



Together we grow, together we flourish

Letter from Mrs Huish and Mrs Eversfield 29.4.25

Dear Families,

What a joy it has been so far this half term to bask in the glorious sunshine and to enjoy the seasonal changes. The orchard is looking spectacular at the moment and as we enter the summer term, we are reminded, once more, how quickly the school year flies by. Looking ahead to what is always a wonderful term, we have so many events and activities planned for all of the community to enjoy, from sports days and Y6 performances to EYFS Booknics and not forgetting the hotly anticipated transition days into our new classes.

At this point in the year, we begin our planning for next year and start to look at new class lists. As you can imagine, putting together classes for the next year is a lengthy process. We are often asked how we decide who goes into which class and the answer is that there is not magical formula that helps us. Class teachers sit together to discuss classes and look holistically at each child and consider elements such as friendships and individual needs. This year, we have adapted our **transition day** slightly so that our transition will be held on the **afternoon of 30th June** and will include a parent 'Meet the Teacher' session at 2:30pm. This will give both children and adults the opportunity to get to know the new class and to meet the teacher and ask any questions you may have for the year ahead.

This half term also brings the advent of the **Year 6 SATs** on the week beginning **12th May**. The children have been working incredibly hard to prepare themselves for these tests and whilst we know that the tests only look at a snapshot of the children's abilities, they do support the children in becoming 'secondary ready' so that they can fully access the secondary school curriculum. These tests are a celebration of all the children have achieved over their time in Primary and we are incredibly proud of all of the children. The two highlights of the week are always the Year 6 breakfast each day and the celebratory conga around the school on Thursday!

You may also have heard the 'buzz' about **World Bee Day**! On **Tuesday 20th May**, Mrs Eyland will be leading the way with a celebration of these incredible and vital pollinators. Children are invited to dress up; Bees, stripes, yellow and black, wings, flowers, bright colours...! There will be a selection of bee themed activities throughout the day including an assembly and a special gardening club. There will be a gardening club sale table at drop off and pickup. The festivities will culminate with a whole school 'bee-bomb bonanza', where we will plant a new border for pollinators on the school field. We're all 'buzzing' with excitement!



As always, we will be on the gate every morning alongside Mr Trewinnard and Miss Wilson, our 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: Trust Annual Conference

Last week, we held our annual Trust Conference, this year with a focus on SEND and inclusion. We were lucky enough to listen to some of the foremost thinkers speak about the vitally important role that inclusion has in schools including Dr Paul Heerey (an educator who himself has a daughter with SEND and was able to talk first hand about her experiences), Kathryn Walsh and Ben Newmark. We were also proud that many of the incredible leaders from Dartington stepped up to run workshops, lead training and share best practice with over 200 teachers in the South West. Huge congratulations to Mr Jones, Mrs Davis and Miss Humphries for leading the way on this.

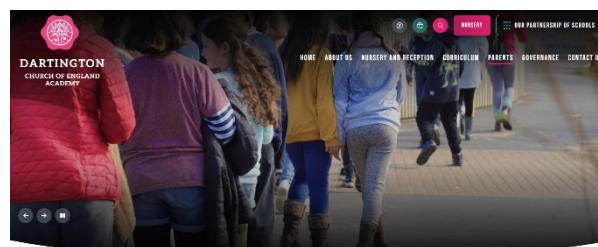


Removing Barriers: You Can't Be What You Can't See

Last half term, KS1 lived out our motto of 'You Can't Be What You Can't See'. As part of their DT learning, Mr Hardy (brother of the fabulous Miss Hardy) visited the children to talk about his career as an architect and to look at the structures they had made in their DT this half term. The children were able to showcase their work and then learned about the different things an architect needs to consider when designing a new building.

Stronger Together: New Website

We have identified that sometimes it can be difficult to find the information that you need from our school website. We have been working hard behind the scenes to develop a new school website which will be much more user friendly and have all of the information that our community needs at the drop of a hat. We are pleased to announce that the website is very nearly ready. We aim to launch it next week. When you go to the website, you will notice that there is a new 'Virtual Office'. This will be the one stop shop for all forms that you may need as well as any useful links that you will need and help you to get the information that you need quickly and during the times that you need it. Please do let us know your feedback around this as we will be using this to build the website you need moving forward.



VIRTUAL ADMIN OFFICE

IN THIS SECTION

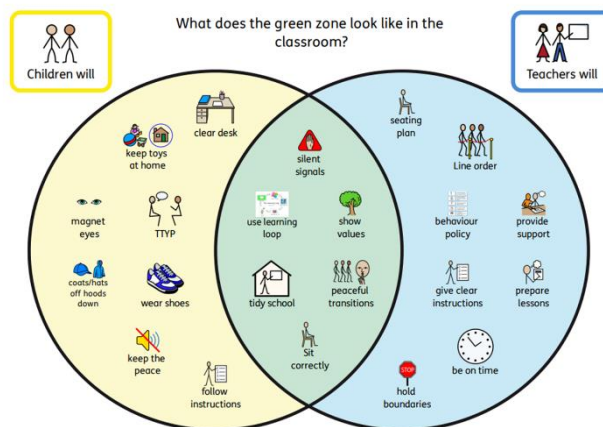
Realise the Possible: Rock Steady

This week saw our future rock stars performing to their families and the whole school during their 'Rock Steady' Performance. This is always a favourite moment for the community as it is wonderful to give the young musicians opportunity to perform. Do we have the next Glastonbury headliner at Dartington? The future is wide open for these incredible performers.



Removing Barriers: Positive Behaviour Policy

This year, we have launched a new behaviour policy. Mr T, along with other SENDCOs in the Trust recognised that the previous policy did not support our Trauma Informed approach and so this year have worked to introduce a new relational approach to behaviour management. Since September, we have been working with all staff members to implement a new approach which uses a behaviour flow chart to support children, instead of the old 'C' system, whilst still maintaining the high standards that we expect of all children. Last term, Mrs Huish and Mrs Eversfield spent time listening to the children and staff to hear their views of the policy. Children and staff told us that behaviour is good in classes with the new approach supporting children to make wise choices. In our assemblies this half term, we are exploring the question "What is Self-Regulation?" in order to support children in independently regulating their learning behaviours. Next half term, we will be running coffee mornings to share the policy in details with parents and answer any questions. If you would like to be included in a parent voice group, please speak to one of us on the gate.



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:

23rd May – Whole Class Photos
2nd June – 6th June – Book Fair
24th – 25th June – Year 4 Residential
27th June – EYFS Booknic
30th June – 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