



Dartington C of E Primary and Nursery School

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Together we grow, together we flourish

Dear Parents/Carers

I do hope that you are all keeping safe and well. It has been so lovely to see so many of you on the different live sessions and it is very heart-warming to see the smiles on the children's faces when they see their friends and the adults virtually.

Care and Share

As a school, our vision is '*together we grow, together we flourish*'. At the moment, we understand that the role of a parent has really changed as you try to tackle parenting, daily household tasks as well as home educating. We wanted to work *together* with you in any way that we can. We have had feedback from many of you talking about the challenges of home learning, the challenges of isolation and the challenges of losing time for yourselves to socialise and talk to other adults.

We listened to your feedback and have adapted to offer you live Care and Share sessions for parents during the week. These are a dedicated space for you to bring a cuppa and either just enjoy listening and seeing a friendly face from our community or joining in and discussing how things are going for you.

We have a variety of staff attending so we can answer as many questions as we can and listen to your feedback in order to make changes to our remote offer. You are very welcome to attend these forums and it would be brilliant to see you there!

This week in these sessions, we have had some useful feedback:

You told us that it was tricky to attend these adult sessions in the daytime, so we have adapted and look out for some after school time sessions from next week!

Also you were telling us that 5 days a week of daily lessons was difficult when you had multiple siblings or were working, so we have adapted our offer and from now on, Fridays will be a consolidation and catch up day to ease the pressure for you all.

Wellbeing Assemblies

For those of you who haven't enjoyed our whole school assemblies yet, we are offering two live sessions where the children can see, listen and interact with each other. These sessions are both focussed on wellbeing and mental health and the children enjoy social stories and quotes to unpick what they would do or how they feel.

Tuesdays at 09:00

These are our Emotional Logic assemblies which continue the social stories about Lisamba and the other characters on the Savannah who the children already know and love. Mrs Stubbles runs these sessions and the children love to give their insight and interact with the stories each week.



Dartington C of E Primary School and Nursery is proud to be working in a Management Partnership with the Learning Academy Partnership



Thursdays at 09:00

In these assemblies at the moment we are using the Early Help 4 Mental Health resources to think about our '10 a day' choices towards balancing our mental health. We pick a strategy each week to focus on and link stories too. We have covered 1. Talk about your feelings, 8. Ask for help, 7. Stay connected to those you care about, and 10. Actively care for others. This week's focus is number 7. Be proud of your very being.

We look forward to you joining us. My favourite part is the waving for 5 minutes and saying goodbye at the end. They really are a moment of joy!

February Half Term

I wanted to write to you to confirm the arrangements for the upcoming half term break. There has been much speculation in the media regarding the arrangements for half term and yesterday we received confirmation from The Department for Education of what these arrangements will be.

Schools will close as usual over February half-term and are not expected to remain open to vulnerable children and the children of critical workers during that week.

I wanted to inform you of this as soon as possible as I am aware that this may have implications for those of you who have currently taken up a school place. I am hoping that by getting this information to you promptly, that you will be able to now plan for this.

Parents Evening Consultations

As you know these were scheduled to take place from the 8th of February, but we realise that this is another thing at the moment for everyone to manage in a place of uncertainty with no end date for the minimal school opening. Therefore, we have made the decision to postpone these for now and we will pick them up next half term.

I would like to take this opportunity to once again thank you for your support and engagement with the remote learning offer for children who are not currently on site. Teachers continue to be on hand to support you and we will always strive to help in any way that we can.

We continue to recognise the different situations of individual families at this time and we applaud your efforts. Remember to be kind to yourselves, to not compare yourself to others and to recognise your successes!

All of the staff here at Dartington send you our best wishes and we are very much looking forward to the day when we can safely see you all again.

Best wishes
Mrs Huish