DARTINGTON
CHURCH OF ENGLAND ACADEMY

Dartington C of E Academy Bulletin
9th October 2026

Dear Families,

As we approach the end of another busy and successful half term, thank you to everyone who has signed up for Parents' Evening. We are looking forward to sharing your child's progress and celebrating their learning with you. It was also wonderful to see so many families at our Open Classrooms this week. The interest, encouragement and support you show for your children's learning makes such a difference, and it was lovely to welcome you into school to see their achievements firsthand.

We are also looking forward to coming together for the **PTFA Autumn Festival** on **Friday 23 October from 3:15pm**. The Orchard will host a seasonal celebration with crafts, face painting, warming refreshments and more. We hope you can join us as we celebrate the end of half term together. 🍂🍎✨



Miss Coombe,

Headteacher

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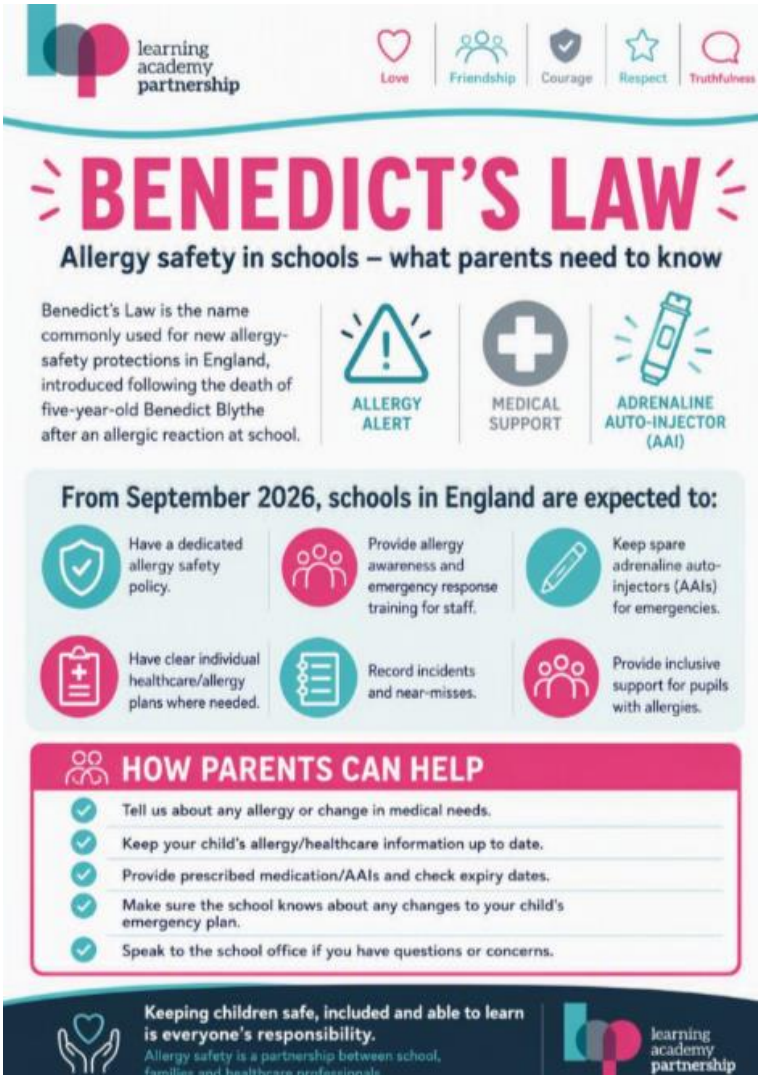

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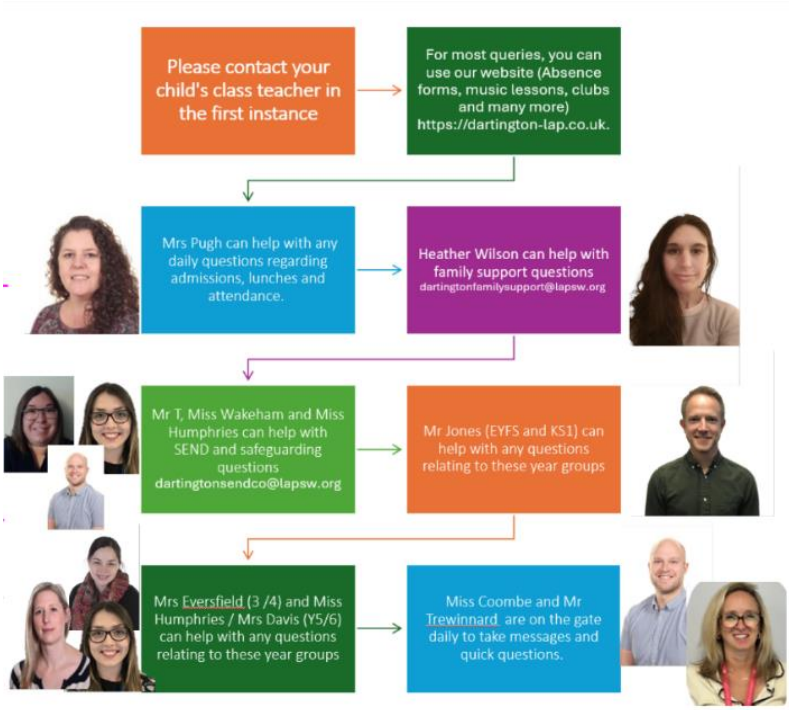
Who's Here to Help

Useful Links



- Absence Request - Absence Request Form
- Admissions - Admissions
- Clubs - Our School Clubs
- Medicine Form - Administration of Medicines
- Music Form - Music Tuition Form
- Nursery - Our Nursery and How to Apply
- Policies - Policies and Governance
- Term Dates - Term Dates

Class Information at a Glance

Class	Teacher	PE Day	Forest School
Sparrows	**Miss B**		
Robins (R) **Robins (Year 1)**	**Mr Jones / Mrs Faulkner**	**Tuesday & Friday** **Tuesday & Thursday**	**Wednesday PM**
Wrens (R) **Wrens (Year 1)**	**Mrs Faulkner / Mrs Calder**	**Tuesday & Friday** **Tuesday & Thursday**	**Thursday PM**
Swallows	**Miss Torr / Mrs Zaki**	**Monday PM &** **Thursday AM**	**Monday AM**
Kingfishers	**Miss Hardy**	**Tuesday PM**	**Friday PM**

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Tawny Owls	**Mrs Dando-Laing / Mr Bird**	**Tuesday PM (Saints), Wednesday PM**	**Thursday PM**
Nightingales	**Mrs Eversfield**	**Thursday PM & Friday AM**	**Friday PM**
Woodpeckers	**Mrs Davis**	**Thursday PM**	**Tuesday PM**
Swifts	**Dr Short**	**Wednesday PM & Friday PM**	**Tuesday PM**
Goldfinches	**Miss Wakeham**	**Tuesday AM**	**Tuesday PM**
Red Kites	**Mrs Beecham**	**Wednesday & Friday**	**Tuesday PM**

Clubs

- Breakfast Club: 7:45–8:40am (Mon–Fri) | £4.50 full / £1.50 short | *Book via My Child At School App*
- After School Club: 3:00–6:00pm | £9 per session (20% sibling discount) *Book via My Child At School App*
- Sports Clubs (Saints South West): KS1 Tue | KS2 Thu | Football Fri Saints Southwest
- Frazoo Exotic Animal Club: Tue after school | Email: frazie@frazoo.co.uk
- Spanish Club: Tuesday and Thursday lunchtime | Kidslingo
- Gardening Club – Thursday and Friday lunchtimes with Miss Eyland
- Quiet Club – Each lunchtime in the library
- Art Club: Wednesday lunchtime and after school club | www.thewowhaus.co.uk/book

Music

- Music Lessons - We offer
- Violin, Piano, Guitar, Ukulele, Drums, Recorder, Flute, Clarinet. Please complete the form here Music Form
- Rocksteady Band Lessons: Learn an instrument in a fun group setting! To find out more please visit their website here - Home - Rocksteady Music School

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Key Dates 2026 – 2027

Calendar Events:

- 19 October – Parent Consultations – Not Kingfishers
- 20 October – Parent Consultations – Kingfishers only
- 21 October – Parent Consultations – All classes
- 23 October PTA Pumpkin Party
- 20 November Christmas Jumper Exchange
- 11 December PTA Dis-glo
- 16 December – Christmas Lunch Day
- 17 December – Christmas Fair

Autumn Term 2026:

Half Term:
26 October – 30 October

Non Pupil Day:
2 November

End:
18 December

Spring Term 2027:

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Non Pupil Day:
4 January

Start:
5 January

Half Term:
15 February - 19 February

Non Pupil Day:
22 February

End:
25 March

Summer Term 2027:

Non Pupil Day:
12 April

Start:
13 April

Bank Holiday
3 May

Half Term:
31 May - 4 June

End:
23 July

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Safeguarding



What should I do if I have a safeguarding concern?

Keeping our children safe is everyone's responsibility. If you ever have concerns about the welfare or safety of a child, please report them immediately.

How to report a concern:

- **Contact the school directly:** Speak our Designated Safeguarding Lead (DSL) or Deputy Safeguarding Leads.
- If you think a child is at risk of significant harm or want to talk about your concerns about a child or family, you can contact Devon Children's Services on 0345 155 1071. Calls are confidential and you can choose to remain anonymous.

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- Link to website https://www.devonscp.org.uk/make-a-request-for-support/parents-carers-public/

If a child is in **immediate danger**, please call **999**.

Your vigilance helps us keep every child safe. Thank you for working with us to protect our school community.

Attendance

It can be tricky deciding whether or not to keep your child off school. The NHS have the following advice for illnesses.

Coughs and Colds – It is fine to send your child in to school with a cough or a common cold. However, you should keep them off if they have a fever over 38 degrees.

Chicken Pox – If your child has chicken pox, keep them off school until the spots have crusted over. This is usually about 5 days after they start appearing.

Cold Sore – There is no need to keep your child off with a cold sore.

Conjunctivitis – You do not need to keep your child off with this. They may come to school but will need advice from the pharmacy.

Head lice – There's no need to keep your child off school if they have head lice, but you will want to gain advice from a pharmacist on how to treat it.

Impetigo – If they have impetigo, they will need treatment from a GP, often with antibiotics. Keep them off school until the sores have crusted over and healed.

Sore throat – There is no need to keep your child off with a sore throat unless they have a temperature too.

Vomiting and diarrhoea – If you think this is viral, children should stay off for 48 hours after being sick or having diarrhoea.

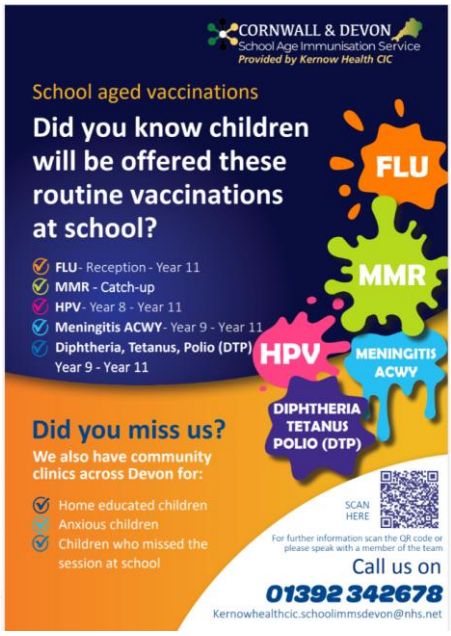
Covid -19 – If your child has mild symptoms, such as a runny nose, sore throat, or cough, and feels well enough, they can still come to school. They should stay at home if they have a high temperature or do not feel fell enough to do their normal activities. If a test is taken, they should remain at home for 3 days.

For any minor illnesses like the ones listed above or headaches, sore throats, coughs or hay fever etc, your child can come into school and you can bring medicine to the office for your child to take throughout the day. Please ask for a Medicine Administration form from the office or click on the link above under Useful Links.

We hope this helps you to make decisions about whether your child is well enough to come to school. Any questions, we will be happy to discuss them with you.

For latest advice from NHS - [NHS Advice - Should I keep my child off school]





PTFA

Welcome to Dartington PTFA

All families who have children at our school are welcome along to the Parent, Teacher, Friend Association (PTFA). Our organising committee plans events and works closely with the school to identify funding needs. We're always happy to welcome new members who'd like to get involved!

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This year's Pumpkin Party is all about raising funds for FOREST SCHOOL

When: Friday 23 October, from 3:15pm
We're taking over the Orchard for a seasonal celebration! Expect crafts, face painting, warming refreshments and more. Come and celebrate the end of term with us!

How can you help?

Donate! Got some gorgeous winter clobber to pass on? We're looking for good-quality pre-loved winter clothes (coats, jumpers, waterproofs, shoes and wellies) and Halloween costumes to sell in our Dartington Boutique at the party. Donation boxes will be outside reception next week.

Bake! Please bring homemade savoury and sweet bakes, including vegan options if you can.

Carved pumpkins! Help us decorate the Orchard by bringing a carved pumpkin. Every child who enters one gets a sweet treat!

Why we're raising funds

We're focusing our efforts this season on raising money to support Forest School provision. Funds will go towards training teachers and buying equipment.

Forest School is something truly special to Dartington, and we want to make as much difference as we can. If you can't make the party, you can also donate online here at any time. https://pay.sumup.com/b2c/Q3EOUK3E

Christmas artwork order deadline

All the order forms should have gone home with your child by now. If you don't have one and would like to look up your child's artwork- please email: dartingtonptfa@gmail.com

All purchases help support both the big and little things over the school year. And great early Xmas shopping.

Deadline to order: 26 October, midnight.
You can browse the range of products here: https://www.iqcardsonline.co.uk/products

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Dartington Community News



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At the Wool Hub in Buckfastleigh, TQ11 0BT

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THE WOOL HUB

ALL ABOUT WOOL



Classes are free to children from families with a low income
Children aged 8–14

Use local fleece to make a creature or a skinny scarf



We are offering a block of 6 after school classes
on Tuesday afternoons 3.45 – 5.15pm
at the Wool Hub
starting on 3rd November

We will begin by preparing sheep's fleece for felting or weaving, dye it and then move on to make a scarf, bag, wet felted picture or creature.





Please complete this eligibility form if you would like your child to attend

https://form.jotform.com/thewoolhubcic/after-school-class-booking-form

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Young People's Theatre Playground Arts

Inclusive, creative physical theatre sessions…

Make friends, have fun, build skills, perform…

NEW! Contemporary Dance

at The Mansion Totnes

Saturdays

Pre-Juniors 3-6 yrs 9:15-10am

NEW Contemporary Dance

6-9 yrs 10:15-11:05am

Junior Drama

6-9yrs 11:15am-12:30om

Thursdays

YPT 10-16 yrs 4:15-6:15pm





at The MiC Buckfastleigh

Mondays

Juniors 7-10 yrs 4-5:30pm

Tuesdays

YPT 11-16 yrs 4:15-6:15pm

mic

Questions welcome - for more info contact
Sarah 07387553237 playgroundartstheatre@gmail.com

THE MANSION

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cfhd
Children & Family Health Devon

Livewell
Southwest

Children, Young People and Families Neurodiversity Wellbeing Team

We offer a free, confidential advice line for children, young people and families on the Neurodiversity Pathway in Plymouth and Devon.

Advice can include:



- Anxiety
- Diet
- Friendships
- Sleep
- Linking with other teams and services in your area
- School difficulties
- Support strategies

Contact us: 01752 435404 **Monday - Friday, 09:00-17:00**

Have your say:
Share feedback to help us improve our services. Use the QR code to complete the questionnaire.

We support people to lead independent, healthy lives

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Parent Information



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https://togetherness.co.uk/mul/cornwall-and-devon/?es_c=0C2A601FC8C312E5576375CABE5127DC&es_cl=6729865E9BBC3677D8AD6A924D37D1E0&es_id=xg%c2%a342

Cornwall, Devon, Plymouth and Torbay families: Build everyday emotional resilience!

Your free online learning. Big feelings, how the brain works, and relationship ideas for happier lives.

Cornwall, Devon, Plymouth and Torbay Councils gives families free access to Togetherness resources to support wellbeing. For parents, carers, grandparents, and young people.

Learn from NHS clinical psychologists, practitioners, and other parents. The pathways will help you and your family understand and manage emotions in everyday life.



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Speech, language and communication Easy access drop in sessions

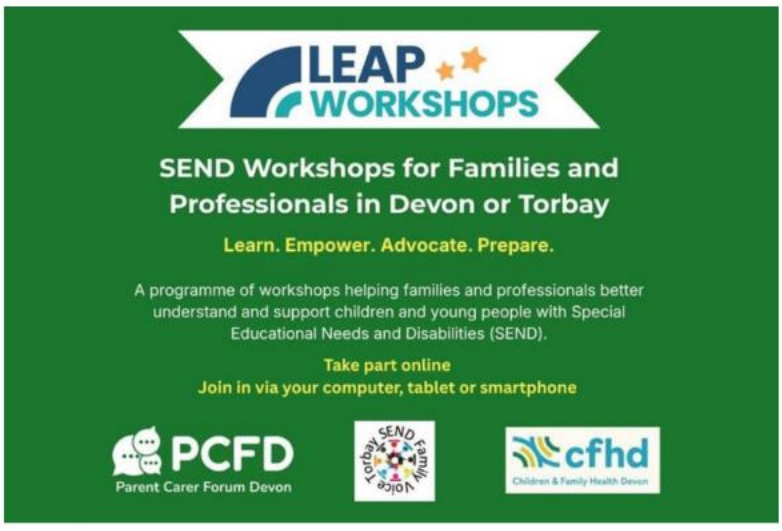
As part of the Balanced System, we are starting easy access drop ins for pre school children.

Would you like any advice and support for your child's speech, language and communication skills? Visit one of our easy access drop ins with your child to see a Speech and Language Therapist. Get advice, support and strategies from the team.

Drop in sessions are now being held in different locations across Torbay, South Devon and North Devon. Exeter, East and Mid Devon.

If you would like to attend a drop in, there is no need to book, simply use the table below find a location and time that works for you.

https://childrenandfamilyhealthdevon.nhs.uk/easy-access-drop-in/?fbclid=IwY2xjawRDJPlleHRuA2FlbQIxMABzcnRjBmFwcF9pZBAyMjIwMzkxNzg4MjAwODkyAAEegDsR4TAkc6LUrecwNGuc4KyGadit-Egy6c6eEgVH8J-Az0hGdHWt-YHTSNs_aem_jkYG6-OTYCheUDTN1-zR0g&es_c=0C2A601FC8C312E5576375CABE5127DC&es_cl=70BD98FC47C9CAB4E97652D13A591423&es_id=xg%c2%a342#jump-collapse10010



LEAP workshops – free online support for families and professionals

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Parent Carer Forum Devon and SEND Family Voice Torbay, working in collaboration with Children and Family Health Devon (CFHD), are offering a new programme of free workshops for families and professionals across Devon and Torbay.

The workshops focus on SEND, and are designed to build understanding, confidence and practical skills to support children and young people in everyday life.

Topics include autism, sensory processing, masking, dyslexia and supporting independence.

https://leapworkshops.org/?es_c=0C2A601FC8C312E5576375CABE5127DC&es_cl=71ECADB155925EBC18C9D658508CC35E&es_id=xg%C2%A342

Free Parent Safety Workshops and Resources

We would like to share a valuable resource for parents and carers from **Let's Talk Safer Families**. The organisation provides free, evidence-based information, guidance and online events to help families understand and respond to issues affecting children and young people, including online safety, healthy relationships, exploitation, neurodiversity and emotional wellbeing. The sessions are designed to help parents build confidence, start important conversations with their children and access trusted support.

Parents and carers can view upcoming events and access a range of helpful resources by visiting: **www.letstalksaferfamilies.org/events**



Free SEND Workshops for Parents and Carers

We would like to highlight **LEAP Workshops (Learn. Empower. Advocate. Prepare)**, a free programme of workshops designed to help parents, carers and professionals better understand and support children and young people with Special Educational Needs and Disabilities (SEND). The sessions cover a range of topics including sensory differences, communication, anxiety, sleep difficulties, behaviour, dyslexia, masking and developing independence.

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The workshops are available online and in person across Devon and Torbay, providing practical strategies, expert guidance and opportunities to learn from both professionals and families with lived experience. They are free to attend and are open to all parents and carers.

To find out more and book a place, visit: **www.leapworkshops.org**.

LEAP WORKSHOPS



Contact Us

Tel: 01803 862357

Monday – Thursday 8.30am – 12.30pm/2pm – 4pm, Friday 8.30am – 12.30pm

Email: dartington@lapsw.org

Address: Shinners Bridge, Dartington, TQ9 6JU