



# Together we grow, together we flourish

## Letter from Mrs Huish and Mrs Eversfield 25.10.24

Dear Families,

It has been a wonderful start to the year and as September gives way to October, we turn our attentions to the harvest and give thanks for all the earth has to offer. This half term, both KS1 and KS2 have celebrated the harvest with a visit to St Mary's Church for a special celebration. It was a joy to listen to the children sing, recite poems and give thanks. It was truly special to have so many of our families join us in our harvest celebrations in the church this year. Thank you to those who attended.



We have also held the second of our open classroom events this year. It was fantastic to see so many of our families joining classes to share learning and see our vision of 'Together We Grow, Together we Flourish' in action. Huge congratulations to all parents who joined in with either some tough ten or numbersense! Looking ahead to the year, our curriculum afternoons have been mapped out to give our families a snapshot of what learning looks like in the classroom to help aid in the understanding of how children learn at Dartington. Last week also saw our first Parent's



Evenings, giving all families a chance to connect with teachers and hear how well your children have settled into their new classes.

Looking ahead, we have lots of exciting things happening in the run up to Christmas including:

**Rocksteady performance (10<sup>th</sup> December)**

**Christmas lunch day and the Christmas Fair (Wednesday 11<sup>th</sup> December)**

**Whole School Christmas Performance: (Wednesday 18<sup>th</sup> December)**

As a reminder, the dates for each of the Curriculum Open Afternoons are as follows:

**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**

Here's to a wonderful autumn term ahead! We try to be on the gate every morning and afternoon so please come and say hi!

Warmest wishes,  
Mrs Huish and Mrs Eversfield



## Together we grow, together we flourish:

This week we wish Ms Misa well as she leaves Dartington for pastures new and the opportunity to continue her personal development in a new role.

*"Kia Ora (greetings) I would like to express my heartfelt aroha (love) to Dartington School and the entire school community for making my time here both thoroughly enjoyable and immensely rewarding. While I am excited to take on new career and business opportunities, it is with great fondness that I reflect on my time here as a Dartington parent and fellow staff member. The warmth, support, and dedication I experienced from staff, parents and tamariki (children) has created countless fabulous memories and beautiful friendships within the wider community. These will stay with me always, and I will forever be thankful for the opportunities and experiences that this special school has given me.*

*Ngā mihi (Thank you)" Ms Misa*

I know you will join us in thanking Ms Misa for everything she has done while working at Dartington. We wish her all the very best for the future. We are delighted that we have been able to secure a new LSA to step into Ms Misa's shoes. Ms Davis (not to be confused with the Mrs Davis who teaches in Goldfinches class) will be joining the team in due course and brings with her a wealth of experience from her previous role as an HLTA within the Trust. We look forward to Ms Davis joining the team.

## Stronger Together: PTFA

Over the last year our wonderful PTFA have worked tirelessly to raise money and have provided funding for the school to pay for an author visit as well as providing some resources for the Gardening Club. This year, they have set themselves the ambitious target of raising money to play for some new playground equipment. To help achieve these aims they have planned out a calendar of events, starting with today's bake sale. They will be holding their AGM in the next half term and welcome all to attend. Please note the dates for future events next half term:

**AGM- TBC**

**Children in Need- 15<sup>th</sup> November**

**Christmas Pyjama Day and Bake Sale- 19<sup>th</sup> December**

## Stronger Together: Art Workshops

Our vision of 'Together We Grow, Together We Flourish, has been in action again in Year 5 and 6 this half term. The children were visited by some community experts who lead workshops around how to create cave artwork using charcoal. Thank you to Mr and Miss Hoare for sprinkling their wisdom and creativity amongst the children.



### Realise the possible: Great Britain Athlete!

Earlier this half term, our very own Mr Waters represented Team GB at the Duathlon World Championships in Zofingen, Switzerland. This gruelling long-distance event consisted of a 10k run, 150 km cycle ride and then another 26k run, with Mr Waters eventually finishing as the second-place British competitor. Well done Mr Waters!



### Sense of Belonging: Garden Club

Our garden clubbers have been tending to their green fingers with a range of activities this half term. From planting bulbs to composting banana peel (apparently it makes a highly nutritious plant food) they have been busy making our Dartington site flourish. Garden Club is currently running two lunch-times a week and is a drop in session to provide all children with a sense of belonging.

### Realise the possible: KS1 Visit

This week, KS1 had an exciting school trip to Buckfastleigh. They spent the morning visiting the Otter and Butterfly Sanctuary before returning to Totnes via the Steam Train. Thank you to the fabulous team at the Otter and Butterfly Sanctuary who provided this aspect of the trip free of charge. Another example of our supportive community in action. This trip is providing the hook the children's learning for next half term when they will be learning all about the history of transport in their history lessons.



### Stronger Together: Parent Survey

Thank you to everyone who responded to our parent survey. We have had a very high response rate and have now started to analyse the feedback. We do really value your feedback as this is used to help plan out our next steps and priorities for the year ahead. Parental feedback in the past has led to the introduction of the curriculum open afternoons and we are always on the look out for feedback that can help improve our school community further.

### 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.co.uk)

To help find information in a quickly, we have provided these useful links:

Absence Request - [Attendance - Dartington C of E Academy \(dartington-lap.co.uk\)](https://www.dartington-lap.co.uk/attendance)

Admissions - [Admissions - Dartington C of E Academy \(dartington-lap.co.uk\)](https://www.dartington-lap.co.uk/admissions)

Clubs - [Before/after school club - Dartington C of E Academy \(dartington-lap.co.uk\)](https://www.dartington-lap.co.uk/before-after-school-club)

Medicine form - [Parents-Form-Administration-of-Medicines.docx.pdf \(dartington-lap.co.uk\)](https://www.dartington-lap.co.uk/parents-form-administration-of-medicines.docx.pdf)

Music - [LAP-Music-Tuition.pdf \(dartington-lap.co.uk\)](https://www.dartington-lap.co.uk/lap-music-tuition.pdf)

Nursery - [Nursery - Dartington C of E Academy \(dartington-lap.co.uk\)](https://www.dartington-lap.co.uk/nursery)

Policies - [Policies - Dartington C of E Academy \(dartington-lap.co.uk\)](https://www.dartington-lap.co.uk/policies)

Term Dates - [Term dates - Dartington C of E Academy \(dartington-lap.co.uk\)](https://www.dartington-lap.co.uk/term-dates)

### Dates for your Diary 2024-2025:

**28<sup>th</sup> October – 3<sup>rd</sup> November** – Half Term Break

**Monday 4<sup>th</sup> November** – Non Pupil Day

**Tuesday 10<sup>th</sup> December**- Rocksteady performance

**Wednesday 18<sup>th</sup> December** -Whole School Christmas Performance (parents invited)

**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