

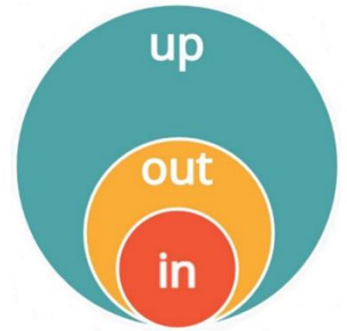


Together we grow, together we flourish

Letter from Mrs Huish and Mrs Eversfield 24.1.25

Dear Families,

Happy new year! As we move into 2025, our focus value for this half term is Peace. During our assemblies and collective worship this term we will be exploring the different strands of peace and learning how we can find inner peace with ourselves and how that helps us to achieve harmony with others. As part of this, we are discussing how non-religious, spiritual prayer can help us to connect with a deeper part of ourselves and acknowledge the beauty and complexity of the world around us. With our spiritual lens of 'In, Out, Up', we will reflect how this makes us feel (In), how this can impact our relationships with our friends and family (Out) and how this can impact on our whole school community (Up).



This half term sees many opportunities for our school community to continue to come together. With both our Curriculum Open Afternoon and Parents Evening sessions. Our next **Curriculum Open Afternoon** will take place on **Thursday 6th February 2025 @2:15**. With two more booked in across the year on: **Friday 4th April 2025** and **Wednesday 16th July 2025**. The focus of our next curriculum open afternoon will be phonics in Early Years and KS1 and English in KS2. We will be sharing videos of a phonics lessons and families will be able to take part in a Sentence Builders Lesson. Following that, all families can book a 1:1 session with your child's class teacher through the MCAS app. These will be held on **Monday 10th February and Thursday the 13th February 2025 from 3:30 – 5:20**.

As always, we will be on the gate every morning alongside Mr Trewinnard and Miss Wilson, our new Family Support Worker. Please come and speak to us if you have any questions.

Warmest wishes,
Mrs Huish and Mrs Eversfield



Together we grow, together we flourish: Staffing Update

Mr. Waters, who is an invaluable part of our school community, has temporarily taken on the leadership of another school within the Trust. This is a fantastic opportunity for Mr. Waters, and we are proud of his achievements. This will also help to strengthen our school as it will enable our other senior leaders to grow within their roles and take on more responsibility. This will also provide the opportunity for Dartington to model service leadership within the trust through our vision of 'Together We Grow, Together We Flourish'. In the interim, Woodpeckers class will be taught by an experienced KS2 teacher, Miss Griffiths who has already begun working at Dartington and is already developing strong relationships with the children.



During this period, Mrs Davis will be the point of contact for all parents of children in Years 3/4 and Miss Humphries will be the point of contact for years 5/6. Mr Jones will also be stepping up to support families in Years 1 and 2 in addition to EYFS. We have updated the attached 'Who Can Help Us?' document to reflect these changes.

Together we grow, together we flourish: New Staff

This week we have interviewed for two new roles at Dartington. I am delighted that out of the incredibly high standard of applications we have appointed a new Mealtime Assistant and Higher Level Teaching Assistant. Katie Lilley may be known to many of you as she is already a member of our After School Club team. Since joining us in September, Katie has worked hard in building her relationships with the children who attend ASC and she is looking forward to extending this role with the addition of MTA. She will be a great asset to our lunch time team.

We have also appointed a new HLTA to join our team. Miss Morgan has experience in teaching in a forest school environment and is specialised in supporting children with SEND. She will be working alongside Mrs Palmer as part of the Forest School team as well as teaching curriculum lessons across the school. She is a fully qualified teacher who has chosen to take on an HLTA role due to her passion in building relationships with all children across the school. We are looking forward to her joining the team in due course.

Removing Barriers: Sustainable Living

As a school, we are deeply committed to sustainable living. We have also been approached by a number of families, recently, who are feeling the impact of the cost-of-living crisis and are struggling to provide shoes and coats for their children. As a result, we have started a shoe and coat swap initiative. This is now available for anyone to access. If you would like to browse the range of items available, please speak with any of our staff members on the gate either before or after school.

Should you have any donations of shoes or coats in a good condition, please pass them on to your child's class teacher.

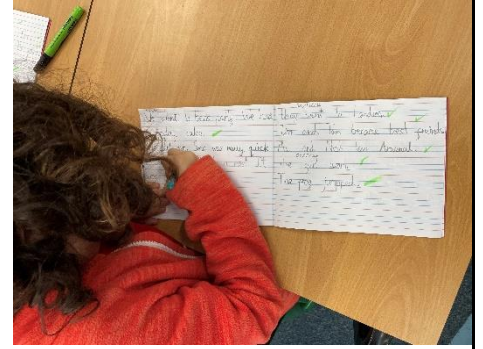


Stronger Together: PTFA

Last week saw the annual AGM for the PTFA. We were delighted with the number of people who attended. Topics discussed included supporting the school with an allotment clear out and fundraising for adventure play equipment for the school. If you feel you can support on any of these things, please get in touch with the PTFA. The Whatsapp groups are open to all in the community to join.

Removing Barriers: Sentence Builders

At Dartington, we are continuously striving to refine our teaching and learning approach. This year, we have introduced a new strand called 'Sentence Builders'. This is a short ten-minute daily lesson which looks at a discrete grammar skill over a series of lessons. These interactive lessons allow children the time to deepen and embed their knowledge in a variety of ways and supports their understanding of how to build sentences coherently. The impact is already being seen across the school in the confidence that children are showing in their English work. We will be showcasing a sentence builders lesson during our Open Classroom on Thursday 4th February.



Realise the Possible: School Census Day

Thursday 16th January was the School Census Day. This is a critically important day as it is one of two days where the government calculate our school funding for the next academic year. Funding is calculated based on the numbers of children attending school on that day and the numbers of children in Reception and KS1 who have a school dinner. Attendance on these days is critical as we do not get funding for any child who does not attend school on that day. School Attendance on that day was 96.4% for the whole school and 90% in Reception and Key Stage One. This means that unfortunately we have missed out on 10% of the funding we could have been awarded. Sadly, this equates to £4500 of funding that we could have received.

Sense of Belonging: Girls Football

In the Autumn term, a parent suggested to us that it might be a good idea to have a time and space separate for girls to play football. They told us that their child, as well as some of their friends, had communicated that they did not feel comfortable in playing football alongside the boys at lunch time. We then spent time speaking to as many children as we could to gauge their opinions. What we heard was that boys loved playing football in the mugga and did so frequently. The girls, however, told us that they did not like to play alongside the boys as they did not like the fast-paced games. Having listened to this feedback, we held our first girls football session on Wednesday lunch time. Feedback from the children following this was very positive and we will now make this a weekly event on a Wednesday. Moving forward, we have asked all children to tell us what they would like to do in the mugga on a Monday. There will be a suggestion box for all children to share their views.

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 \(dartington-lap.co.uk\)](https://www.dartington-lap.co.uk/parents)

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:

31st January – Bournemouth Symphony Orchestra – Year 5

4th February – Kents Cavern Trip – Swallows and Starlings

5th February – Kents Cavern Trip – Kingfishers

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

10th February – Parent Consultations

13th February – Parent Consultations

17th -21st February – Half Term

Friday 4th April – Curriculum Open Classroom for Parents #3

Wednesday 16th July – Curriculum Open Classroom for Parents #4