



DEVONSHIRE DISPATCH

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9th March 2018

Devonshire Diary

Monday 12th March – whole school photo

Wednesday 14th March (2.30pm) – KS1 maths workshop for parents

Wednesday 21st March (9.05am/2.30pm) - KS2 SATS meeting for Y6 parents (same content in both meetings)

Wednesday 21st March (3.30 – 6.30pm) - Parents' afternoon
A-Z club closed

Thursday 22nd March (4.30 – 7.30pm) – Parents' evening
A-Z club closed

Friday 23rd March - (9.05am/2.15pm) KS1 SATS meeting for Y2 parents (same content in both meetings)

Friday 23rd March PSA own clothes day

Tuesday 27th March/Wednesday 28th March – Y5 residential

Wednesday 28th March – last day of term for Nursery

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

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

Tuesday 17th April – term starts

Attendance

Attendance is standing firm at 95.5% but we will need some excellent attendance over the remaining weeks if we are to increase this figure.

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

Mrs Bartram

Snow closure

Many thanks for your support and understanding when we had to close the school last week due to the snow and the snow that was forecast to fall.

The decision to close was made taking into account the safety of all members of the Devonshire community - children, staff and parents.

The decision as to whether the school is to close needs to be made as early as possible, so we are reliant on the weather forecast at the point that the decision is made. It is a difficult decision to make and one that is not made lightly. I understand the implications that this decision has on childcare arrangements, which is why it is made as early as possible and in the case of Friday's closure, I let parents know the night before because the forecast of heavy snowfall was very definite. Fortunately, we do not have snow often so having to close the school is a very rare occurrence.

I think we are all very glad the snow and Storm Emma have passed and we can look forward to spring and warmer weather.

Our midday supervisors

We have a very effective team within the Devonshire community who work tirelessly each lunchtime to make sure that it is a happy, fun and safe time of the day and that every one of our 660 children (Reception – Year 6) has their lunch. They are a team who you do not necessarily see or quite possibly hear as much about but they are essential to the smooth running of the school day. In Key Stage 2 we have 13 midday supervisors and in Reception and Key Stage 1 we have 11 so the children are very well catered for at lunchtime. Our midday supervisors all wear visibility bands so that children can easily find them in the playground should they need to speak to them and they are always there to help our children, play with them and are very good at spotting those who are looking lonely or unhappy. They communicate with the teachers at the end of each lunchtime before they hand the children back to them.

Top of the Form

Well done to our Top of the Form team who are now in the semi-final of the competition, having won their last match.

Uniform reminders

- Long hair must be tied back.
- Ties are part of the winter uniform for Key Stage 2 children.

Travel plan

As the weather turns warmer, why not dust off that bike or scooter and get moving in the mornings? Leaving the car at home or parked a little away from the school helps us to keep Devonshire Avenue clearer and safer in the mornings, as well as cutting down pollution levels outside of the school gates. We have several bike and scooter parks at the front of the school, and children who scoot or cycle to school could win themselves a free reflector to help themselves be seen!

Miss Leitch and Mrs Sage (Travel plan leaders)

Parking - Devonshire House

I had a conversation with a resident of Devonshire House last week about our parents parking in the car park belonging to these flats. Residents are regularly having their allocated parking spaces used by our parents and are regularly being blocked in by our parents when they need to leave. Please do not park in this car park. I understand that Devonshire Avenue gets very busy at the start and end of the school day but parking in the car park is not the answer. We work so hard to maintain and develop good relations with our neighbours; using their car park is compromising our relationship with the residents of Devonshire House.

World Book Day

Every classroom door has been decorated in the style of a particular book. Children have also had the opportunity to participate in our extreme reading competition. You would be amazed at some of the unusual places that our children have been reading books. Although the school was closed on World Book Day, the children have taken part in activities to celebrate this day and the importance of reading, albeit not on the day itself.

Active for 15

We are introducing a new initiative at Devonshire to encourage children to become more active. At least 3 times a week, children will have a 15 minute session where they will be physically active. They will be taking part in a variety of activities and it will not necessarily be the same activity each session. Research has shown that not only is this initiative effective in raising children's fitness levels but it also increases children's concentration in the classroom and children enjoy the social aspect of the activities.

A-Z message

If your child/ren attend the A-Z Breakfast or After School Club on a Thursday or Friday please can you deduct the fees for these two days off the fees for the next half term (17th April - 25th May 2018). This is due to the closure of the school because of the snow.

Special Educational Needs drop in advice group

On Monday 19th March, Mark Brown, an expert in a range of issues including toileting, sleep, behaviour, obsessions, puberty and much more, is holding a drop in group for parents where they can ask him for advice and meet other parents. It is taking place between 10 – 12pm in the coffee lounge at Wallington United Reform Church, Stanley Park Road, Wallington.

Sutton Dyslexia Association

On Wednesday 21st March 2018 at 8 p.m., the Sutton Dyslexia Association have a session with Professor Bruce Evans on 'Dyslexia and Vision'. This is taking place at The Friends Meeting House, 10 Cedar Road, Sutton, Surrey.

School nurse advice sessions

Our school nurse will be delivering 2 parent talks next term.

Friday 20th April (9am) – 'Eat Well', all about healthy eating and healthy lifestyle choices.

Friday 8th June (9am) - 'Emotional well-being'.

All parents are welcome to attend, including pre-school siblings.