



# Together we grow, together we flourish



## Letter from Mrs Huish and Mrs Eversfield 19.09.24

Dear Families,

Welcome back to the new academic year! As the crisp air of autumnal feel begins to float in, and the vibrant hues of the season start to paint the world around us, we are delighted to reunite as a school family once again. There's something so special about this time of year – the promise of new beginnings, fresh opportunities, and the excitement of all that lies ahead.

We hope you've enjoyed a restful break and are as excited as we are to embark on another year filled with growth, learning, and joyful moments. Together, with your support, we look forward to nurturing the hopes, dreams, and aspirations of each and every child and hope that you found the 'Meet the Teacher' events timely and supportive in understanding the Dartington approach.

Last year we worked on integrating more opportunities for you, as families, to come into school and feel more belonging as part of the classroom and grow in understanding of our school curriculum offer from music to geography and forest school to maths. We have scheduled the Curriculum Open Classrooms again for the year to help you to plan your diaries in advance where possible. We have also acted on the feedback given last year and tried to spread the days out so they don't always fall on the same afternoon.

**Wednesday 09<sup>th</sup> October 2024 @2:30**

**Thursday 6<sup>th</sup> February 2025 @2:30**

**Friday 4<sup>th</sup> April 2025 @2:30**

**Wednesday 16<sup>th</sup> July 2025 @2:30**

Over the Summer holidays there were some busy changes that were unforeseen which meant that we were unable to update you ahead of the Summer break. The DFE agreed to Dartington accepting 2 Year olds in our Nursery which has meant that our school family can grow even further and has added an adorable addition to our Early Years unit with Miss Bamforth taking a lead on this and welcoming them in this week. Secondly, Mrs Gamersmidte was unable to come back to join us after the Summer. However, we were really fortunate that Mrs Irvine, who was planning to step down, was able to commit for another year to ensure that the quality provision for our children was able to continue. We are thrilled to have her expertise and skills back at Dartington!

Here's to a wonderful autumn term ahead! We try to be on the gate every morning and afternoon so if you are new to our school, come and say hi!

Warmest wishes,  
Mrs Huish and Mrs Eversfield



**Together we grow, together we flourish: We have a vacancy for a Family Support Worker!**

Dear families,

I'm writing to let you know that after making a difficult decision, I will be leaving Dartington at the beginning of October. Working alongside many of you and your fabulous children has been a privilege and an incredibly rewarding experience, and I will miss all your cheery greetings in the morning on the gate.

I have loved being a part of Dartington Academy's community and after nearly ten years working within the Learning Academy Partnership it will definitely feel peculiar not working in the rhythm of school life. I'm moving on to a slightly slower pace of work to protect my future health, but I will still be working pastorally with people which is exciting.

I wish each of you all the very best and thanks again for your kindness and support.

Kind regards,

Mrs Strange.

**We have an advert out now for 15 hours a week. If anyone is interested or knows anyone who would be an asset to the school, please come and talk to us and apply now!**

**Together we grow, together we flourish:** New year, new after school opportunities!

We have a wealth of exciting after school clubs awaiting for your child to enjoy. From Frazoo, which is a club that gives the children opportunities to hold real exotic animals and learn about habitats, zoo ethic and care; to Little Light Painters photography and art club, Eco Crafts Club and Drama Club plus any more. Please visit our website to see what amazing clubs we have to offer, you will find this under the Parents tab - Before/After School Clubs or by using this link - <https://dartington-lap.co.uk/parents/clubs/>



**Realise the possible:** World Champion Athletes!

We love to celebrate the exciting things our school family have been getting up to and this bit of news is truly exciting! Firstly a huge congratulations to Arthur who has been competing in BMX competitions all year, gradually moving up to a National level. The National season consists of 10 races around the country, of which Arthur has competed in 6 in the youngest age category from which you gain a National ranking. The best 6 rounds count and therefore all of Arthur's have counted towards a National ranking. Recently, he came 4th in National round 9 and 2nd in round 10 (his first ever National podium) and finished 11th in the country gaining him a spot on the GB team to compete in the 2025 World Championships in Copenhagen. We are so proud of Arthur and what he has achieved. What a superstar!

However, Arthur is not alone in his sporting achievements! Mr Waters has just returned from the Duathlon World Championships in Switzerland, representing Great Britain. He qualified for the British team and has returned a crowned World Champion with a silver medal! He has inspired us all with his assembly this week!



### Sense of Belonging: Parents Evening!

Parents Evening Consultations have been booked in the diary so look out for these coming up in the Autumn and Spring term. We will email you before these events with instructions on how to book your slot through the MCAS app and the teachers all look forward to chatting with you about how your child has settled into the new year. These sessions coincide with the Curriculum Open Classrooms to empower you with information about your child's learning across the curriculum.

**Monday 14<sup>th</sup> October** – Parent's Evening Consultations (bookings open soon)

**Thursday 17<sup>th</sup> October** – Parent's Evening Consultations (bookings open soon)

### Realise the possible: Exciting School Trips!



As part of our personal development curriculum, we have lots of opportunities across the year for children to have visitors and take trips with their class to visit new wonderful places. The teachers work hard to plan these throughout the year and information about your child's class trips will come out to you when they are booked. This year, we already have plans for river dipping, steam train rides, visits to otters and butterfly farms, life skills workshops and a visit to Escot and its wonderful woodland, maze and wildlife in the heart of



Devon's countryside. One of the rare places you can still see the red squirrel! Residential have also been booked for Year 4 and Year 6 to have the opportunity to camp under the stars and experience some exciting outdoor activities.

To help reduce the paperwork for yourselves as well as the environment, we have adapted our procedures this year. Mrs Pugh sent an email this week to detail how you can access the trip consent button on your MCAS APP meaning that you only have to do it once for the year and don't have to worry about signing and losing the paperwork. If this consent box is not ticked, we would be unable to take your child on a trip, so please action it today (if you haven't already).





### Stronger Together: Office Communication Times

Mrs Pugh is in our admin office daily to answer any questions. Our office communication times are detailed below:

Monday	08:30 – 12:30	14:00 – 16:00
Tuesday	08:30 – 12:30	14:00 – 16:00
Wednesday	08:30 – 12:30	14:00 – 16:00
Thursday	08:30 – 12:30	14:00 – 16:00
Friday	08:30 – 12:30	



At all other times, we ask that you use the bells posted in the school reception, email or speak with the class teacher or school leader on the gate. There is a wealth of information for parents on our website too [Parents - Dartington C of E Academy \(dartington-lap.co.uk\)](http://parents-dartington-c-of-e-academy.dartington-lap.co.uk)

### Dates for your Diary 2024-2025:

- Wednesday 2<sup>nd</sup> October** – KS1 Harvest Festival
- Monday 7<sup>th</sup> October** – Individual Class Photos
- Wednesday 9<sup>th</sup> October** – Curriculum Open Classroom for Parents #1
- Monday 14<sup>th</sup> October** – Parent's Evening Consultations (bookings open soon)
- Thursday 17<sup>th</sup> October** – Parent's Evening Consultations (bookings open soon)
- 28<sup>th</sup> October – 3<sup>rd</sup> November** – Half Term Break
- Monday 4<sup>th</sup> November** – Non Pupil Day
- Wednesday 11<sup>th</sup> December** – Christmas Lunch Day
- Wednesday 11<sup>th</sup> December** – Christmas Fair
- Friday 20<sup>th</sup> December** – Last day of term
- Thursday 6<sup>th</sup> February** – Curriculum Open Classroom for Parents #2
- Friday 4<sup>th</sup> April** – Curriculum Open Classroom for Parents #3
- Wednesday 16<sup>th</sup> July** – Curriculum Open Classroom for Parents #4