



Together we grow, together we flourish

Letter from Mrs Huish and Mrs Eversfield 28.2.25

Dear Families,

The last half term has absolutely blown by, and we are now beginning to see the very welcome signs of spring. With the blessings of sunshine and good weather, it has been joyful to see many of our classes getting outside to enjoy the season and take their learning outdoors. We have been impressed with the engineering skills and ingenuity shown by children in forest school sessions this half term, creating incredible dens and swings. Mrs Palmer has loved stepping into her role as forest school teacher and we look forward to welcoming Miss Morgan next week when she joins our HLTA team.

Later this term, we will be celebrating Easter with two Easter services at the church for Reception and KS1 and KS2. Look out for further details coming soon!



Next week, we will be taking part in World Book Day. As part of the festivities, we will be holding a sponsored read for the week. All of the money raised during our Ready Steady Read will go towards brand new books for our school. In addition to the sponsorship money, Usborne will also donate up to 60% of the total raised in EXTRA FREE BOOKS to the school. Therefore, the more we raise, the more books we get for free. This is

a wonderful opportunity that we hope to make the most of in order to top up our pupil's independent reading books and both Fiction and Non-Fiction books used in our classrooms.



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

We have a few updates to share regarding staffing this half term.

We are very excited to welcome Miss Morgan next week. She will be joining Mrs Matthews and Mrs Palmer as part of our HLTA team. As such, she will be working across the school teaching some forest school sessions as well as some curriculum lessons. As a fully qualified teacher, she has worked across several other schools and is trained in delivering outdoor learning as well as the national curriculum. Her compassion and care shone through in her interview and we look forward to her joining the team.



As you know, Mr. Waters has stepped into the headship of one of our sister schools. He has been doing a fantastic job in this new role, demonstrating the same dedication and excellence that we have come to appreciate here at Dartington. While we do not have a clear date for his return at this time, please rest assured that we will keep you updated with any new information as soon as it becomes available.

In the meantime, we are incredibly fortunate to have Miss Griffiths taking care of the class. Miss Griffiths has ensured a smooth transition and has shown remarkable dedication to the children. Her commitment to maintaining the high standards of education and care that Mr. Waters set is truly commendable.

Miss Davis (LSA) will be leaving the Dartington team to take on an exciting new role as a Higher-Level Teaching Assistant (HLTA) at another school. We are incredibly grateful for her hard work, dedication, and contributions during her time with us. While we will miss her, we wish her all the best in this well-deserved promotion and the next chapter of her career.

Thank you, Miss Davis, for all you've done for our students and team!

Sense of Belonging: Curriculum Open Afternoon

Thank you to everyone who attended last half term's Curriculum Open Afternoon. This was a wonderful opportunity to share in your children's learning and to experience some of the curriculum. The focus of this open afternoon was on what the teaching of English looks like. In Early Years and KS1 we shared what a phonics session looks like and in KS1 and KS2 parents were able to join in with a Sentence Builder's lesson. Parental feedback is that these sessions are very valuable but that it can be tricky for all to attend as they have historically been on a Thursday. As a result of this feedback, our next session will be on Friday 4th April (the last day of term). We will be showcasing some of the wider curriculum in this session. The final Open Afternoon of the year will be on Wednesday 16th July and will form part of our transition into next year's classes.



Removing Barriers: Building Work

You may have noticed that over half term our school walls had a little bit of a make over. No, we haven't decided to wrap the school in a bandage! We have become aware that the render to the outside walls have crumbled in some places. Mr Mead and the Learning Academy Partnership Estates team have been busy examining the walls and I am happy to say that the school is structurally sound with some small areas of damage. Keir, the building construction company who originally built the school, have agreed to fix the issue. They have put up netting to help protect the walls and will be planning in further works in due course.



Stronger Together: 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.

Realise the Possible: Art Competition

A member of the school community has shared with us an incredible competition organised by the Royal Academy of Arts. Now in its seventh year, the Young Artists' Summer Show is a free, open submission exhibition for students aged 4–18 studying in the UK. Artworks are judged by a panel of artists and arts professionals, with selected artworks displayed online and on-site at the Royal Academy of Arts. We have registered Dartington Academy to take part in the competition for anyone who is interested. Last chance to register and submit, submissions close on 5 March 2025 at 5pm.

To find out more, follow this link:

[Young Artists' Summer Show | Royal Academy](#)



Stronger Together: PTFA Playground Project

The PTFA have been very busy putting together plans for a new adventure playground for the school. Last half term, the working group met to begin discussing what we can achieve and how we can achieve it. They have been working with some local and national companies to get quotes and will be communicating the next steps very soon. Look out for how you can get involved with the project in the coming weeks and months.



Realise the Possible: Ukulele Club Mr Jones's ukulele club had a fantastic time at KEVICC last half term afternoon as part of the 'Future Musicians' project. The group played brilliantly along with our local primary schools and finished the afternoon performing to Year 7! We believe in providing experiences like this for our children as 'you can't be what you can't see'. What a wonderful opportunity for our Ukulele Club. Thank you Mr Jones.



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:

3rd – 10th March – ‘Ready, Steady Read’ Sponsored Read

6th March – World Book Day

6th March – Year 6 SATs Parent Workshop at 2.30pm

4th April – Animal Experience – Year 3 & 4

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

29th April – Phonics Screening Parent Workshop

5th – 9th May – Book Fair

24th – 25th June – Year 4 Residential

7th – 9th July – Year 6 Residential

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

18th July – Sports Day

