



Together we grow, together we flourish

Letter from Mrs Huish 01.10.2021

Dear Parents,

I hope you are all getting back into the routine of things now.

As the days get darker and the temperature begins to get cooler, this is the time that gives us all a sense of excitement and wonder about the experiences and learning that we will be seeing across the school in the Autumn term.

You should have received your child's curriculum booklet which is an overview of the whole curriculum for your child's class this half term. This gives you a snapshot of what they will be learning and an opportunity to pick up conversations with your children at home about what they are learning in class. Over the past two years, we have kept you regularly updated about the curriculum at Dartington and my letters to you hopefully open the school along with our school social media platforms: Twitter and Facebook, which are updated daily with reminders and pictures of our curriculum in action, giving you a snapshot to enjoy.

Nightingales have been out and about in the local community helping to plant the new wildflower meadow in the park. The children were really excited about this because they are growing the future habitat of some of our precious wild creatures. We can't wait to see it grow and flourish from them working together!



In forest school across the classes, they have been learning a range of new skills. Searching for signs of Autumn, our younger pupils have been off on an adventure in the school grounds to see what they can find. In KS2, some children have been harvesting their crops from last year and we have been amazed by the delicious potatoes, onions and pumpkins that we have grown! The fruits of their labour have not gone to waste as these have been used for many things like making soups incorporating their chopping skills too; other classes have been baking bread on the forest fire and learning how to make the fires safely from flint and steel. What incredible opportunities!



It has been a pleasure to drop into the classes throughout the week and see how settled and engaged the children are with their learning. I showed one of our Trustees around this week and they commented on the children's stunning learning behaviours. In Swifts', we were blown away by the children's resilience and determination to use all the skills they know to solve problems in maths. We love how the children use their own peers and learning partners to help them to learn and draw images to show their understanding.





With our curriculum development, the work our teachers and leaders undertook with History, Art and Geography last year are really embedded and as a result the children are building their knowledge and skills in these areas now. This year, our focus subjects are music and design and technology to enhance the provision we already have. We are really excited about seeing the creations that the children will be researching, designing, planning and making for the next half term.

In music, we have been working with the Devon and Torbay Schools Music Hub to improve our offer. We follow a recommended curriculum called Charanga which explores many instruments and musical skills enabling the children to listen, appraise and compose music throughout their lessons. Dartington Academy is hosting the Devon training for this for schools in the local area and we have been nominated for the Music Mark award for recognition of our commitment to enhancing our provision. We are always looking for additional opportunities for the children to enhance our curriculum. If you have a skill or link to something musical or design and technology based that you think would help our teachers to deliver a rich offer to the pupils, please let us know!

A big thank you to Didi's Grandad who has truly inspired the Tawny Owls in their light and dark Science topic this week. He created a portable camera obscura which Didi showed everyone in class. They were able to see how the eye works with light bouncing off an object and coming through the lens onto the screen. What an amazing thing for the children to see!



I hope that you have enjoyed the updates for this fortnight!
Have a wonderful weekend.
Warmest wishes
Mrs Huish

Community News: Morrison's Good to Grow Scheme

Morrison's have started a new incentive to encourage more home growing. Here is a bit of information about how you can help us in school, if you shop at Morrisons, to win more equipment for forest school to grow even more of our own produce!

For every £10 you spend (in store or online) at Morrisons, you'll get a Grow Token to help your school get everything they need to get growing. Download the MyMorrisons app today to start collecting Grow Tokens and choose the school you'd like to donate them to.

Your chosen school will be able to exchange their Grow Tokens for FREE gardening equipment to get kids growing.

<https://my.morrisons.com/blog/community/good-to-grow/>



Community News: Parents Evening Consultations Our parents evening consultations are held in the week commencing the 11th of October. These are an opportunity for you to have a 1:1 session with your child's class teacher and find out information about how they are settling in, what they are enjoying in their learning and any next steps or targets: academically, creatively, socially and emotionally. Please book these appointments through your class teacher. There is a sign up sheet available for every class. If you do not drop your child in each day, please email in your preferred time slot and we will sign you up. These will be held virtually or by phone and the appointments can be accessed through the Google classroom login or Tapestry on the night, so please ensure you have your log in details ready for this.

Community News: Help us to save lives with our Defibrillator Fundraiser We wish to raise some money for the local community so that we can help to get a defibrillator in the local Meadowbrook site. We have teamed up with other people in the local community as well as Jay's Aim, a local charity, to help to give Dartington some life saving equipment. Jay's Aim is a charity founded with a personal mission to help others to put in place defibrillators in the target of reducing the rate of sudden cardiac deaths among young people in South-West England.



After a cardiac arrest, every minute without CPR and defibrillation reduces someone's chance of survival by 10%

Source - The British Heart Foundation

Watch this space for information about Superhero day and help us to raise money and save lives in our community!
More information here [Jay's Aim \(jaysaim.co.uk\)](http://jaysaim.co.uk)

After School Clubs: Look at what's on offer!

Premiere Sports: This is a free sports session held on a Tuesday for KS1. The focus sport is Archery this half term. Please register through the Premiere Education website as there are still places.

Premiere Sports: This is a free sports session held on a Friday for KS2. The focus sport is Archery this half term. This club is now full, but we will renew it in October.

Spires Sports Club: This is held on Thursdays for year 1 and 2 pupils, but if your child is in Year 3/4 and would like to join, there are still places available. The focus sport is Multi-skills, a variety of ball work and games.

Artscape Club: This is a KS2 art club run by Mrs Lewis and is now full for this block. There will be another opportunity for the next block after half term.

Frazoo: This is a science club that will be starting after half term with Mrs Hulbert. Bookings will be made directly to Frazoo and more information will come out shortly about this.

After school wrap around care: This will run every evening until 6pm. This is open to all children from EYFS to Year 6. Please book on and pay as usual through the School Gateway App.

Dates for your Diary: Don't miss out!

W/C 11.10.21 Parent's evening consultations.

19.10.21 School Photos (There will be an early siblings option: more details to come)

25.10.21 Half term break.

04.11.21 Flu Immunisations (These are the nasal sprays not for COVID 19)

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