



DEVONSHIRE DISPATCH

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6th July 2018

Devonshire Diary

July

Monday 9th and Tuesday 10th – Muscular Dystrophy Move a Mile event (see letter sent home)

Wednesday 11th – Y3 trip

Wednesday 11th - Reception sing a long (9.05am and 2.00pm)

Thursday 12th (1.45pm) - Y1 carnival

Thursday 12th (after school)/Friday 13th (before school) – KS2 art show in the infant hall

Thursday 12th (7pm) – Y6 show

Friday 13th - Y6 trip

Friday 13th – Y4 and 5 trip to The Big Bang

Friday 13th – Y2 to 3 transition meeting for parents of Y2 children (9.05am and 2.15pm)

Friday 13th July - reports sent home

Friday 13th July (after school)/Monday 16th July (before school) - EYFS and KS1 art show in the infant hall.

Tuesday 17th - EYFS fun day

Tuesday 17th (7pm) - music concert

Thursday 19th – last day of term for Nursery

Friday 20th – last day of term (1.20pm for Reception and Key Stage 1 and 1.30pm for KS2) No A-Z (after school) on this day.

Attendance

Attendance has fallen very slightly to 95.6% (until 29th June 2018). Chaffinches chose to celebrate their winning attendance last half term with games on the field and a small party and film in class. The class with the best overall attendance so far is Sycamore, closely followed by Ash. Well done to the children and families in those classes. Seven classes are above our minimum attendance target of 96%, although there are a few classes who are very close to achieving our target. With sustained attendance for the remaining days of this term, we can hopefully have a few more classes reaching 96%.

District Sports

Our athletics team represented Devonshire at the borough District Sports competition. There were 14 schools taking part and teams included children from Years 3 to Year 6. Our team behaved impeccably at the event and demonstrated excellent sportsmanship; working together as a team and cheering each other on. The children all did very well; in fact the boys won the overall boys' trophy in the competition. The children had spent their lunchtimes practising, especially the relay team and their hard work certainly paid off. Thank you to Miss Newton and Mrs Rouse who trained the team.

Sports Morning

We have had 3 successful sports mornings which the children thoroughly enjoyed and I hope that the families did too. Thank you for your patience when we had to change the date or times for two of them. The children's well being was at the centre of our decision making.

New classes

By now, you will know which class your children will be moving in to next year and which teacher and teaching assistant will be working with them. We are sad to be saying goodbye to Mrs Wood (one of our assistant headteachers), Miss Lindop (a Year 5 teacher) and Miss Lee (a Year 2 teacher) at the end of the school year. They will be missed by everyone in the Devonshire community; they have worked very hard to ensure the best possible outcomes for the children that they work with. Mrs Spearman began her maternity leave at the end of June; we look forward to hearing her exciting news. Mrs Logue and Miss O'Mahony will be returning from their maternity leave before the end of term. In September, we will be welcoming Mrs Harrison (assistant headteacher), Miss Byfield (Year 5 teacher), Miss Messenger (Year 3 teacher) and Miss Walton (Year 1 teacher) to the Devonshire team. They are looking forward to joining the Devonshire team and I know they will be made to feel very welcome.

Questionnaires

Thank you to the families who have returned their questionnaires. The results are analysed carefully and we take on board not only the results but also the suggestions made on the questionnaires. If you have not returned yours already, please do so as soon as possible.

Devonshire House

Last week I had a phone call from a very upset resident of Devonshire House. She had asked a parent, who was blocking the entrance to their car park, to move their car so that she could leave the car park and get to work. The parent (a lady) was extremely abusive and caused considerable upset. I had to apologise on behalf of the parent but I could in no way justify the behaviour that the resident was describing. As a school, we work so hard to maintain good relationships with our neighbours. Actions like this undo all of the good work that we do. Please do not park in the car park of Devonshire House or block the entrance to Devonshire House and most importantly treat the residents with respect.

Traffic in Devonshire Avenue

Please can I remind you of the following:

- Do not park on the yellow zig zag lines
- Do not drop your child off whilst your car has momentarily stopped on the road and in doing so, allow your child to get out of the car directly on to the road.

Our children's safety is of paramount importance; please allow a little more time for the school run rather than take a risk that could compromise children's safety.

Christ Church

At the weekend, I went to the Christ Church summer fayre. Whilst there, I was shown their community garden at the back of their site. Anyone from the community is welcome to use it. It is a lovely sized safe playing space with wonderful play equipment in it. An ideal place to visit during the summer holidays.

School uniform reminder

From September, we are changing the summer uniform so that the top is a polo shirt only, rather than a white shirt or a polo shirt. Children can wear summer uniform until the October half term.

Younger siblings

If you are waiting for your child at the end of the school and have a younger child with you, please ensure that they stay with you whilst you wait. The teacher's priority at the end of the school day is to safely dismiss their class but this is made more difficult if younger children are playing where the children are waiting to be dismissed. For safety reasons, the areas that are used for classes to be dismissed from must be kept clear and only used for this purpose. Thank you in advance for your co-operation.

Parents' evening

Next school year we are changing the way that we organise parents' evening. Rather than there being 2 parents' evenings each term, there will be one longer session. There will still be sufficient appointments for the parents of every child to have an appointment and later appointments available for parents who need them. On the 16th October and 26th March, school will close early (1.20pm – Reception and Key Stage 1 and 1.30pm – Key Stage 2) and parents' evening appointments will start at 2pm and go through until 8pm. Please put these dates in your diaries, not only because it is parents' evening but also because the school is closing early. There will be no A-Z (after school) club on these dates.

Summer Fair

The PSA summer fair was a great day. Thank you to everyone who supported the fair; whether it be by attending, providing a donation on mufti day or selling raffle tickets. A particular thanks must go to the PSA who have worked tirelessly for many months to make the fair as successful as it was and to the parents, staff and friends who helped man a stall at the fair. Thank you also to Patricia Shepherd who sponsored the fair and Radio St Helier who provided the music and commentary during the event. We will let you know as soon as we know how much money we have raised.

Birthdays

Please remember not to send in any food items for your child's birthday. There are two reasons for this request. Firstly, we are a healthy school and birthday foods tend to not be healthy food and secondly, and most importantly, we have children with severe allergies to certain types of food and we cannot guarantee the contents of foods sent in for birthdays.

Lost property

Our lost property is very full at the moment! If your child has lost something, please come and have a look in lost property as it may well be there. Any items unclaimed at the end of the term will be recycled. Please ensure that your child's items are named, it makes it much easier to make sure that any lost items are returned to the right child.

School meals

From September 2018 school meals will be increasing by 5p a day. School meals will be £2.25 (£11.25 a week). Please remember that your child's dinner money account must be in credit at all times. Payments are to be made via ParentPay.