



Together we grow, together we flourish



Letter from Mrs Huish 08.2.24

Dear Families,

This term was short and sweet. It has flown by, and we have had so many adventures and experiences to inspire our learning along the way from aquarium trips to videography! The days and nights are beginning to get brighter and shine that ray of hope to us all that Spring is on the way.

This half term, we have been preparing for our next steps in our curriculum journey. We have spent the last 4 years focussing on the 'What we Learn' and Who we Are' through the newly formed curriculum map and opportunities for personal development like our '70 before Year 7' opportunities for all of our children to experience before they leave any of our Trust schools. Our next step is to focus on the next two quadrants: Who we are when we learn and How we act when we learn.



Overarching Intent Statement

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

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

Our children will flourish through experiencing a knowledge-rich curriculum which is both broad and balanced and fosters a love of learning, enabling all children to make connections and be well prepared for the next stage of their education.

Our Curriculum Intent

Developing learners' learning

WHAT WE LEARN

Our children will experience a knowledge-rich curriculum, underpinned by oracy, language and reading.

Defining our curriculum intent

Developing learners' character

WHO WE ARE WHEN WE LEARN

Our children's uniqueness will be nurtured so that they develop self-discipline and integrity to make good choices.

Defining our curriculum intent

Developing learning behaviours

HOW WE ACT WHEN WE LEARN

Our children will develop their learning behaviours and attributes so that they can embrace all opportunities and think critically.

Defining our curriculum intent

Developing learners' moral compass

WHO WE ARE

Our children will develop a deep sense of self and others to contribute positively within the diverse community and world in which they live.

To begin with, we always start with the children, and we have been out and about in classes talking to some of our children about how they learn as a learner, what they think makes a good learner and how they act when things are hard (metacognition). This focus will help us all to develop that growth mindset and understand ourselves better as learners, build confidence and self-efficacy as well as resilience. The children will be working on an art project to help them to visualise the learning process and articulate how they reflect and adapt themselves to move

forwards. This art project will be exhibited on the next curriculum open afternoon on **Thursday 28th March 2024** from 2pm where the teachers and children will be sharing their journey.

Warmest wishes, Mrs Huish



Together we grow, together we flourish: Next Curriculum Open Classroom Thursday 28th March

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 three sessions 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. **The next session will feature an art exhibition too!**



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, we will be Swallows. 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: 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 next session is on **the 21st February 2024** 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, come and join us!

Realise the possible: We are Videographers!

As part of our school development priorities this year, we have been asking families and local businesses to offer some time to our children to discuss and model their exciting careers inspiring the children to think towards their own future and what interests them. Year 5 and Year 6, as part of their computing lessons, had Matt Wright Films who kindly came in with his drone to help the children to create their own videos for their projects. The children were blown away seeing their school from the sky and it really inspired their final pieces.



Removing barriers: Parents Evening Consultations

Thank you to everyone who came to meet with the teachers for our Spring term parents evening consultations. These connecting times are so important to have 1:1 opportunities to discuss the social, emotional and academic successes of your child and work together to remove the barriers and focus on the next steps for them.

Sense of Belonging: Coffee and Connection sessions!

Our curriculum is mapped out on a local, national, global scale to build the children's knowledge and understanding of the world around them. It enables them to think deeply into their own lives before they can compare and contrast their knowledge of themselves and the world they live in the global world around them. In Geography this term, the children in Swallows have been using maps of Dartington to recognise and spot areas they know before applying that knowledge to maps of other places. They have been true geographical problem solvers!



Together we grow, together we flourish: We are all learners too!

The incredible colleagues at Dartington are all keen learners too. They model life long learning and are always seeking ways to improve their own knowledge and skills. As part of a Trust who value the strength of our colleagues, we offer them a wide professional development opportunity and we love to celebrate their achievements! Mrs Viney featured in our last Trust publication because of the incredible learning she has been focussing on to improve her knowledge and skills working the Early Years. Well done Mrs Viney!



Staff Recognition

Natasha Viney, Learning Support Assistant over at Dartington has recently completed her Adverse Childhood Experiences course, Level 2 Neuroscience in Early years and has just been accepted onto the Level 3 Early Years Educator which will equip her to be a skilled Early Years Practitioner helping to make every child's early education count at Dartington! The team are incredibly proud of her!



Sense of Belonging: Our Lunch Time Clubs!



As part of our new lunch time curricular offer, Miss Eyland and the garden clubbers have been thinking ahead to spring and spent today planting hyacinth bulbs in pots that they decorated yesterday. A pot has been delivered to each class so that the children can watch their bulb's grow. And when it's a little too wet and chilly to get out in the garden, we bring thoughts of the garden inside! We have been using paint

and collage to create garden artwork inspired by some of our curriculum artists including Clover Robin and Yvonne Coomber. Together we grow, together we flourish!

Ukelele club with Mr Jones has also taken off this term at lunchtimes and they have started performing to other children in our Wednesday music assemblies too!



Realise the possible: Orchestra trip!

As part of our embedded '70 before Year 7' offer in our curriculum, named by our very own parent Governor – Myles – our Year 5 children had the memory of a lifetime this term as they went to Exeter to watch the Bournemouth Symphony Orchestra play Dance!Dance!Dance! live. They had to prepare lyrics, Makaton signing, body percussion and dance moves so that they could join in too. An opportunity to never forget!

Dates for your Diary 2023-2024:

- Monday 19th February 2024** – Non pupil day
- 21st February** – Starlings Apricot Farm trip
- 27th February** – Children’s author visit
- 28th February** – Kingfishers Apricot Farm visit
- 6th March** – Swallows Apricot Farm Visit
- Thurs 28th March** – Curriculum Open Classroom Event 2-3pm
- Friday 19th April** – Class photo day
- 25th April** – Year 2 and 5 Fire Safety visit from the fire brigade.
- 13th – 17th May** – Year 6 SATs examinations
- Thurs 23rd May** – Curriculum Open Classroom Event 2-3pm
- 3rd -7th June** - Year 4 Multiplication Tables Assessment Week
- 10th – 15th June** – Year 1 Phonics screening
- 17th – 19th June** Year 6 Residential
- 24th – 25th June** Year 4 Residential
- Friday 12th July** – Sports Day

Family Support Parent Dates:

Spring Term.

21.2.24: Coffee morning: English (Cat E).

6.3.24: Understanding your child’s mental health course – email office to book on.

13.3.24: UYCMH course.

20.3.24:UYCMH course.

27.3.24:UYCMH course.

Summer Term.

24.4.24: Coffee & Connect (HOA, FSW/DSL).

8.5.24: Coffee morning. Topic TBC.

22.5.24: SEND Space.

19.6.24: UYCMH course.

26.6.24: UYCMH course.

3.7.24: UYCMH course.

10.7.24: UYCMH course.

17.7.24: SEND Space.