

A photograph of two young girls standing in a forest with fallen leaves on the ground. The girl on the left is wearing a light purple long-sleeved shirt and denim shorts, with her arm around the girl on the right. The girl on the right is wearing a green t-shirt and a reddish-brown skirt. The background consists of many thin tree trunks and a ground covered in brown and orange leaves. The text 'Meet the Teacher' is overlaid in white, sans-serif font in the center of the image.

Meet the Teacher

September 2023

Have you seen our Parent Handbook for all the information you need? Check your emails!



TERM DATES

2023 – 2024

Autumn Term 2023

- Non Pupil Day: 4 September
- Start: 5 September
- Half Term: 23 – 27 October
- Non Pupil Day: 30 October
- End: 15 December

Spring Term 2024

- Bank Holiday: 1 January
- Non Pupil Day: 2 January
- Start: 3 January
- Half Term: 12 – 16 February
- Non Pupil Day: 19 February
- End: 28 March

Summer Term 2024

- Non Pupil Day: 15 April
- Start: 16 April
- Bank Holiday: 6 May
- Half Term: 27 May – 31 May
- End: 24 July

<https://dartington-lap.co.uk/parents/term-dates/>

SCHOOL:

Start of the school day:

Gates open at 08:40 and children go straight to their class and the school day begins at 08:45. Registration closes at 09:00.

Children who miss all or part of the registration period can feel very unsettled and unsure about what is happening the rest of the day, so please make sure your child arrives at the school on time.

We ask that parents do not come into the classroom at drop off and collection. As well as being important from a safeguarding perspective, it also helps to build children's independence.



UNIFORM

We are a non-uniform school. Our drive to realising standards encompasses all aspects of school life; teaching & learning; relationships; behaviour and dress code. Wearing suitable clothing is essential. The support of parents is very important in this and it is vital that all clothing is clearly labelled.

Guidelines for School Dress and Appearance:

- Clothing and footwear must be clean, well fitted and in good repair.
- Outdoor wear, including coats, hats and fleeces, may only be worn outdoors.
- Clothing must be free of wording and prominent logos (small, discreet logos are acceptable).
- Trousers must be appropriate for sitting, playing and learning.
- Skirts and dresses should be of an appropriate length for sitting and playing.
- Cropped t-shirts and jumpers are not appropriate.
- Footwear must be appropriately fitted with good soles to enable the children to join in comfortably with the school day. Flip flops, crocs and wellington boots are not to be worn in the classroom.
- Jewellery must not be worn.
- Pupils may not attend school with visible nail varnish

All children must have an appropriate kit for sports and Forest School. These items may be kept in school in a bag on the child's peg so they are prepared each week. They will be sent home each half term to be washed.

Sports Kit:

- A navy Dartington PE shirt which can be ordered through Riviera Schooldays - [Classic Shop - Riviera Schooldays](#)
- Plain black or navy-blue shorts
- Sports trainers with suitable tread

Forest School Kit:

- Warm clothes (hats, scarf and gloves in colder weather).
- Water proofs (trousers and overcoat).
- Correctly fitting Wellington boots.
- A water bottle.

It is essential your child has a school book bag with them every day which can be ordered and paid for on the Riviera School Days website [Classic Shop - Riviera Schooldays](#)

Reading books and important information will be transported daily in this bag between home and school. If your child does not have a book bag you may miss out on some vital information and in some cases we will not be able to send books home without one.

Please make sure your child knows if there is something important to be handed in. Also please make sure someone at home checks the book bag as children cannot always be relied upon to remember that there may be important information in there.

KEY CONTACT DETAILS

Dartington Church of England Academy & Nursery
Shinners Bridge
Dartington
TQ9 6JU

- Tel: 01803 862357
- Email: dartington@lapsw.org
- Website: <https://dartington-lap.co.uk/>
- Twitter: <https://twitter.com/DartingtonLAP>
- Facebook: <https://www.facebook.com/DartingtonLAP>

Who will we see this year?



Mr Jones



Jane



Miss B



Miss Whitehurst



Mrs Mathews



Mrs Viney



Mr Mead



The Kitchen Ladies



Mrs Palmer

The hall ready for lunch



Who can I contact if I have a question?

Please contact your child's class teacher in the first instance

The Admin team can help with any daily questions regarding lunches, letters, finance etc



Mrs Strange can help with family support questions Mon – Wed dartingtonfamilysupport@lapsw.org

Mr T can help with SEND and safeguarding questions dartingtonsendco@lapsw.org



Mrs Eversfield AHOA KS1 and EYFS can help with any questions relating to these year groups

Mr Waters AHOA KS2 can help with any questions relating to these year groups



Mrs Huish, Mr Trewinnard and Mrs Strange are on the gate daily to take messages and quick questions.



A close-up photograph of various colorful, 3D-printed mathematical symbols scattered on a blue surface. The symbols include numbers like 1, 2, 3, 4, 5, 6, 7, 8, 9, 0, a plus sign (+), and a multiplication sign (x). The colors are vibrant, including red, yellow, blue, green, and orange. The symbols are arranged in a somewhat chaotic but visually appealing manner, with some overlapping and others standing alone. The lighting is bright, highlighting the smooth texture of the plastic.

How do I know what my child is learning?

Curriculum Booklets

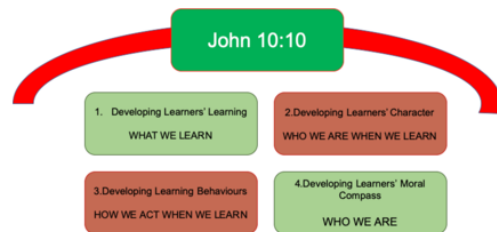


What is my child learning this half term?

Our curriculum is the beating heart of our school and is rooted in John 10:10

"I came that they might have life and live it to the full"

Within our vision *'together we grow, together we flourish'* our children will develop a love of learning and be totally immersed in different worlds, cultures and times preparing them for the next stage of their education.



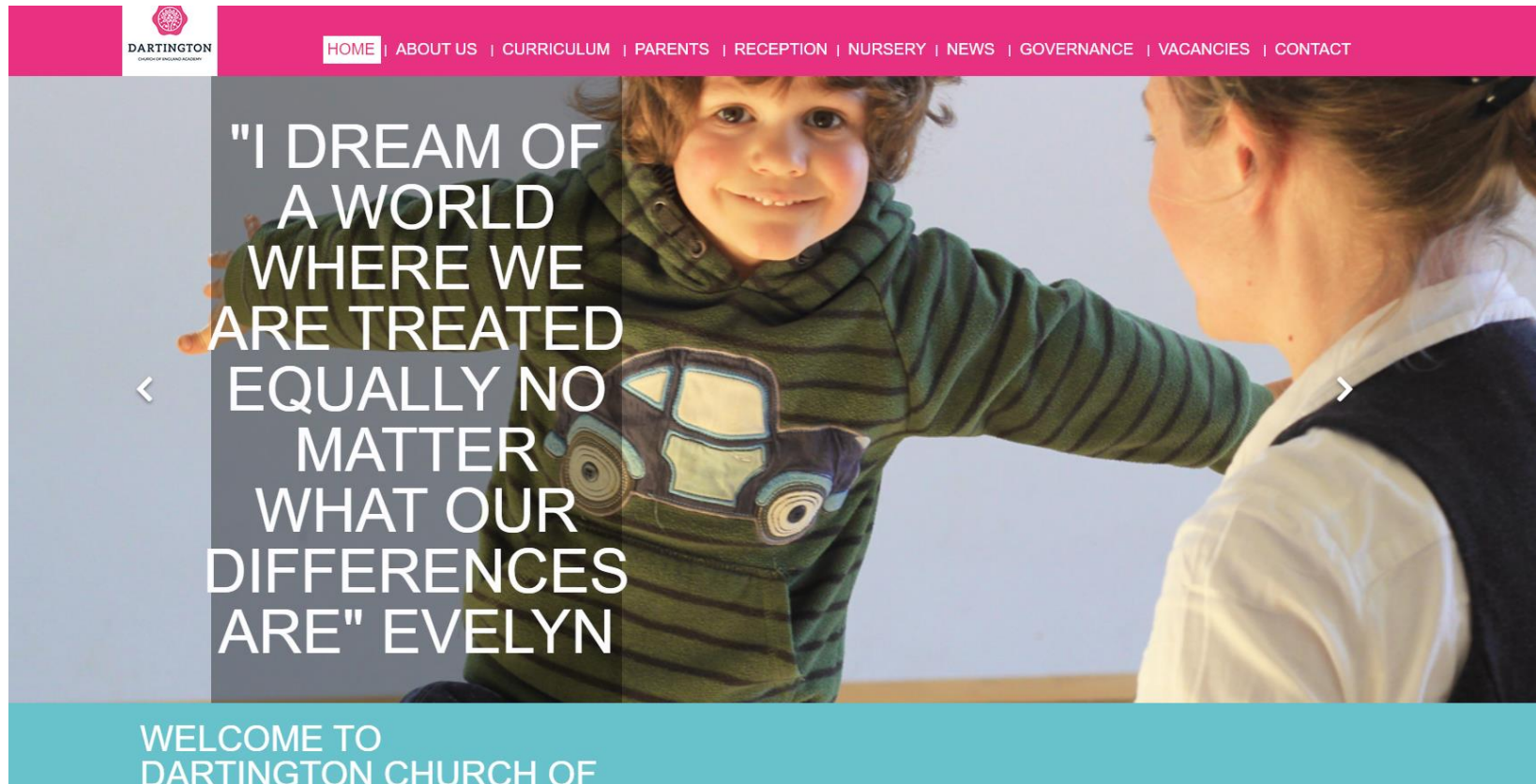
Autumn 1	EYFS
Curriculum Focus:	The Story of Me: Everyone is the same, everyone is different. We will spend time finding out about ourselves, our classmates and others. We will explore what it means to be a person, how our likes and dislikes make us similar and different to others, how we can value and show love to others and ourselves and what it means to be part of the Dartington C of E Academy community. We will use stories and videos to find out about people who live in different places and celebrate the diversity of our world. We will find out about how our bodies work and recognise the amazing things we can do, as well as learning how to keep ourselves safe and healthy. We will also spend time noticing the changing season and talking about the changes which occur during Autumn, listening to stories, poems and rhymes and learning new vocabulary. We will look at Art which represents Autumn and think about how colour is used to show the things we have observed, experimenting and exploring with colour ourselves.
Communication and Language	We will be developing children's spoken language and comprehension by listening to a range of stories, rhymes, non-fiction books and poetry, including our class 'Favourite Five'. We will start to learn some poems and rhymes by heart. Children will participate in class discussions, talking about the things we have discovered and sharing what we know. Children will be encouraged to use new vocabulary and experiment with words and their meaning. In play, children will have opportunities to take on roles, listen to others and share ideas with their friends.
Personal, Social and Emotional Development	We will use books, circle times, pictures and games to help children name, describe and talk about their feelings. We will also be learning how to take turns, share resources, show patience and play cooperatively. We will celebrate our similarities and differences, building children's self-confidence and learning about our school values.
Physical Development	We will be building our gross motor control skills by climbing, balancing and negotiating obstacles in our outdoor area, and in weekly PE lessons in the hall. We will also be building with construction materials (big and small), painting, drawing, sticking, cutting, and mark-making to help develop fine motor skills. Children in Reception will be taught to form letter shapes as part of their daily Read Write Inc. learning.
Literacy	Reading is at the heart of our curriculum and our children are read to throughout the day from high quality texts which support their

	understanding and vocabulary development. Each class has a 'Favourite Five' which are read repeatedly to the children so that they are familiar with the texts and able to re-tell these, using the language of the books confidently. Weekly library sessions and books to take home further encourage our children to develop a love of reading and stories. Children in Reception are taught to read through daily systematic synthetic phonics using the Read Write Inc programme and books which match the sounds they know are sent home each week. Our Nursery children are taught to identify rhymes and syllables, as well as hear and identify initial sounds. We encourage writing and mark making throughout our provision, both in adult led and independent opportunities.
Maths	We will use stories, songs, practical equipment and games to teach children to notice patterns, similarities and differences, and compare. We will then learn to represent and compare numbers and think about the composition of numbers up to 5 (that 3 is a 2 and a 1, and is also 3 ones, for example). We will think about one more and one less, using a range of strategies to help us. We encourage the children to problem solve and explore mathematical concepts using manipulatives, visual representations and in real life problems. In Reception, we will begin to write numbers, learning how to form these correctly.
Understanding the World	We will be learning about the similarities and differences between ourselves and others by reading stories, looking at pictures and talking together. We will also be thinking about the changing seasons and explore Autumn by going on nature walks in our beautiful grounds, singing Harvest songs, creating Autumn artworks and enjoying seasonal poems and stories. In weekly RE lessons, our Reception children will focus on Christianity and the idea of belonging, using Bible stories and discussion to unpick and understand other's views.
Expressive Arts and Design	To ensure children have an artistic and cultural awareness which supports their imagination and creativity, children have the opportunity to create and explore with a wide range of materials and share their outcomes. We will listen to and sing songs, rhymes, stories and poems daily. Children will be taught to remember some poems and rhymes from memory. We will listen to music and dance, exploring different rhythms and melodies and how these make us feel. We will be exploring artworks which represent Autumn and Harvest, thinking about the artists' choice of colour, texture and subject. We will create our own pieces of art and share these with each other.
Forest School	We will use our weekly Forest School sessions to explore and investigate the natural world around us, finding out about the changing of the seasons and seasons what we see, hear and feel whilst outside. Forest School is an excellent opportunity to develop the 'Characteristics of Effective Learning': playing and exploring, active learning and creativity and thinking critically. By spending time outside in our wonderful grounds, being challenged and exposed to new ideas and experiences, children will build these fundamental skills for life-long learning.

These come home every half term and show you what your child is learning across all of their subjects that half term. A great piece of information to have on your fridge so you can ask questions about your child learned in their lessons that week!

The school website

All our curriculum overviews, curriculum intent, event dates and information for wider curriculum areas such as personal development can all be found on our school website for your information.





New Curriculum Open Classrooms!

This year, we will begin to add the additional open classroom events to our school year. There will be one every half term and the dates can be found in the school newsletter so you can plan ahead. These sessions will allow you to spend time in your child's classroom looking through their learning in books.

Termly Parents evenings and annual report

- Every term, we hold parent consultations so you can have the opportunity to sit and discuss your child's progress with their class teacher. These can be booked on the MCAS app.

Monday 16th and Thursday 19th October.

- The annual reports get emailed out at the end of the academic year with clear indications of your child's progress. The final parent evening appointments enable you to chat through the successes and next steps.



Tapestry!



The screenshot shows the Tapestry web interface. At the top, there are decorative elements: a large white flower with a colorful grid pattern, a bee on a cloud, and two smaller white flowers. Below these is a navigation bar with 'Observations' and 'Flags' tabs. A pagination bar shows '20 per page' and a list of page numbers from 1 to 52, with 'Next' and 'Add Observation' buttons. A search bar is visible. The main content area shows an observation titled 'Castles and Dungeons' dated '24 Jul 2023 12:30 PM by Jane Wood'. The text of the observation is partially visible: 'Well a rather wet lunch time but what lovely play is hap faces. The boys were making a dungeon in the castle t'. Below the text is a large video player showing a child's legs on a wooden structure, and a row of six smaller thumbnail images showing children playing with wooden blocks.

Users with the "See a download media button" permission can download these photos and videos

Notes

well a rather wet lunch time but what lovely play is happening just brings a great big smile to the grown-ups faces.

The boys were making a dungeon in the castle using the big blocks outside. Lots of cooperation happening listening to each other, to ideas and suggestions. Alterations were made.

"I'm a knight," said Gabe.

"This is the spikes here," said Kayn. "I've made a window," he added.

Everybody was extremely busy I think they will be disappointed when it is time to go in.

Read Write Inc

- Teaching children to recognise sounds (the alphabet) then gradually blending them into words. First, orally. Then, physically which leads to decoding within books using 'Fred Talk'.
- 3 sound cards to show example – 'pure sounds' phonics not alphabet.
- Daily routines – What a lesson looks like.
- Sound mats
- Sound cards sent home for you to work on.
- 'Sound of the day' sheets sent home each day until all Set 1 sounds are secure.
- Key words and phrases you will hear: Fred the Frog – 'Fred Talk', 'Fred Fingers', pencil g flick'.



- Colour bands – Different groups

S1:A (Set 1 Sounds Group A)	S1:B (Set 1 Sounds Group B)	S1:C (Set 1 Sounds Group C)	Ditty Group (PCMs 1–10)	Red Group	Green Group	Purple Group	Pink Group	Oran
--------------------------------	--------------------------------	--------------------------------	----------------------------	-----------	-------------	--------------	------------	------



End of Reception expectation for Reading.

- R.W.Inc books will be sent home weekly (Friday) when read together in class together with their R.W.Inc teacher.
- A Reading for pleasure book and ebook will be sent home and set on Monday. This gives us time to sort any problems throughout the week.
- Oxford Owl – Log on information in the front of the reading diary.

When children are learning to blend, weekly books are also uploaded onto this for children to access at home.

<https://www.oxfordowl.co.uk/welcome-back/for-school-back/read-write-inc-phonics-ebook-library-subscription-menu/resources--3>

When at 'Red', the books will be based on a similar theme to the book they read in school that week.

Reading Diary – Share on screen from desktop

How can I help at home?

01

Reading the newsletters to ensure you child has everything they need.

02

Communicating with us of any changes at home for your child so we can support where we can.

03

Communicating any concerns that you have swiftly so we can meet to discuss actions and support.

04

Completing the home learning to help your child to raise their confidence and fluency in their learning.



ROBINS & WRENS

Nursery & Reception



Miss B



Mr. Jones



Miss Whitehurst



Jane



Mrs Viney



Mrs Mathews

Important messages for next week:

During the hot and sunny weather, please send your child to school wearing suncream and a named hat.

Please ensure that all your child's belongings are named or labelled.

Robins (Reception) and Wrens (Nursery) Forest School session is on Thursday each week with Mrs Mathews. Please ensure they have suitable clothing for the weather.

Robins (Reception) and Wrens (Nursery) have P.E on Fridays. Please bring them to school wearing a suitable P.E kit for physical exercise ie, trainers, t-shirt and shorts.

Robins Class Weekly Home Learning:

Maths Fluency	Writing Fluency	Reading Fluency
This week, there has been lots of interest in playing dice games. If you have any dice games at home, please take some time to play these with your child. Ask them to quickly identify the number of dots on each side when rolled. We call this 'subitising'. If you do not have a dice game, you can subitise everyday objects below 5. For example, the number of birds on a branch.	Please complete the 'sound of the day' sheet with your child. We will have already introduced this sound during the school day and it is a lovely opportunity for your child to share their learning with you at home.	Read your phonics/library book or something you enjoy each night (even if it is just a page!) Remember, we give certificates for every 10, 25, 50, and 75 books read!

EYFS Autumn 1 Home Learning Menu

Expressive Arts and Design (Music, DT and Art)	Understanding the World (History, Geography, RE and Science)	Communication and Language
Rehearse and perform parts of your favourite song. You can use home-made instruments or even dance along if you wish!	Describe what they can see hear and feel whilst in the natural world around them.	Play 'Sound Hunt' to develop a wide range of vocabulary and improve listening skills. In their bedroom, your child covers their eyes, you choose an object to shake/move/knock etc. and your child takes a guess at what it could have been. Remember to swap over too!
Personal, Social, Emotional Development Make a 'Worry Jar' and write your child's worries on small strips of paper. Discuss some worries together to support them in expressing their feelings.	Across this term, children complete the daily bitesize fluency learning (above) and choose a minimum of 3 longer term projects to complete. If the project involves a physical item, please feel free to send it in to class for your child to discuss with the class. Others, you may choose to upload a photo or video to Tapestry.	Physical Development To support the development of your child's fine motor skills, you could work with them on putting on their own clothes and doing up zips.

Reading For Pleasure

This half term, we love these books:

Why not visit the library in Toxtes to see if they have a copy of any of them?



Stars of the week!

Who has shown seeds of four school values: Trust, Peace, Creation and Creativity, Wisdom, Compassion and Love around our school this week?

The Robins Star of the Week is _____ for sharing her compassion with her new peers and helping them when they feel sad.

The Wrens Star of the Week is _____

New Home Learning Offer

Home learning requirements are not the same for every family or every child.

This year, we are trialling a different approach where you will get a 'menu' each half term.

This details daily expectations to build confidence and fluency in spellings, reading and maths.

At the bottom, it will have a menu to choose at least 3 projects for the term from across the curriculum.

What is happening in Reception that you need to know?

- Forder Lane house Residential Care home visits
- Performances throughout the year
- Biking – Summer term

- Forest School – Thursday Afternoon
- P.E – Friday morning. Children to arrive at school wearing appropriate P.E clothing. After Christmas, children will be expected to bring P.E kit in bags. Beginning to build independence and part of their Early Learning Goals.

- Please, please label belongings. Refrain from bringing toys and sentimental item in from home.
- Keep an eye on the weekly home learning menu – the activities change each half term but any important messages and our ‘Star of the week’ will change weekly.

Any questions?