

The Devonshire Dispatch

www.devonshireprimary.org

“This is a good school...Pupils of all abilities achieve well.”

Tuesday 21st March 2017



Attendance Matters - The attendance rocket is still maintaining 95.5% which, although below our target, does make 96% achievable by the end of the academic year if we have really good attendance rates during the coming months. Just a reminder that any absence from school should be advised by 9.30am either in person, by telephone on 020 8643 1174 or by email attendance@devonshire.sutton.sch.uk.

Remember – Every School Day Counts – Aiming for 96%!!

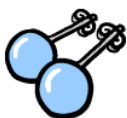
Mrs Bartram



Hair Bows - I never relish the roles of killjoy and party-poopers but the current craze for large bows worn in the girls' hair has reached the stage where it has become a distraction. Apart from being very expensive items, they are not a part of our school uniform. I am more than happy for these bows to be worn to school on Mufti (Wear Your Own Clothes to School) Days but I am asking for your cooperation by requesting that the children do not wear them on regular school days. Thank you.



Good Luck, Mrs England – We are sad to be saying goodbye to Mrs England who has been a key part of the Nursery Team for nearly 4 years. Mrs England leaves us with the very best wishes of all of her staff colleagues, as she takes up a new role at Brookfield Primary School for five mornings a week. Mrs England will be leaving us at the end of this month, ready to start in her new post straight after the Easter holiday.



Pierced Ears – I would just like to remind parents and carers that if your child has pierced ears, they should only be wearing small studs to school. We also ask that on those days when you know that your child has a PE lesson, the children either come to school without their earring studs or the children are able to remove and re-insert the studs themselves at the beginning and end of the lesson. This is especially important when children are swimming.



Twitter - Devonshire Primary School is now live on Twitter. This will complement our website and the Devonshire Dispatch as a celebratory record of events that are happening in school each week. Please follow us on: <https://twitter.com/DevonshireSM2>



Autism Awareness – We will be holding a special assembly for the junior children on Monday 27th March to raise awareness of the work of the Sutton branch of the National Autistic Society. Furthermore, we will be having a Mufti (Wear Your Own Clothes To School) Day on the final day of term - Friday 31st March - to raise money for this charity. On this day, we would like the children to bring in a suggested donation of £1. Donations such as ours help the charity to run regular groups, providing support for local families. *Miss Simner*



Parent Staff Association – Thank you to the PSA who have generously donated £100 towards new equipment for our Sensory Room. Thank you.



Christ Church Sutton Activity Afternoon – On Saturday 1st April (no, really!) Christ Church, in Christchurch Park, is hosting a free Easter Surprise activity afternoon. The Minister, Revd Phil Brooks, has spoken to the infants about this recently but I wanted to ensure that all of our families were aware. Children of all ages are welcome to attend between 2.00pm and 4.00pm, although they should be accompanied by an adult. The afternoon comprises a number of fun activities such as face-painting, Easter flowers and food.



A-Z Club News – After 10 years at the helm, Vicky Francis has made the decision to step down from her role as Manager of the A-Z Breakfast Club. Vicky has provided leadership for both the morning and afternoon clubs in her time, taking on the roles when her children were pupils at Devonshire. Staff colleagues, as well as all of the A-Z children are very grateful for Vicky's contribution to the success of the clubs and we hope she takes many happy memories away from Devonshire. After Easter, Nicki Santos will take on the

responsibility for leading both the breakfast and after school clubs. Her contact details will be 07952221160 or nsantos4@suttonmail.org.



Safe Use of the Internet – As a parent or carer, it is extremely challenging to balance your child's freedom with their safety. As children grow older they understandably wish to be given increased freedom to surf the internet and to communicate with others using social media platforms such as Facebook or Instagram. Despite the fact that Facebook and Instagram requires account holders to be at least 13 years of age, I recognise that many parents have granted permission for their children to be part of these networks. You know your own children better than anyone. I am sure that many of you will have had detailed conversations with your children about responsible use of the internet. The internet is a wonderful creation, opening so many doors to new learning for all of us. However, it can conceal many dangers if safe practice is not followed. Quite apart from having strong age-appropriate filters on your children's access to certain content, it is vital that they are taught to use the internet as if their parents or grandparents were sitting alongside them. It is so easy, without supervision, for anybody to click on inappropriate, violent, extreme sites which compromise innocence. This safety warning applies not just to the sites they visit but also to the content of every message they post on social media. Even if comments are meant as a joke, abusive language never disappears. It can lead not just to upset and the fracturing of relationships but in some cases to police involvement. Finally, as a parent or carer, ask yourself whether you can be truly sure that your son or daughter really knows **all** of the "children" they are chatting with and make it very clear to them that under no circumstances should they share passwords nor images of themselves online.



Extra-Curricular Clubs - An email was sent yesterday explaining how to book for the free extra-curricular clubs in the Summer Term. Please ensure you return the form by Friday 24th March. We will confirm which clubs your child has a place in before the end of term.



Red Nose Day – This Friday – March 24th – Devonshire Primary will be supporting the Red Nose Day charities. The children are allowed to wear their own clothes to school on Friday, including something RED, in return for a £1 donation to the cause.



Lost Property – Please ensure that any lost items are reclaimed before the end of term next Friday 31st March. Any remaining items will be recycled as we do not have the space to store them. If you are purchasing new uniform items over the Easter break, please remember that every item should bear your child's name. Also, if your child is in a junior (KS2) class they do not need to wear a tie to school in the Summer months. A white polo shirt, ideally with the school's embroidered logo on it, is perfectly acceptable.



Year 4 Thank You – On behalf of Year 4, Miss Dourado wanted to pass on her thanks to those of you who were able to send in so many cartons. The response was phenomenal, enabling all of the children to have the raw materials for their Viking ship models. Thank you.

Martin Kearsey

Forward dates as at 21/03/17

Wednesday 22nd March – Open Afternoon (3.30 – 6.30pm)
Wednesday 22nd March – Y5 visiting Christ Church
Thursday 23rd March – Open Evening (4.30 – 7.30pm) **except for Swans**
Friday 24th March – Red Nose Day
Tuesday 28th March – Y6 visiting Sutton Life Centre
Thursday 30th March – Swans Open Afternoon (3.30 – 6.30pm)
Thursday 30th March - Pantomime
Friday 31st March 2017 – Last Day of Spring Term (Infants finish at 1.20: Juniors finish at 1.30)
Tuesday 18th April 2017 – Staff Training Day (No children in school today)
Thursday 20th April and Tuesday 25th April – Y5 "Kip on a Ship" residential trips
Tuesday 25th April – Reception visit to British Wildlife Centre
Wednesday 26th and Thursday 27th April – Class Photos
Tuesday 16th May 2017 - Y6 Residential Trip to South Downs (returning Friday 19th May)
Monday 29th May to Friday 2nd June – Half Term
Friday 16th June 2017 - Staff Training Day (No children in school today)
Wednesday 19th July – Y6 visit to Blackland Farm
Friday 21st July 2017 – Last Day of Summer Term (Infants finish at 1.20: Juniors finish at 1.30)