



# DEVONSHIRE DISPATCH

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

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20<sup>th</sup> February 2018

## Devonshire Diary

Y6 trip to the Buddhist Temple  
(Tuesday 20<sup>th</sup> February –  
Oak/Wednesday 21<sup>st</sup> February –  
Sycamore/Friday 23<sup>rd</sup> February –  
Willow)

Wednesday 21<sup>st</sup> February – PSA Bag 2  
school collection

Friday 23<sup>rd</sup> February – PSA own  
clothes day (wear your own clothes in  
exchange for either £1 or a teddy for  
the Foster a Fuzzy stall at the summer  
fayre)

Monday 26<sup>th</sup> February - Wear  
something green with your uniform  
in exchange for a donation to the  
NSPCC

Thursday 1<sup>st</sup> March – Y4 Easter  
experience

Wednesday 21<sup>st</sup> March (3.30 –  
6.30pm) - Parents' afternoon  
**A-Z club closed**

Thursday 22<sup>nd</sup> March (4.30 – 7.30pm)  
– Parents' evening  
**A-Z club closed**

Tuesday 27<sup>th</sup> March – Y5 residential  
to the Science Centre in Winchester

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

## Attendance

Last half term, there were 3 occasions where classes achieved 100% attendance in a week. Well done to Ash class, who had 100% for two consecutive weeks and Aspen class, who achieved it for one week; this is very impressive attendance and it was lovely to see the children's excitement as they did the register each day, desperate to see if 100% attendance for the week was still a possibility. All children are very aware of our attendance target as we talk about it at least once a week in assembly and it will be talked about in class but Ash and Aspen's attitude to their attendance is to be commended. Attendance is currently at 95.5% and Woodpeckers, Ash, Cherry, Sycamore and Oak have won the attendance award for the last half term by having the most number of weeks where they met or exceeded our attendance target of 96%.

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

## Attendance letters

We will be sending out letters this week to parents/carers of children whose attendance has fallen below 90% at the end of the Autumn Term. In many cases you will have contacted the school to advise the reason for your child's absence and if not you will have been asked for a reason as this is a legal requirement. The purpose of these letters is to highlight your child's current attendance so that you can be mindful of how quickly sessions missed have an effect on your child's attendance percentage.

## Sports leaders

This week, I will be giving our sports leaders their badges and they will be wearing them with pride. Our sports leaders are children from Year 6 who organise activities for younger children at lunchtime. This year, our sports leaders are Maddison, Jeet, Lina, Sarah, Mya Grey, Dylan, Marissa, Sophia, Hayley, Nicol, Freddie, Mia, Alex, Diyora, Harry, Bright, Laura and Jeet.

## Swimming

Miss Newton, our PE leader, has details of a swimming gala that some of our children (Year 4 upwards) may be interested in entering and being part of the Devonshire team. Children must be able to swim 25 metres competently and confidently and know the ASA swimming rules. If your child would be interested in being part of the Devonshire team, please can you email Miss Newton, using the school email address, with details of their age, stroke and times so that she can see if they would qualify.

## Chess news

We are very proud of our under 11 Devonshire chess team – Hayley (Year 6), Beatrice (Year 5) and Avrora (Year 3). They entered a chess competition of over 60 other teams and although they did not qualify they all played very well, especially as most of the other teams were made up of children who were all in Year 6. Well done girls!  
It was also good to hear that some former Devonshire children who are now in Year 7 are playing in the under 19 section, a tremendous achievement.  
Thank you Mr Buckley for all of your hard work with our chess club.

## Parent Pay accounts

Please ensure that your child's parent pay account, which is used to pay for dinner money and school trips, is always in credit. If you have any queries, please speak to the office.

**Top of the Form**

On the Tuesday before half term, our Top of the Form team won their match against St Elpheges. The team (Sophia, Hari, Iniyaa and Tanuri) had to answer a series of general knowledge questions, some of which were very tricky. Winning this match means that they are now through to the quarter final.

**New parent governor**

Welcome to Mr Shiyamin Mohamed who is our new parent governor. He recently attended his first governor's meeting. We hope that he will enjoy being part of the governing body.

**On line safety**

As part of the computing curriculum, all children have e-safety lessons and children in Years 5 and 6 have additional e-safety sessions with the local authority e-safety adviser. While the internet is incredibly useful, it is vital that children know how to stay safe on line. There have been recent concerns in the press about the gaming app Roblox, with reports of children seeing inappropriate images and the messaging facility allowing children to be contacted by strangers. It would be worthwhile checking if your child has a Roblox account and the restrictions that you have set on it to ensure that your child does not encounter these issues. Please always monitor your child if they are playing or working on line.

**Road safety**

Before half term, whilst crossing the road with a buggy at the Brighton Road end of Devonshire Avenue, one of our parents was nearly hit by a car entering Devonshire Avenue at quite a speed. Obviously, this was very frightening for the parent who fortunately wasn't hit by the car but so easily could have been. Devonshire Avenue is very busy at certain times of the day, not only with cars but pedestrians. Please take the time to ensure the safety of other road users; whether they be cars or families crossing the roads. We need every member of the Devonshire community to be safe whilst travelling to and from school.

**Marsden March**

The annual Marsden March is taking place on Sunday 4<sup>th</sup> March. It raises money for the Royal Marsden cancer charity, which is a very important cause and one that is very close to the heart of many members of the Devonshire community. Mrs Love is taking part in the Marsden March and has set up a just giving page to raise money for this charity, [www.justgiving.com/fundraising/gobracken](http://www.justgiving.com/fundraising/gobracken). She would be very grateful if you were able to make a donation through this page but is also just as happy to accept loose change donations via the school office.

**World Thinking Day**

On Thursday 22<sup>nd</sup> February, it is World Thinking Day. This is a day where rainbows, brownies, guides and girl scouts think about the impact of guiding around the world. Any rainbows, brownies, guides or girl scouts are welcome to wear their uniform to school that day to celebrate World Thinking Day.

**ASD evening**

On Monday 26<sup>th</sup> February (6.30 – 8.30pm), Rebecca Duffus from the Sutton Autism Spectrum Disorder service will be in school to talk to parents of children with social communication difficulties, with or without diagnoses. It is a good opportunity to hear about strategies, support that is available in the local area and meet other parents.

**Mr Cunningham**

Over half term we heard that Mr Cunningham, the first Headteacher of Devonshire, had passed away. He was the Headteacher from 1968 until 1988. Ex-pupils will have very fond memories of Mr Cunningham and over the course of the 20 years that he was Headteacher, he was responsible for the education of thousands of children in the local community. This year we will be celebrating Devonshire's 50<sup>th</sup> birthday, and with Mr Cunningham having been Headteacher for 20 of those years, he has been a large part of Devonshire's history.