



# Together we grow, together we flourish

## Letter from Mrs Huish and Mrs Eversfield 24.3.25

Dear Families,

As the days grow longer and the first signs of spring appear, there is a real sense of energy and renewal in the air. The children have been making the most of their time outdoors, embracing the changing season with enthusiasm and curiosity. It has been a joy to see them exploring, playing, and learning in the fresh air, fully immersing themselves in the beauty of nature.



Our school focus value this term is *Creation and Creativity*, and this has been a key theme in our learning. We have been exploring books about the *story of life*, encouraging the children to consider both the scientific story of evolution and the Creation Story, looking for similarities and differences in these perspectives. Through thoughtful discussion, the children have been reflecting on how we care for our wonderful world, a topic that feels especially relevant as we witness the natural world coming to life around us. We watched a local Geopark video about how we can see evidence of evolution in our geology around us. It even discusses how the Devonian period was named after Devon which the children said made them feel proud of their local area. You can watch it here <http://www.severnstudios.co.uk/english-riviera-geopark-animation>

This theme has naturally woven into our *Forest School* sessions, where the children have been inspired by the outdoors to create wonderful, nature-inspired artwork and projects. There is something truly special about learning through hands-on experiences, and it has been wonderful to see their creativity flourish in such an organic and meaningful way.

A huge highlight of the past few weeks was *World Book Day*, which was a tremendous success! The school was filled with excitement, laughter, and, of course, an array of fantastic costumes. It was wonderful to see the children's love of reading shine as they engaged with their favourite books, shared stories, and celebrated the magic of literature together. Thank you to everyone who helped bring the day to life with such enthusiasm!

As we continue through this term, we look forward to even more opportunities to learn, explore, and create together. Thank you, as always, for your support and for being part of our wonderful school community.



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. In the interim, Woodpeckers class is being taught by an experienced KS2 teacher, Miss Griffiths who has already begun working at Dartington and is already developing strong relationships with the children. We are sending regular updates to Woodpeckers class when we have them. Unfortunately, as this is linked to the health of one of our valued colleagues, we are unable to give a definite date for return and thank you all for your support in this matter.



Miss Morgan has started with us and you will see her around the school taking classes. Very quickly, she has grown to know a lot of the children in the classes she teaches and has immersed herself in our school community. Miss Morgan brings lots of expertise to the team. Please say hello if you see her around the school!



We are looking forward to welcoming Miss Zaki back from her maternity leave. Miss Zaki is an experienced teacher who leads art across the school and brings so much expertise to the school community. We are looking forward to having her back teaching the Wren's class with Mrs Calder. One of the strengths of being part of a Trust means that we are not saying goodbye to Miss Mifsud, who has been covering Miss Zaki's maternity leave, because we have been able to offer her a job at one of our sister school's Bovey Tracey. We are thrilled that she is staying with us!

## Realise the Possible: Understanding Others

This week the school had a very special visitor! Ridley the Guide Dog spent two days visiting each class and explaining how he was trained to be a guide dog and how important assistance dogs are to people with additional needs. [#removingbarriers](#) [#youcantbewhatyoucantsee](#)



## Removing Barriers: Holi, the Hindu Festival of Colour

Our continued development of diversity can be seen in all areas of the school. In gardening club today we were inspired by Holi, the Hindu festival of colour. We thought about how we will welcome spring into our school by creating colourful gardens. We made posters and theme boards to share our ideas and remind us that colour is on its way!

## Realise the Possible: Year 6 Start their Journey

Recently, Y6 took delivery of their leavers hoodies. These were funded from the proceeds of the Christmas Fair. It is a joy to see how proud they all look wearing their hoodies to school. This is an important tradition that helps to reinforce our sense of belonging to Y6.



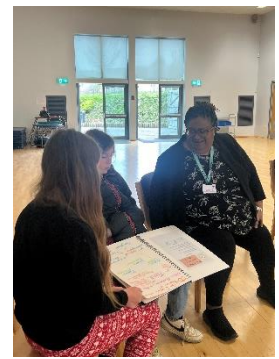
## Realise the Possible: Photography Club

This half term our Photography Club have had the very great honour of meeting a former photographer from Green Peace. They were able to ask him questions about being a photographer and even share some of their work with him. [https://emmastonerphotography.shootproof.com/gallery/photo\\_seeds\\_greenpeace/home](https://emmastonerphotography.shootproof.com/gallery/photo_seeds_greenpeace/home)



## Realise the Possible: Well Done Torrin!

After a successful 8 week trial, Torrin has been offered a contract to sign for Plymouth Argyle FC Academy. This is a fantastic achievement and Torrin has been really enjoying his time there so far with lots of hard work in training and getting to travel to play premier ship teams such as Liverpool, Tottenham and Chelsea. A highlight of his so far was scoring a great goal against Liverpool.



## Stronger Together: Trustees Visit

This week, we welcomed members of the Learning Academy Partnership's Board of Trustees to the school. The Trustees have a very important role in supporting the governance of the Trust. As part of their role, they took part in a 2-day tour of some of our schools. On Wednesday morning they visited Dartington to join our collective worship and speak to some of the children. They were very impressed with how articulate our children are in discussing their learning and commented on what a very special and welcoming school we have.



## Stronger Together: Safety in Lunches

This term, we have had an increase in the number of children bringing in items such as lollipops and boiled sweets in their lunch boxes. Please can we ask that you choose alternative snacks for your child's lunch boxes as these pose a health and safety concern with choking. We will ask children to hand these to an adult and give them to the parents at the end of the day to ensure safety for all children at lunchtimes. Thanks for your support in this matter.

## 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:

### April 2025

- 2nd April –KS2 Easter Service at St Mary’s Church at 9am
- 2nd April -EYFS & KS1 Easter Service at St Mary’s Church at 10.30am
  - 4th April – Animal Experience – Year 3 & 4
  - 4th April – Curriculum Open Classroom 2.15pm – 3pm
  - 29th April – Phonics Screening Parent Workshop

### May 2025

- 5th – 9th May – Scholastic Book Fair

### June 2025

- 24th – 25th June – Year 4 Residential

- 27th June – EYFS Booknic

## **July 2025**

- 1st July – Transition Day & Meet the Teacher
  - 7th – 9th July – Year 6 Residential
- 16th July – Year 6 Performance 9.30am – 10.30am
- 16th July – Curriculum Open Classroom 2.30pm – 3.15pm
  - 17th July – Year 6 Performance 2pm – 3pm
    - 18th July – KS1 Sports Day AM
    - 18th July – KS2 Sports Day PM
- 21st July – Year 6 Leavers Service 2pm – 3pm