DARTINGTON
CHURCH OF ENGLAND ACADEMY

Dartington C of E Academy Bulletin
23rd October 2026

Dear Families,

As we reach the end of another busy and successful half term, I would like to thank all of our families for your continued support and partnership. It has been wonderful to see so many parents and carers engaging with this week's parent consultations, celebrating your children's achievements and discussing their next steps in learning. We were also delighted to come together as a school family today for our Harvest celebrations, a fitting way to round off the half term and reflect on gratitude, community and helping others. We wish all of our children and families a happy, restful half-term break and look forward to welcoming everyone back refreshed and ready for the exciting term ahead.



Miss Coombe,

Headteacher

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Admissions policy for 2028-29: Annual Consultation

Along with all other schools and academies in Devon, we are consulting on an admission policy for 2028-29. The Local Authority is also consulting on its admission arrangements. You are invited to look at the proposal new policies which are based on policies for this year and next year and to have your say on them.

Our proposed policy is on our admission page and you can see all policies at http://devon.cc/schoolpolicy Further information is here: www.devon.gov.uk/admissionarrangements

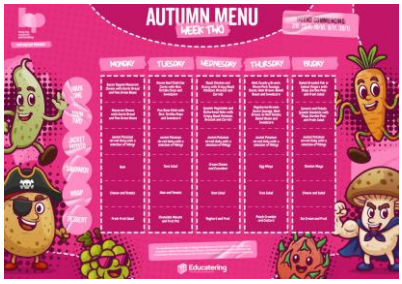
The consultation runs until 15 January 2027. Policies will be determined by the end of February and published in the same places by 15 March 2027. You can comment at schoolsadmissionpolicy-mailbox@devon.gov.uk or by emailing the school.

No changes are being proposed.

School Dinners

School Dinners are live on Bromcom, you can book your child's school dinner for the term. Don't forget to order your child's Christmas Dinner for Wednesday 16th December







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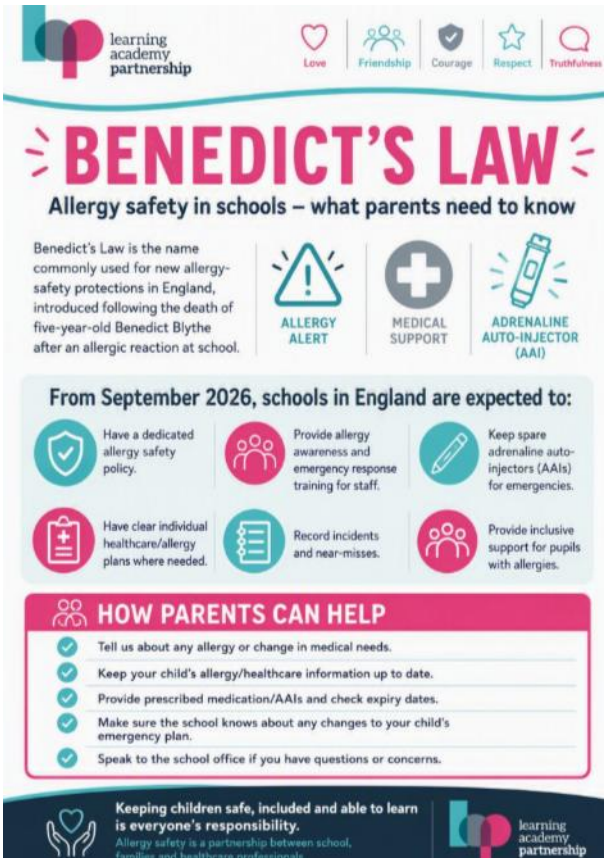

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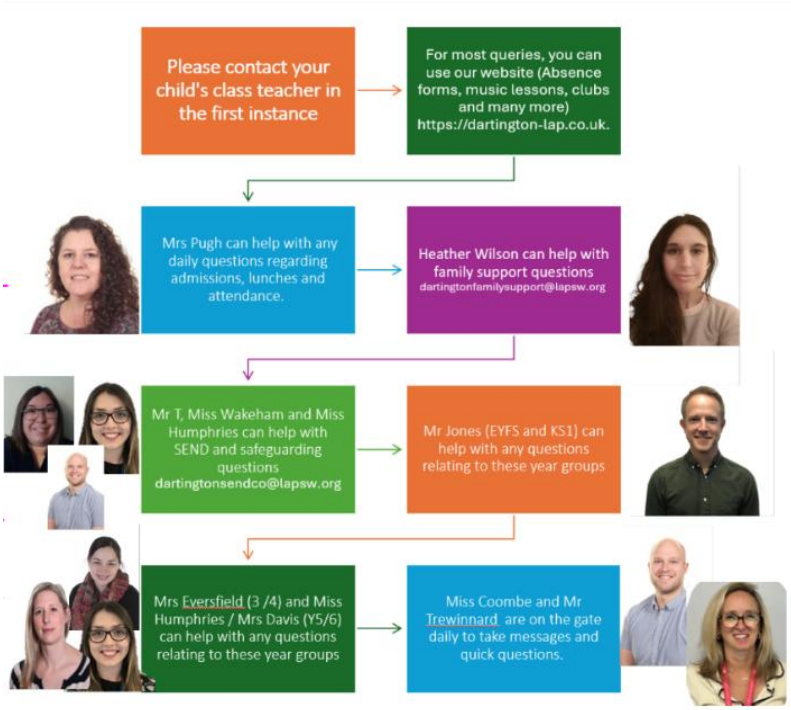
Who's Here to Help

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
- 17 November – Nursery – Baby Rockers
- 11 December PTA Dis-glo
- 15 December – Rocksteady Concert – 2pm - (for parents of performers only)
- 16 December – Christmas Lunch Day
- 17 December – Christmas Fair

Autumn Term 2026:

Half Term:
26 October – 30 October

Non Pupil Day:
2 November

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End:
18 December

Spring Term 2027:

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.

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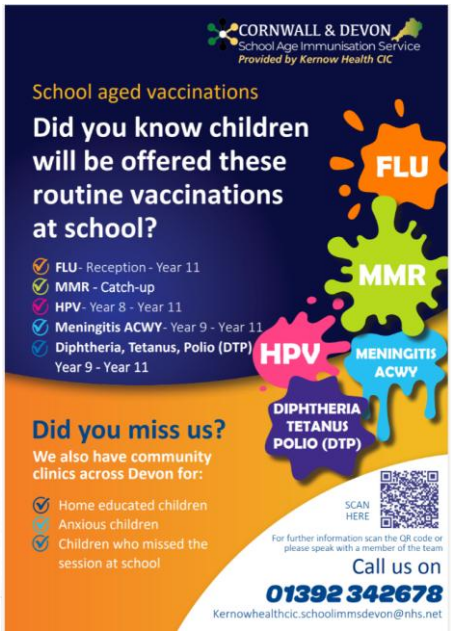
For any minor illnesses like the ones listed above or headaches, sore throats, coughs or hay fever etc, your child can come into school and you can bring medicine to the office for your child to take throughout the day. Please ask for a Medicine Administration form from the office or click on the link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

Sad to say the Autumn weather has caught up with us this time and we've decided to move the Pumpkin party to after half term when hopefully weather is a little more outdoor party friendly.

NEW DATE: Friday 6 November

We're sorry if you've been getting stuck into pumpkin carving or baking - please share pics and we'll have treats at the rescheduled party.

Fundraising for Forest school provision

You can donate anytime - and any amount here:
https://pay.sumup.com/b2c/Q3EOUK3E

Thank you for understanding and all your support

Christmas art order reminder

If missing printed order form, please get in touch with your child's name and we can look up the unique ID for you. dartingtonptfa@gmail.com

Pay it forward fund
This will go towards helping others to purchase their child's artwork - please contribute here:
https://pay.sumup.com/b2c/QLN0CRXX

Deadline for all orders is Monday 26 October! 🎄

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Dartington Community News



Click here to book onto this Holiday Club - https://activities.bookpebble.co.uk/activity/the-outdoors-group-totnes-forest-school-holiday-club-totnes-d2f52d93-15a7-45e7-bb51-3567335129af

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10am Saturdays

Love riding your bike?

Join the fun!

Saturday Morning Bike Club

at Torbay Velopark · Ages 6–16 · Any bike, any level

MDCC MID DEVON CC

www.middevon.cc/youth

What happens at Bike Club?









Any bike with gears, any level.
If they can ride and change gears, they're ready.

Games and races.
Corning, bean bag grabs and slow races on a safe, traffic-free circuit.

Friendly, qualified coaches.
British Cycling trained and DBS checked.

The details

When: 10am, every other Saturday (1 hour)
Where: Torbay Velopark
Cost: £4 a session
Bring: helmet, drink, snacks and warm layers
Bikes: any bike in good working order

Book a session online

middevon.cc/youth

BRITISH CYCLING GO-RIDE REGISTERED CLUB

BRITISH CYCLING LIMITLESS

MDCC MID DEVON CC

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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

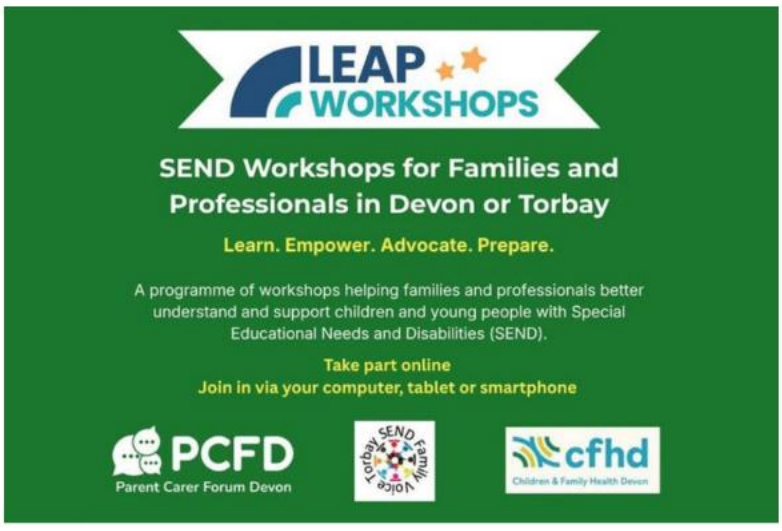
As part of the Balanced System, we are starting easy access drop ins for pre school children.

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**

Let's Talk
Safer Families

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