



**Together we grow, together we flourish**

## Letter from Mrs Huish 18.06.2021

Dear Parents/Carers,

We have had such a wonderful two weeks back in school. I have tried to capture some of the highlights as there has been so much going on to share with you all!



### Artist Workshop: Look out for our display coming soon!

The art day with Mrs Lewis was a fabulous success with some stunning outcomes! The children learnt how to use pastels to create really eye-catching artwork that linked beautifully with our school values of Peace, Compassion, Wisdom, Trust and Creation and Creativity, as well as Love, and were encouraged to be creative and incorporate things that they were passionate about. We will be using this artwork to create a

display in the school reception foyer for everyone to enjoy.



**Year 5/6: Swimming** Finally, after such a long time of the pools being closed, our Year 5 and 6's have begun to resume their swimming lessons! It was such a wonderful morning of splashing and honing their stroke skills and everyone came away with such a smile on their face and a sense of pride in what they had achieved and the only one to forget their swimming kit was Mr T who had a mad dash to go back home first thing to get it. Well done to everyone for such a wonderful morning.

We can't wait until next week. Let's hope the weather continues to shine!



**Forest School: Red Kites** It was a pleasure this week to spot the Year 6's having one of their final forest school sessions. Over their years here at Dartington, they have honed and crafted their skills in this subject area and this term has offered them an opportunity to choose and apply the skills of their choice in their work. They all chose to design and create something for a purpose using their problem solving and Design and Technology skills. It was incredible to see Orriah who had whittled and craved an amazing knife out of wood, taking care to smooth

her final creation and ensure the shape would enable her to use this for the purpose that it was designed. There was also a group who were building their own den for survival, problem solving and testing that it was watertight and weather-proof to keep them warm and safe. It was so impressive to see the children's confidence and creativity coming out in their work. These skills will stay with them for life!



**LAP Trustee Visit: Mr Richard Vaughton** It was a pleasure to be visited by Mr Richard Vaughton last week. Richard is our Chair of Trustees for the Learning Academy Partnership and wanted to come and familiarise himself with Dartington school to get to know us even better. He introduced himself to the staff and even some of the children came to chat with him sharing their exciting curriculum learning and knowledge of the school. He agreed that Dartington Academy was as special in person as it was on paper and was blown away by the compassionate culture and nurturing ethos of the school.



**The Parish Magazine Article: We have been published!** Have you seen this month's Dartington Parish Magazine? Our wonderful school is featured on page 33 discussing lots of the incredible projects we have taken part in recently and how even in times of adversity, we are finding joy in the world and community around us. We hope you enjoy reading it. If you would like to see a copy, please ask in the Admin office!



**Music: Swifts class compositions** There are still many areas of our broad and balanced curriculum that we are developing. Music is one of these and will play a key feature of our Academy Development Plan next year. However, it was a pleasure to see Swift's this week already modelling creativity in music as they composed their own beautiful pieces of music based on what they have learnt this term. I loved how they

were so inspired by the outdoor environment that they used this area to make their musical sounds! For next year, we would be really interested in any opportunities in the local community to enhance our music curriculum and would love to hear from anyone with links or ideas of ways to get more musicians into school to work with the children. Please let us know if you have any ideas!

### Transition Day: 05th/6th July 2021

Transition day this year will be on Monday 05th and 6th of July. This is the time where the children move up for an experience day with their new class teacher. It will be a day filled with fun, games and excitement as they get to know their new teacher and begin to build relationships with their new classmates.

Warm wishes,  
Mrs Huish

### Community Values: Dartington School Focus Group, the children's voice



We are always looking for more ways to listen to the children's voice in school. We had our first school focus group meeting this week which was really informative. I asked them what they wanted to tell me about paytime and lunch times in school and I was amazed by the maturity and sensibleness in their responses. Here are some of the main points raised to consider:

- They noted how incredible our space is here and said this was a positive.
- They said that they did not experience any negative behaviour and that everyone was very friendly and played together well.
- One person noted that sometimes they saw people who got left out, but that they had discussed this as a class and were aware and knew what to do to invite them into a game.
- There was a positive where there was equipment e.g. balls to play with, but many of these had been lost or broken along the way, so they thought it would be a good idea to see if they could get some more.
- One person remembered that we used to have basketball hoops but these rusted after many years and they were keen to see how we could get another set.
- Many were keen to see if a slide could be purchased for the bank for everyone to enjoy because they all really liked the climbing frame.
- Most of the group agreed with one idea that to improve breaks we could reduce the lunch hour but add another break later in the day so they would have the same amount of time but spread out through the day.
- One child had noticed that we use the silent stop signal to signal the end of lunch and break. He felt that this could be improved by using a clap, whistle or bells so that they could hear it if they were engrossed in a game.
- Some of the group noted that it would be good to have some 'quiet areas' e.g. the library open for those who wanted to sit quietly and relax instead of running around. This was agreed by everyone.
- There were suggestions about getting appropriate storage for the lunch boxes so they didn't get crushed, lost or broken outside.
- The KS1 children expressed how they would like to have the opportunity to play in other areas of the school because, due to the bubbles, they are always outside their classrooms.
- KS2 pointed out that being in the canteen takes longer now because of the COVID 19 risk assessment and wanted to think of ways that this could be reduced until the bubbles were relaxed.

It was a really useful first meeting and I look forward to continuing to work with this group to put some of their ideas into action!

### Community Award: Courageous Advocacy

We love to honour one of our pupils each month with our prestigious community award. This award was created to notice when the children go above and beyond in our local community showing their character filled with our school values and a determination to make the world a better place in their own small way, leading themselves towards making a difference to the world around them. This month's winner showed such a high level of humility when he was discussing what he does for his local community, but wowed us with his stories of how he spends his own time in the evening caring for sick or lost hedgehogs, as well as other creatures. We were touched by how he cared for one hedgehog with ticks and nursed it back to health before releasing it back into the wild. Thank you **Vlad** for showing our school values and making a difference to our school community!



## Welcome to our school: Our new starters

A warm welcome to our wonderful new pupil Dotty! We are thrilled to have you as part of our growing school family.

## After School Clubs: Are you booked on?

**Thursdays:** Year 1/2 Multi-skills Club with Mr Coupe (bookable through Admin)

**Art club:** This will be starting after May half term with Mrs Lewis and is now fully booked.

**Mon-Fri:** We have our wrap-around care after school club in the hall. This can be booked through the School Gateway App.

## Dates for your Diary: Don't miss out!

**15.07.21** Whole School Sports Day - children only (COVID guidance dependent)

**Friday 9th of July 2021** School Reports Week

**Week beginning the 12th of July 2021** Parent's Evening week

**Thursday 1st of July** Year 6 Camp Out!

**Monday 5th/6th of July** Transition Days in their new classes.

**Tuesday 20th July** Year 6 Production (COVID guidance dependent)

**Wednesday 21st July** New reception intake 2021 Teddy Bear's afternoon tea

**Thursday 22nd July** Year 6 Leavers' event (COVID guidance dependant)

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## TOGETHER WE EMPOWER EXCELLENCE

Learning Academy Partnership Registered Office: Suite 4 Zealley House, Greenhill Way, Kingsteignton, Newton Abbot, TQ12 3SB Company number: 07713540