



Together we grow, together we flourish



Letter from Mrs Huish 19.10.23

Dear Families,

Wow- hasn't this half term flown! We have welcomed so many new faces to the Dartington community this academic year and we are delighted to get so many applications that come with recommendations from our existing parents. This half term is all about connections and starting to implement the school priorities for this year. Our recent Ofsted report captured so many wonderful things that we have already got in place, but we have so many more ways that we want to improve even further: Pupil voice applications, School Council elections, Curriculum Open Classrooms and **Coffee and Connection sessions** have been our priority. Find out more below.

Together we grow, together we flourish: Curriculum Open Classrooms!

One of our newly established dates for your diary this year have been our curriculum open classroom events. We have 6 scheduled across the year in advance so you can make sure you don't miss out! We were thrilled to have such an incredible turn out for our first session and the feedback we received from staff, parents and pupils was how useful it was to showcase our children's learning across the curriculum and give them the chance to show their pride in their work. Hopefully, you were able to see that we teach the full offer of subjects across the national curriculum: Art, Music, Science, Design Technology, Maths, English, PE, Computing, History, Geography, MFL, PSHE/RSE and more with forest school and mountain biking lessons being additional and bespoke to Dartington. There is so much learning on offer which really shone in our Ofsted report too. Find out more at our next session on Thursday 14th December from 2pm.



Together we grow, together we flourish: Thank you for Census Support!

Thank you for working with us on census day. We have successfully gained improved figures for the number of children in school on the day and the number of children who enjoyed a school lunch. Sadly, we did not win the Trust competition of £1500 to spend on a trip or visit as some schools managed 100% that day and our attendance was only 95%, but this has really helped us with funding for the next academic year. There is another Census Day in January. We will give you plenty of notice again and let you know what the exciting plans will be!

Realise the possible: PE Biking lessons next half term

Our mountain biking PE lessons will continue this year with our trained bike coaches. This half term, it will be **Woodpeckers** and **Tawny Owls**. Please find the timetable for these lessons across the year so you know when your child will need their bike and helmet. These all take place weekly on Wednesday afternoons. What an incredible addition to our curriculum!

Term	Classes
Autumn 1	Swifts and Nightingales
Autumn 2	Woodpeckers and Tawny Owls
Spring 1	Kingfishers and Starlings
Spring 2	Swallows
Summer 1	Robins
Summer 2	Red Kites and Goldfinches



Sense of Belonging: We have voted for our school councillors!

Congratulations to this year's School Councillors who will be working tirelessly with Mrs Wallis to work towards our Plastic Free Schools title. These eco warriors will be supporting us all in school to be more plastic aware and reduce our carbon footprint! The children who wanted to apply, gave a speech in their classes and then we used our British Value of Democracy to vote for the final representative and deputy for each class.

Well done to Benjamin, Ilvy, Kai, Charlie, Libby, Reuben, Florence, William, Oscar, Orion, Flo, Archie, Nell, Zosia, Aggie, Lucia, Max, Authur, Lili, James and Nia!

Sense of Belonging: We have the applications for Pupil Voice Leaders!

Our children have applied for the positions of Pupil Voice Leaders across the school. These pupils will have a responsibility to be the voice of the pupils raising areas for development and celebrating the strengths of the school day and curriculum offer. Our Pupil Voice Leaders last year changed our playtimes to ensure that there was more choice and equipment and as a result, this year, we have implemented many new additions to the play provision: PE teacher leading sporting sessions, sports leaders preparing equipment and games, quiet lunch options in the library for all pupils, additional supported dining clubs as well as gardening club, choir and Spanish clubs offering more variety to the children's lunchtimes.

The appointed leaders have been announced today and I am thrilled to announce that these pupils have been successful:

KS1 – Hattie and Esme LKS2 – Uma, Tommy, Lyra, Yume Tara, Oliver and Ellie UKS2 – Maddie, Oran, Minka, Gabriel, Eric and Louis

Sense of Belonging: Coffee and Connection sessions!

We have started mapping out some opportunities to support parents in their understanding of the school, the vision, values and curriculum offer. These adult only Q&A sessions will be mapped out across the year and anyone is welcome to come and join us. The first session will have no set theme but if there is anything that you would specifically like the school to focus on in one of these sessions, please let us know and we will plan it in. The first session is on **Wednesday 1st November** and you can drop in between **08:45 – 09:30**. You don't have to stay the full time if you are busy. If you have any questions about the school curriculum or processes, come and join us!



Removing Barriers: Gardening Club!

We have been developing our lunchtime offer and one of this years' additions is a 'drop in' gardening club run by Miss Eyland. Gardening club has taken off this half term providing a creative, muddy and messy outdoor focus for children across the school at lunchtime. Activities so far have included acorn planting, taking herb cuttings, sign making, quince tasting, plant food making, apple printing, leaf pressing, bee art and sweet pea picking, to name but a few. Look out for our gardening club info board which will be positioned near the gate next half term with opportunities to purchase some of the children's creations and contribute to our "wish list" for donations. **All children are welcome to visit gardening club which takes place on Mondays, Tuesday and Thursdays at lunch time. No booking is required and there's no obligation to stay for all of lunch break.** Encourage your child to come and find us!



Realise the possible: Community Girls' Football Club!

Red Pandas Girls Football

A friendly and inclusive girls football team

Ages 5-12

Every Monday 4:30-5:30pm

All weather (astro) pitch @kevicc

Come and give it a try for free. Just turn up and play, all welcome.

Warm wishes,
Mrs Huish

Dates for your Diary 2023-2024:

Monday 30th October – Non pupil day

Wednesday 1st November – Coffee and Connect Q&A session 08:45 – 09:30

Friday 3rd November- Year 6 La Traviata trip to Theatre Royal Plymouth

Wednesday 22nd November – Understanding Your Child's Mental Health parent course

Wed 6th Dec – Christmas Lunch Day – book on MCAS app

Wed 6th Dec – Christmas Fair Day

Thurs 14th Dec – Curriculum Open Classroom Event 2-3pm

Fri 15th December – last day of term

Tuesday 2nd January – Non pupil day

Tuesday 9th January 2024 – KS1 Aquarium trip

Thurs 25th Jan – Curriculum Open Classroom Event 2-3pm

29th Jan/1st Feb – Parents Evenings

Thurs 28th March – Curriculum Open Classroom Event 2-3pm

Thurs 23rd May – Curriculum Open Classroom Event 2-3pm

