



# DEVONSHIRE DISPATCH

[www.devonshireprimary.org](http://www.devonshireprimary.org)

Twitter - @DevonshireSM2

25<sup>th</sup> January 2018

## Devonshire Diary

Monday 29<sup>th</sup> January – anti bullying workshop for Years 3 and 4

Tuesday 30<sup>th</sup> January - Year 6 author workshop at Overton Grange

Tuesday 30<sup>th</sup> January – Year 2 trip to Hampton Court

Tuesday 6<sup>th</sup> February (9.00 – 9.35am) – Reception play and stay

Wednesday 7<sup>th</sup> February (2.30 – 3.05pm) – Reception play and stay

Friday 9<sup>th</sup> February – INSET day (staff training day, school closed for children)

Monday 12<sup>th</sup> – Friday 16<sup>th</sup> February – half term

Wednesday 21<sup>st</sup> March (3.30 – 6.30pm) - Parents' afternoon

Thursday 22<sup>nd</sup> March (4.30 – 7.30pm) – Parents' evening

Wednesday 28<sup>th</sup> March – last day of term for Nursery

Thursday 29<sup>th</sup> March – last day of term (1.20pm Reception and KS1/1.30pm KS2)

Monday 16<sup>th</sup> April – INSET day (staff training day, school closed for children)

Tuesday 17<sup>th</sup> April – term starts for children

## Attendance

The disappointing attendance figures at the end of last term and beginning of this term have caused our overall attendance figure to drop to 95.5%. This is disappointing as it is below our target figure of 96%. It is very impressive therefore, that with some classes attendance last week falling to as low as 80.7%, that Ash Class achieved 100% last week. Congratulations Ash Class!

To celebrate their great attendance last half term, Oak Class enjoyed a board games afternoon in their pyjamas and Ash Class had their very own mufti day. Will Ash Class be top of the rocket again this half term or will you catch them?

Mrs Bartram

## Extra curricular clubs

In the questionnaire that parents/carers completed in July, there was a request for us to consider increasing the number of extra curricular clubs that were available for Reception and Key Stage 1 children. We included this suggestion in our school development plan for this school year and there is now a much wider variety of clubs available for our younger children to access.

These include: colouring club for Y1 and 2, Foundation Fun for Reception children, maths club for Y2 all of which are run by Devonshire staff. In addition to this we have the following clubs which are run by external providers: futsal club for Y1 and 2, musical theatre which is now open to Reception upwards, drama academy is for Reception - Y3, art club is for Y1 upwards and gym club is for Y1 and 2.

This term, we have a total of 25 extra curricular clubs on offer. At the end of each term a letter is sent home with details of the clubs on offer for the following term. Look out for this letter later this term.

## Devonshire artists

Well done to Tanuri and Lucia who won our art competition and are now the proud owners of an art set. They recreated Van Gogh's sunflowers in a very creative way. Thank you to the 150 children who entered this competition; the judges had a difficult decision to pick a winner from all of these entries.

## Reading

Reading is the key to driving children's learning forward. It helps them in every subject in the curriculum.

Reading regularly at home is so beneficial to improving children's reading. They will read at school and undertake reading activities but nothing can replace that one to one time that they have with you when they read with you. As well as reading the book, please ask your child questions about what they have read to check that they understand what they are reading. Staff are concerned that the number of children who are regularly reading at home has decreased and the impact that this is having on children's reading. Please help us and most importantly your child to develop their reading skills. Thank you to all parent volunteers who come in to school to hear readers.

### **Overton Grange**

Overton Grange is our local school and we benefit enormously from being so close to a secondary school. One of their French teachers teaches French at Devonshire for an afternoon each week, their science specialist runs an after school club that many of our children attend, our Year 6 children attended an algebra afternoon at their school and next week they are participating in an author workshop. All of these activities are free of charge and really enrich our children's learning. Overton Grange work hard to develop and maintain neighbourly relations especially at the bus stop on Brighton Road, having a specific area for the children to wait and staff to supervise the children whilst they wait for the bus. There will inevitably be times where the pavement becomes congested especially when the bus arrives but Overton Grange have assured me that they are doing everything they can to manage this congestion.

### **Our neighbours**

Please when walking to and from school ensure that your child does not go on to private property. Recently a tree in a block of flats was damaged by a child climbing on it and understandably the residents of the flats were not very happy as they will have to spend money repairing the damage. We work hard to develop and maintain good relationships with our neighbours; please help us maintain these.

### **SPARE TIME IN THE NEW YEAR?? VOLUNTEERS NEEDED!!!**

Do you have a spare couple of hours each week to volunteer??  
Are you a parent, grandparent or have parenting experience??  
Would you like to make a difference to a family??

**Home-Start** is a voluntary organisation supporting families with a young child under five who are struggling. We recruit volunteers to visit families in their own home for a couple of hours each week, to offer emotional and practical support and friendship.

A Preparation Course will be starting on Wednesday 14th March to run each Wednesday for eight weeks (excluding the Easter half term) completing on Wednesday 16th May. Expenses are paid.

**To find out more or to apply for a volunteer application pack please contact:-  
Home-Start Sutton on 020 8647 6501 ([admin@homestartsutton.org.uk](mailto:admin@homestartsutton.org.uk)).**

An enhanced DBS check and references will be undertaken. Home-Start Sutton positively encourages people with parenting skills from all sections of the community to volunteer.

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### **News just in....**

This week we awarded our first two silver merit mention certificates to two children in the juniors. This means that they have achieved 20 merit mentions since September. Well done to Zac and Charlie in Year 4; this is a fantastic achievement!