available to chat to you about small concerns at drop off, 08:40 - 09:00 in the morning or after school 15:15 - 15:30. If you require a longer consultation, please speak to the teacher about booking a telephone slot or meeting face-to-face at a suitable time for you both. For all updates on your child's progress in learning, we have termly parent's evening consultations where you can meet with your child's class teacher for a 1:1 session dedicated to sharing their individual success and targets.

What if I am not dropping my children off?

If you are unable to see your teacher in the classroom, please call the office on 01803 862 357 or email admin@dartingtonprimary.org and Miss Barber will pass on your request to the teacher.

What if it is confidential information that I need to share?

Should you want to share some confidential information and require privacy, please speak to the teacher to arrange a telephone call or face-to-face meeting or call or email the office. You do not need to give the office details of the problem, please just state that it is confidential and they will handle the matter swiftly and sensitively.

How do I contact the the SENDCo for SEND needs?

If you have a child who needs extra support through SEND provision, the first point of contact is the class teacher. If it is related to an EHCP or following up on a request for SEND provision, then please contact Mrs Stubbles who are our SENDCo by calling the office on 01803 862 357 or email admin@dartingtonprimary.org. You can also email the SEND team on senco@dartingtonprimary.org

Please note that any communication via email to the SEND team will have at least a 48 hour window for response as per our policy, depending on the nature of the request. With SEND provision, there are normally multi-agencies involved and it does take time to liaise with the required agencies to ensure the best provision is met.

Who do I speak to about information regarding safeguarding, family support, attendance, early help or advice and support about local services?

For any of the above concerns, please contact Mr Trewinnard. You can speak to him on the school gate between 08:40 - 09:00 and 15:00 - 15:30. If you don't manage to catch him at that time, please call the office on 01803 862 357 or email admin@dartingtonprimary.org and Mrs May or Miss Barber will book you in for a meeting or telephone call at a time suitable to you.



Courageous Advocacy

Every month, a child is chosen from across the school who has lived, breathed and gone that extra mile to show our school values. A child who receives this award champions causes which are special and meaningful to them. These may be global issues or matters far more personal and closer to home. I am delighted to announce that our Courageous Advocacy award this month goes to Monty and Saffron.

I was humbled to receive an email from their Mum recently who gave me a link to a wonderful article from the Children's Hospice Southwest who had published a piece on Monty and Saffron's lockdown experience. Lockdown has been a difficult time for all families, but Saffron and Monty had additional worries caring for their older brother Quinn who has profound needs. Monty and Saffron were described in the article as going the extra mile and we agreed!

We have been reading a story called The 5 Friends from the Bible in our Act of Worship and this story really made me think of everything that Saffron and Monty have been doing selflessly for their brother in his time of need. To support their family and other families in situations like them, they took part in exciting challenges: quizzes, sunflower growing competitions, writing book reviews for others to read and even sending in photos of their own book covers. The compassion, wisdom and love that they have shown is absolutely incredible and not their actions have given peace to many others and brightened their days!



Community Notices

We have received some good news to brighten the times! Before Covid began, you may remember a parent of ours who came to the school gate to talk to parents and children about the community park. She also met with the school council to talk through a proposed upgrade to the playground at Meadowbrook. Excitingly, they have been lucky enough to secure £64k to make some of these improvements and so will be installing the new play equipment over the winter.

As part of this project they have funding to engage with children to help them to design signage and seating for the space, make environmental plans for things like bulb planting, creating wildflower areas and tree planting. They have delivered very similar projects in Plymouth working with St Austins Primary where they created a wild flower meadow, orchard and native hedgerow and the children designed a sign and wording for bespoke seating. It was a huge success.

Dartington Recreation Association (DRA) manages the whole Meadowbrook site including woods, meadow, park, pool, community building and football pitches. The DRA has exciting plans for the future and are also raising funds for the planned woodland bike track and working on a pool revamp to include renewable heating. It is an exciting stage in the development of the site to provide sports and recreation facilities for the local community and they would like to ensure that the school plays an active role in this. We are so very excited to be involved and will let you know more information as it happens!



PE Update

We are delighted to be working with three outstanding PE and school sport providers this year: Dartmoor School Sport Partnership, Spires College and Premier Sport. We kick-started the year with a fantastic tag rugby training session for teachers (expertly delivered by Mr Lyndon, a secondary PE specialist at KEVICC and our DSSP link teacher). Mr Coupe (PE specialist from Spires College) has been team-teaching PE lessons alongside teachers and the first of this year's after school clubs has started with Premier Sport. We are thrilled that the children have been making a big effort to have their PE kit in school to ensure they are correctly dressed for physical learning and can maximise their progress in their PE lessons. What a great start to the year! There is a real buzz of positivity in school from both pupils and teachers as, by working in partnership, we will be able to offer a wider range of opportunities this year. Although Covid-19 has obviously changed how we approach many things, with the support of our PE team we intend to make 2020 an exciting year for sport at Dartington. We are even planning to compete 'virtually' against other schools – watch this space!



Premier
Education

Forest School

It's our harvest time of year again! Despite the difficulty of gardening with lockdown this year, we have a beautiful crop of pumpkins harvested by Swallows class. We plan to eat our soup around the campfire in the coming weeks. Also, almost all children have been to our orchard to harvest an apple. We had a good crop of potatoes, harvested by the Kingfishers, which were cooked in our kitchen and tasted absolutely delicious, thanks to Danielle and her team. Across key stage two children have been deepening their understanding of maps, by creating map sticks from the Aboriginal culture. They tie natural objects found on their journey, in chronological order, to enable them to retell their journey later on. In addition they have also created sound maps which helps them to tune into the sounds of Autumn. We have been so lucky with the weather so far, but please make sure that your child is dressed suitably for the weather as it changes.

Thank you.
Mrs Wallace

Sparrows

It has been wonderful welcoming our youngest children into Sparrows Class and they have all made a fantastic start to the school year, settling into our new routines with confidence and enthusiasm. We have been so busy exploring and learning inside and outside: listening to stories, singing songs, creating beautiful and expressive artwork, cooking in our mud kitchen, building with bricks and junk, and finding out about ourselves and each other.

Our topic this half term is 'The Story of Me: Everyone is the Same, Everyone is Different'. We have used some lovely books, such as Oliver Jeffer's "Here we are" and Julia Donaldson's "The Smeds and the Smoos" to help us think about and celebrate our differences and learn how to appreciate each other.

We have also started to think about the changes in the seasons and have been noticing how the world around us is changing as it becomes more autumnal. We went on a nature walk to our Forest School and created autumn sticks with the treasures that we found, talking and asking questions about the things we found. We have also been enjoying Shirley Hughes poems about the seasons in 'Out and About', and created autumn fingers paintings and leaf collages.

Well done Sparrows for all your amazing learning!



Wrens

Wrens have had such a busy first month of school. September has flown by! The children are coming into class more confidently and happily. They can hang up coats and bags on their own and choose resources independently.

There is such a lot of wonderful cooperative playing, where children share resources and take turns and involve each other in their play. We are getting to know each other better every day and making new friends.

We have enjoyed books about how we are the same and how we are different, a favourite was 'Only One You' about how special we are. We made lots of art work inspired by the beautifully coloured fish.

It has been really good to read your replies telling us all about your children. Thankyou for taking time to fill in the forms. It helps us to build a whole picture of your children.

What a fantastic start to the school year. Well done wrens!



Robins

It has been so lovely to see so many happy faces return to school this term. We are so proud of how quickly the children have all settled and the love of learning they are already showing, both in the classroom and in our outdoor area.

It has been great getting to know the children and their personalities over the past few weeks - I'm sure we're going to have a fantastic year together!

So far, we have really enjoyed reading our class book, *The Colour Monster*, and exploring our different emotions. We know it is ok to feel happy, angry, sad and calm all in one day - that's just being human!

This week we have also been thinking about the seasons and how the colours in nature are starting to change as we head into autumn.

We absolutely loved going on a nature walk during forest school and collecting 'treasures' to make collages of animals.

What brilliant artists we have in Robins class!



Swallows

What a fantastic start to the new school year it has been! I feel so grateful to be able to teach such a wonderful little class, with such amazing characters!

The transition to year 1 and 2 can sometimes be a little nerve wracking and scary, but I have been blown away with how well we have all settled into our new routines and 'new normal' (hand washing galore!).

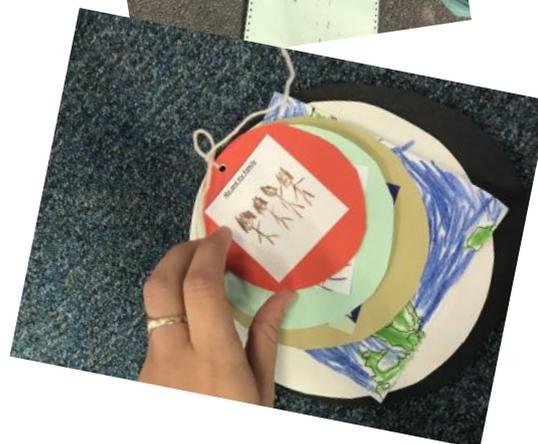
We have kick started this term with our exciting Geography topic on oceans and continents.

I'm sure you have all heard the catchy song we have learnt in class to remember all seven continents!

The children have also had a go at making their own global addresses: The world, Europe, England, Devon, Totnes, My house and Me!

In art the children have explored our new topic of seascapes inspired by our very own local artist: Brian Pollard! We have explored colour mixing, shading and composition with bright bold colour being the main component!

I can't wait to see all of their final pieces! Well done Swallow class, you are all brilliant. Lets see what next month brings!



Kingfishers

We have hit the ground running in Kingfishers and already achieved so much! The children have loved watching the weather and our natural environment change as we move into autumn.

In forest school, we have been pressing leaves and tending to the gardens in preparation for winter.

As part of our science learning we have looked at different materials, their properties and uses. This has linked in beautifully with the work in English we have been doing on The Three Little Wolves and the Big Bad Pig!

We have been writing our own twisted fairy tales full of descriptive language whilst focusing on our basic skills of full stops and capital letters.

One of the highlights of our week is our Geography sessions where we have been naming and locating continents and oceans around the world. We have learnt our 'global address' and can give directions using north, east, south and west! We have read some beautiful books from all over the world to find out what life is like on different continents.

Anna Hibiscus has taught us lots about the differences and similarities of life in Africa. Ask us all about it!



Tawny Owls

It has been non-stop action so far in our first few weeks as Tawny Owls. We have focused on getting back into all of our subjects and it has been so amazing to see how well everyone has adapted to being back at school, with new people in our class (including me!) and old friends to catch up with, it is a lot to take in but everyone has settled in superbly.

In terms of lessons, one of my favourite things we have done is looking at the Trinity in our Religious Education studies. We have established what the Trinity is and drawn some amazing representations of the three parts of the Trinity (shown in the picture) and where it is mentioned, both in the Bible and in daily lives of Christians.

My favourite part was actually a lesson we had this week, we decided to hold a Tawny Owls baptism outside on the Astro turf. We had many volunteers to fill the role of Priest, Parents, Godparents and the infant child who was being baptised. It was truly lovely to see how amazingly the children acted out the baptism and remembered the lines they had observed from watching a video of a baptism in class, mentioning the Father, Son and Holy Spirit that makes up the Trinity. It was a lot of fun!

This class continues to surprise and amaze me everyday, I am looking forward to continuing our journey together and seeing how well we perform as the year goes on. Thank you to all my amazing Tawny Owls for making me feel so welcome and being absolute superstars both inside and outside of the classroom!



Nightingales

We have had a wonderful start to the school year in the Nightingales and we have been busy getting to know each other and settling into our new classroom.

All the children have been so welcoming to myself and our newest members of our Dartington school family as we have been lucky enough to be joined by some new children this term.

We have already achieved so much in the Nightingales and the children have enjoyed getting stuck into their learning. In our English lessons, we have been exploring information texts and looking at ways we can add more information to our sentences which has also been linking into our class novel and our geography learning.

During our art lessons, we have been exploring Devonshire landscapes with a focus on the work of local artist Stephen Thomas. We have had lots of fun using charcoal to vary our shading and give areas of tone, and through exploring a range of techniques when using oil pastels, with a particular focus on blending. The children then applied their new skills whilst creating their own Devon landscape inspired artwork.

I have been so impressed with all of the children and their creativity during these first few weeks and I can't wait to see how their artwork progresses through the term.



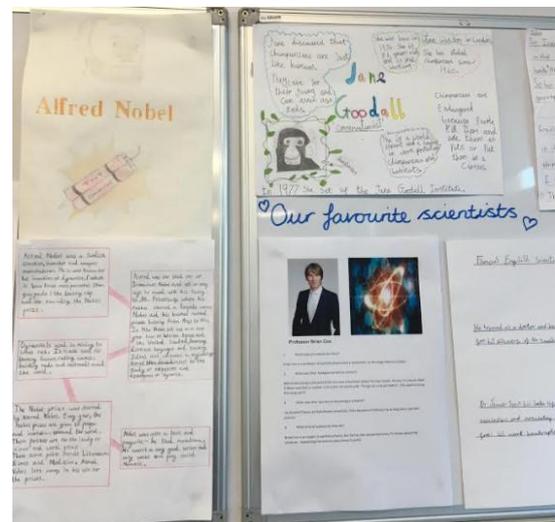
Woodpeckers

We have had such a busy and exciting first few weeks in Woodpeckers class.

As we settled in to our first week together, one of the questions I was asked was "When can we get back to having normal lessons?" Well Woodpeckers, your wish was my command! It is amazing how much the children had missed the routine of classroom life and the excitement of experiencing those "lightbulb moments" where they can see tangible progress in their learning whilst working alongside their peers.

One of my favourite recent lessons was when we discussed what we think scientists look like. The children imagined old men in lab coats with crazy hair and were surprised when I showed them a range of scientists who don't fit this description at all. We learnt about Chris Packham, a naturalist and conservationist, and Dr Maggie Aderin-Pocock, a space scientist. The children then researched their own favourite scientists for their home learning. They discovered some fascinating facts and about a range of incredible scientists and presented these to the class.

Well done Woodpeckers, you've already taught me such a lot this term!



Swifts

What a wonderful start to the term we have had in Swifts. It has been an amazing month and we can't believe we are at the end of September already. The class slipped back into our learning routines almost immediately, and we have been so proud of their enthusiasm, resilience and determination.

We have really enjoyed exploring different geographical areas of our world during our Geography topic. We have learnt some amazing facts about the polar regions and the equator - did you know that Antarctica has almost no precipitation, so snowfall is very rare? We are looking forward to finding out more about the Tropics too.

We have been so lucky with the weather, and have made the most of the opportunity to do some outside P.E. This half term we have been focusing on tag rugby and have had great fun learning to throw and catch a rugby ball, by working on passing skills. We have used a whole range of games to help develop these skills but must remember to only throw sideways or backwards!

Well done to all of Swifts for making such an amazing return to our school, and we look forward to seeing how you all flourish throughout this year.



Red Kites

Wow! We are nearing the end of September already and what a busy few weeks it has been. Red Kites were raring to go in our first week back and we wasted no time in getting stuck into some exciting learning opportunities. They have blown me away with their resilience and determination during our practice SATs - you have all been superstars! I can't wait to watch you grow and flourish as I support you in your final year at Primary.

We have been really enjoying our Art sessions this term, and it has been great to draw out their inner artists, especially those who say "I am rubbish at art Miss Humphries." (Although, this is really not the case!!) We have been looking at a range of artists, and have linked what we've been sketching/recreating to our Science about living things and their habitats.

My favourite artist was Belinda Elliot and her use of charcoal to show light and dark in animal sketches. It was really lovely to see Red Kites so enthused and inspired to recreate hare prints of their own.

Thank you Red Kites for settling in so beautifully, showing compassion to each other and being amazing role models to the younger years within school.



Dartington C of E Primary School and Nursery

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