

The Devonshire Dispatch

www.devonshireprimary.org

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

Tuesday 27th June 2017



Attendance Matters - Larks, Cedar and Willow classes, who topped the attendance rocket last half term, have chosen to enjoy an afternoon of fun on the school field. Their class teachers will arrange this on a day when the weather is good. Last week's figures were above 96% although overall we are still at 95.6%. Remember – Every School Day Counts – Aiming for 96%!!

Mrs Bartram



Swimming - If your child has had school swimming lessons at Cheam Baths and is unable to swim 25m, they are entitled to half price crash courses in the summer holidays at either Westcroft Leisure Centre or Cheam Baths. Please visit the centre that you wish to have your lessons with and take with you the certificate issued at the end of your child's swimming lessons.



Sports day – We are due to be holding our Sports Mornings and Afternoon this week. The weather forecasts for the week are not too promising so on Wednesday morning and Friday morning we will update the school website by 8.00am with information about any postponements which are required.



We Are A Nut-Free School! – Every so often, I think it is wise to refresh our credentials as a Nut-Free School. The reason for this is that we have a number of children at our school who experience a range of responses to **any nut products**. In some cases, a child might even require immediate medical attention as a consequence of touching a surface where nuts had been placed. For this reason, it is imperative that any food item which bears the words “May Contain Nuts” is not welcome at Devonshire Primary School.



Devonshire Music Evening – Our annual celebration of Music at Devonshire will take place on Wednesday 19th July, starting at 6.30pm. This is an opportunity for the children who have been receiving instrument tuition, plus the choir, to showcase their talents under the watchful eye of Mrs Saunderson.

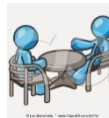


Staff Goodbyes – As we approach the end of another very busy Devonshire school year, I would like to highlight those members of staff who will not be returning after the summer break. Each one of the names I am about to mention have made an indelible impression upon our school community. In no particular order, the following four members of the staff team have taken the decision to retire at the end of this term. **Mrs Pauline Green** has been a powerful influence throughout the Foundation Stage since she arrived at Devonshire in 2003. Her exceptionally high standards for her children, her colleagues and herself have ensured that the needs of our youngest children are always a priority at Devonshire. We also bid farewell to another valued member of the Reception team – **Mrs Julie Livesey**. Mrs Livesey has been part of the staff team since 1995; in that time she has shown herself to be a tremendous team player with a bright, breezy, positive outlook on all things Devonshire. After over 15 years working in KS2 – many of them as English Subject Leader – **Mrs Christine Cortizo** will be retiring in July. Her classroom is always a dynamic learning hub. She has witnessed countless changes in primary education over her career, yet has embraced new methods and strategies with a staunch determination to do the best for the children and for the school. I was very fortunate to “inherit” these 3 high performing members of staff when I arrived in 2007. One of my earliest challenges was to appoint a new School Bursar. This is a key position within a school at a time when schools were taking on more accountability for their budget. The appointment of **Mrs Sophia Barnes** was inspirational. A complex mixture of ruthless efficiency, compassion and her own inimitable style, she has fashioned office and premises teams that are the envy of every other primary school in Sutton. We are also saying goodbye to two teaching assistants who have been working alongside individual children this year. **Miss Ruechel Smith** leaves us to pursue a teaching qualification and **Miss Lola Sobodu** has been employed in a similar capacity at a local secondary school. Replacements have been recruited for all of the vacant positions in September. New team members bring fresh ideas and insights and although all of the leavers have made significant and sustained contributions to Devonshire, I look forward to seeing the school go from strength to strength (from afar)

over the terms to come. Finally, on the subject of staffing, you will discover the identity of your child's next teacher in their end of year report.



New Cook – On the subject of new staff, we welcome our new School Cook – Mr Michael Nye. He replaces Zena, who has been in temporary charge of our kitchen team since the beginning of the year. We wish Zena all the very best as she moves on to work in another Sutton kitchen and we hope that Michael will be very happy in his new role at our school.



Transfer to High School Meetings for Y5 Parents – Over the past few weeks I have been sitting down with parents and carers discussing their options as they prepare to apply for high school places in 2018. If any current Y5 parent missed their appointment and would like to reschedule please approach me at the school gate. I cannot currently provide much detail about the proposed new Harris Academy, due to be built on the site of Sutton Hospital. Rest assured that if we receive further updates about the progress of their planning bid, I will keep you informed.



Gate Congestion – Thank you for your patience and understanding as we try to streamline the arrival and departure arrangements. It is certainly much less congested on the lower pathway as more and more parents have followed our request to wait up on the pavement at the end of the school day. In the same spirit of cooperation there is another area of concern we need to address. Our school is a community hub. The vast majority of Devonshire parents are sociable, friendly and keen to chat with each other. Whilst I certainly do not wish to change this, might I respectfully ask that when you are chatting to friends and acquaintances, you choose a place which does not block the free-flow of children and parents – especially parents pushing buggies – as they endeavour to enter or leave through the school gates. For reasons of safety it is vital that we do not block the school gates, either on the inside or outside of school property. Failure to do this generates conflict and compromises our school's friendly ethos. Thank you in anticipation of your support.



Devonshire Art Exhibition – Our annual showcase of our children's artistic talents will take place for infant parents (Nursery up to Y2) on Wednesday 12th July (3.00 -4.00pm), Thursday 13th July (8.30 -9.30am) and for junior parents (Y3-6) on Thursday 13th July (3.00 -4.00pm) and on Friday 14th July (8.30 – 9.30am).



Rocket Scientists – “On Wednesday a group of children (Alex, Harry, Rowan, Bright and Harley) that attend STEMinions club, took part in a competition run by the NPL (National Physics Laboratories). The challenge, that we accepted, was to launch a water rocket as far as we could possibly manage. As it was the hottest and longest day of the year the heat was our main enemy. Due to the high temperatures a new competition was put in place, it was best sun protection. We won it!!!!!!” *Harry, Alex and Rowan*

Office Reminder – Please ensure that ParentPay accounts remain in credit at all times. Thank you.

*****STOP PRESS***** Thank you for your fabulous support at this year's Sumer Fayre. Thanks also to our most generous of sponsors, Patricia Shepherd Lettings. Final profit total to be confirmed.

Martin Kearsey

Forward dates as at 27/06/17

Wednesday 28th June – KS1 Sports Morning (Weather permitting) 9.30am (Beware of parking restrictions in Devonshire Avenue 10-11am)

Wednesday 28th June – Reception Sports Afternoon (Weather permitting) 1.45pm

Friday 30th June – Junior Sports Morning (Weather permitting) 9.30am (Beware of parking restrictions in Devonshire Avenue 10-11am)

Tuesday 4th July – Reception and Nursery Fun Day*

Wednesday 12th to Friday 14th July – Devonshire Art Exhibition

Thursday 13th July – Y5 Parents Transfer to High School Briefing 2.00pm

Friday 14th July - Reception and Nursery Celebration Day *

Friday 14th July Y2 to Y3 Transition Meeting for parents 2.30pm

Tuesday 18th July –Y6 Production

Wednesday 19th July – Y6 visit to Blackland Farm

Wednesday 19th July – Music Evening 6.30pm

Friday 21st July – Last Day of Summer Term (Infants finish at 1.20: Juniors finish at 1.30)

***Timings and further details to follow**

INSET Days for next year - Monday 4th September, Wednesday 3rd January 2018, Monday 16th April 2018, Monday 23rd July 2018

Plus one more date to be confirmed