



Together we grow, together we flourish



Letter from Mrs Huish and Mrs Eversfield 20.12.24

Dear Families,

As we reach the end of a wonderful autumn term, we want to take a moment to reflect on the many special achievements and memorable moments we have shared as a school community. It has been a term filled with growth, learning, and joy as the children have continued to shine in all that they do.

We are so proud of the children's incredible performances, their hard work, and the kindness and respect they show each other every day. It has been heartwarming to see friendships flourish, relationships strengthen, and our school values truly come to life in everything we do.

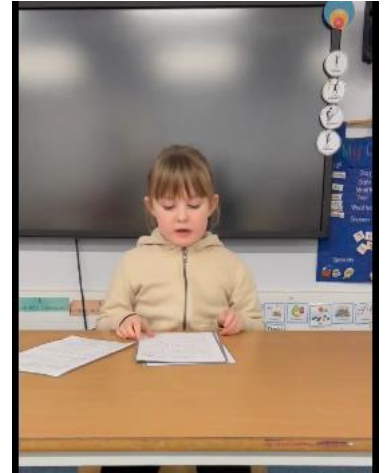
The children's achievements, both big and small, are a testament to their dedication and the support they receive from home and school. We hope that you have enjoyed the Nativity, Rocksteady, Year 6 Christmas fair and Drama club performances as much as we have!

As we look ahead, we are excited about the possibilities the New Year will bring. Together, we will continue to build on the successes of this term, encouraging the children to aim high, dream big, and make the most of every opportunity.

Thank you for your ongoing support and for being such an important part of our school community. We wish you all a restful, joyful festive season and a very happy New Year.

Warmest wishes,

Mrs Huish and Mrs Eversfield



Together we grow, together we flourish: We have a vacancy for an HLTA and MTA!



Dear families

Recently I have made a really hard decision. After 24 years of working at Dartington and traveling a long distance to do a job that I love, I will be leaving in January. I know this will come as a shock to some of you, it has to me as well, as I have been here so long and taught some of our parents as well as their children. It has been a huge privilege to see children flourish on their learning journey over these years. I am moving on to another Forest School post to work pastorally at an outdoor school, and as with any change I feel a mixture of sadness at leaving here but excitement for new opportunities ahead of me. Of course, a part of my heart will remain in Dartington when I go. I would like to sincerely thank you all for your enthusiasm and support for Forest School, I have been so lucky to have you all with me in valuing this wonderful provision.

With thanks and best wishes

Mrs Wallis

Do not worry, Forest school will continue to be taught weekly. We have an advert out now for a full-time role as an HLTA, this could be teaching forest school for the right person, but this is negotiable as we would welcome any expertise to our teaching team to enhance curriculum provision. This could be Foreign languages, art, Science, History or forest school. If anyone is interested or knows anyone who would be an asset to the school teaching team, please come and talk to us and apply now!

Realise the possible: Year 5 and 6 Christmas Fair!

Our curriculum at Dartington is bespoke to us. We make deliberate choices to offer our children the highest quality opportunities to enable them to grow and flourish in their learning and to make learning meaningful to them. Our Design and Technology planning links in the Autumn term with our Forest School learning and the Year 5 and 6 children take on the responsibility of planning the Christmas fair. Through a Young Enterprise initiative, the children become entrepreneurs designing and selling the products and raising money for a charity of their choice so they can make a difference in their community. We had a wonderful Christmas fair this year and thanks to all of you at home, we raised the most money we have ever raised: **a whopping £1830** so far. The children have chosen to donate some of their profit to their chosen charities Reverse Rett and The Lij Foundation this year because these charities mean something to them!





Sense of Belonging: Christmas Lunch day!

With Christmas jumpers at the ready, we all enjoyed a whole school Christmas lunch and invited our community helpers this year to join us all. There were musical performances, delicious food and a jolly atmosphere had by one and all. Our garden clubbers made the stunning table decorations. Thank you to our Year 6 children who dressed in their best to take food orders and serve the entire school with their dinner!

Realise the possible: Community Energy Day!

As part of our community partnership work, we have been discussing opportunities with Jim Brittain working together to gather ideas to work towards a more sustainable energy solution. This term, we welcomed 33 guests from the local community to work collectively towards a more sustainable energy approach. Our School Councillors joined us to share their expertise, ideas and pose questions around our journey towards our net zero goal. We were so proud of their expertise and articulation of the urgency. They have created some great actions for us as a school!



Stronger Together: Hannah our inspiring expert visitor.

Thank you to Hannah who visited Starlings class this term to teach them all about the importance of keeping your body healthy and how to look after our immune system. We have really been lucky to have so many inspirational parents coming in to share their expertise with us this year. They have linked really well to our curriculum learning and have been aspirational to the children!

Sense of Belonging: Rocksteady Band Performance!

Our Rocksteady band members performed for their guests and wowed everyone with their musical talents. What incredible musicians we have!



Together we grow, together we flourish: After school opportunities!

We have a wealth of exciting after school clubs awaiting for your child to enjoy in the Spring term and you can find out all about them from our website. 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/>

Stronger Together: Mr Goodall Eisa's grandad our inspiring expert visitor.



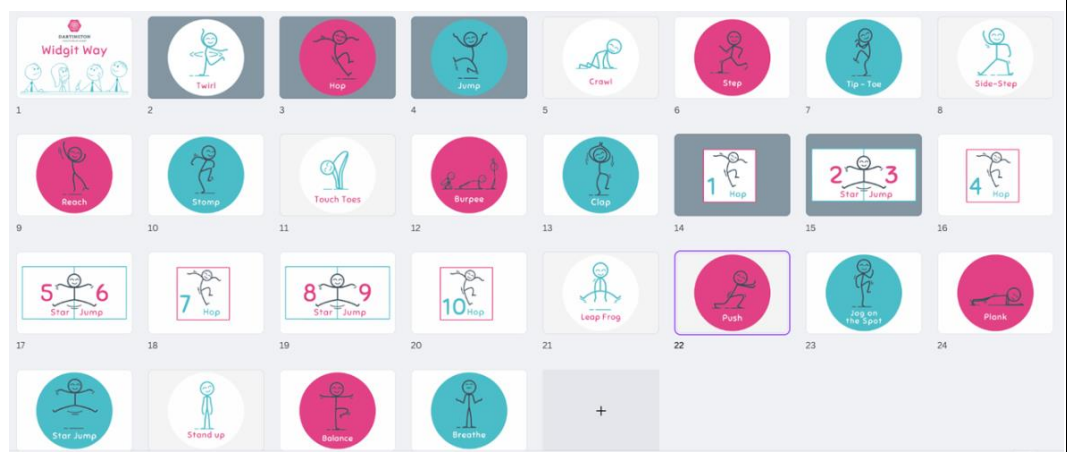
This half term, Key Stage One have been answering the question: "Who is a Muslim and how do they live?" in their RE lessons. To support with their learning, Eisa's grandad, Mr Goodall and Eisa's mum, Israh spoke to all of KS1 about their experiences of being Muslim. The children enjoyed listening to the tale of the three fish, where they were encouraged to think deeply about the difference between being wise and clever and learned about the importance of the 5 pillars of Islam. The session finished with the children sharing in some delicious dates, listening to the Islamic call to prayer and watching Mr Goodall taking part in a prayer.

Realise the possible: Sensory Street Pathway

Thank You, Dartington Village Stores, for Supporting Our SEND Children gifting a generous donation of £1,000 towards the purchase of a Sensory Street Pathway for our school through NISA's Making a Difference Locally (MADL) charity scheme. This thoughtful contribution will directly support the development and well-being of our students with Special Educational Needs and Disabilities (SEND), enabling us to create an enriching environment that nurtures all aspects of their growth.

Our school vision for the past 3 years has been to raise money to develop the sensory offer for our pupils. This money will enable one of our dreams to become a reality and we have purchased a Sensory Street Pathway which is designed to meet the unique needs of children who benefit from sensory adaptations in their school day. It will offer a safe, inviting, and structured space where students can engage in activities that support both vestibular (balance) and proprioceptive (body awareness) systems. These areas of development are crucial for children who may struggle with sensory processing issues, as they can improve self-regulation, focus, and overall motor skills. With this new pathway, we'll be able to offer experiences that positively impact the children's ability to engage and succeed in the classroom.

Thanks to the generosity of Dartington Village Stores, our students will now have access to these important sensory resources throughout the school day. This pathway will not only enhance the learning environment but also provide our



SEND children with the tools they need to feel secure, focused, and ready to learn. We look forward to this being fitted over the Christmas break!

Stronger Together: Parents Phonics Workshop

Mrs Calder ran a parents phonics workshop this term to empower you at home to understand our approach to teaching early reading and to equip you all with the skills to support your children when they read at home. We were delighted by the popular turn out and hope that you found it useful. We will be running more workshops for parents to join us on in the Spring term!



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:

January 2025

31st January – Bournemouth Symphony Orchestra – Year 5

February 2025

4th February – Kents Cavern Trip – Swallows and Starlings

5th February – Kents Cavern Trip – Kingfishers

6th February – Curriculum Open Classroom 2.15pm – 3pm

17th -21st February – Half Term

Monday 24th February - Non Pupil Day

March 2025

April 2025

4th April – Curriculum Open Classroom 2.15pm – 3pm

May 2025

26th – 30th May – Half Term

June 2025

July 2025

16th July – Curriculum Open Classroom 2.15pm – 3pm