



DEVONSHIRE DISPATCH

www.devonshireprimary.org

Twitter - @DevonshireSM2

5th November 2018

Devonshire Diary

Wednesday 7th/Thursday 8th

November - School photos

Thursday 8th November – Year 1 trip to The Wildlife Centre

Friday 9th November – Year 4 trip to Butser Farm

Week beginning 12th November - Anti bullying week

Tuesday 13th November (9.15am) – Phonics meeting for Reception parents

Wednesday 14th November (2.15pm) - Phonics meeting for Year 1 parents

Wednesday 14th November – flu vaccinations for children from Reception to Year 5 (for parents that have consented to their child having it)

Thursday 15th November - Parent workshop led by Mrs Harrison and Mrs Green

Friday 16th November – Children in Need Mufti

Friday 16th November – PSA disco

Wednesday 21st November - Anti bullying workshop for all children from Year 2 upwards

Thursday 29th November (9am) – School Nurse workshop for parents “Supporting your child’s journey through school”

Attendance

Attendance, including punctuality, is one of the key areas that we are focusing on this year. These 2 areas of school life are essential for children to reach their potential

Each week in assembly, we celebrate classes who have attendance for the week that is over 96%. Over the course of the last half term, Larks and Chestnut had 96% for the most number of weeks. They will be choosing their special treat as a reward for this achievement.

Last half term, we had 6 classes who achieved 100% attendance for at least one week. This is very impressive. Overall, the school attendance is 96.6%

Punctuality

I am still concerned about the number of children who are arriving at school after the bell has gone and are therefore late and missing learning. Last week we had our first late gate where we spoke to parents/carers about why they were late for school. 22 children arrived to school after the bell had gone that day.

Enrichment Day

Another key area that we are focusing on this year is enrichment; providing children with opportunities to enrich their learning and understanding of concepts. Each half term, we will be having an enrichment day where the day is given over to such activities. Our first enrichment day was just before half term and the school was buzzing with practical learning that day.

Reception had a party for their class bear that they had been planning all week

Year 1 had a DT day, making fair ground rides

Year 2 created art work using resources from nature

Year 3 had a day creating artwork in the style of Matisse

Year 4 made jelly, ice cream and rice krispies

Year 5 had a science day

Year 6 designed and made their own slippers

The children thoroughly enjoyed the day, had a lot of fun and most importantly learnt a lot.

Behaviour

Behaviour is another key area that we are focusing on this year. Year 5 had their residential to The Winchester Science Centre just before half term. They had a great time and their behaviour was a credit to themselves and the school. Upon the children’s return, Mr Wells received an email from the manager at the centre which said ‘Your children are always so well behaved and well mannered, a real testament to their teachers!’

Thank you to Mr Wells who organised the trip and to Miss Byfield, Mrs Harris, Mrs Reddy, Mrs Scrivens and Mrs Byfield who accompanied them.

Annie

Ann O'Connor (Annie) is a lady who had been part of the Devonshire community for 18 years. Sadly, she passed away at the end of September. During her 18 years at Devonshire, she worked as part of the lunchtime team and most recently as part of the school cleaning team. She always had a big smile on her face and took the time to ask how everyone was. I attended her funeral just before half term which was a lovely celebration of her life and sent a floral tribute from everyone at Devonshire.

e-cadets

We are proud to announce that we have become an eCadet school. The eCadets is an award winning programme which trains, empowers and supports a team of pupils to keep their friends safe online. The programme is run by a team of parents, former law enforcement officers and teachers. If you would like to know more please visit: <https://ecadet.zone> or look at their Twitter account: @ecadets
Mr Cox (computing leader)

Uniform

All children should now be wearing winter uniform, which for Key Stage 2 children includes a tie with their shirt. We expect all children to have their shirts tucked in whilst at school; please help us by ensuring that your child arrives at school with their shirts tucked in.

Now that the weather has become colder, please ensure that your child/children have a coat in school with them; unless it is raining, they will be going out to play. Also please ensure that all uniform is named.

Parent governor vacancies

We have a very supportive governing body, made up of 12 governors with additional associate members. The 12 governors include a local authority representative, 3 co-opted governors, a staff governor, the Headteacher and 5 parent governors. We currently have vacancies for parent governors.

A parent governor must have:

- ✓ An interest in improving the futures of all children
- ✓ A desire to make a difference
- ✓ A willingness to take responsibility
- ✓ An ability to work in a team, ask questions, listen and learn.

If this is something that you would be interested in, please look out for the nomination forms that have been sent home with the children this term.

Social media

Social media is a wonderful way to share information. We use Twitter to share information about things that have been happening in school.

It has become such a feature of day to day life that last year we amended our home school agreement to include the use of social media as an element of it; both in the parent/carers and the pupils section. We spend a lot of time talking to our Year 5 and 6 children about the importance of thinking carefully about what they write when communicating on social media as it has the potential to cause upset and unnecessary negativity, often without having all of the information about what they are discussing on social media.

Please can I remind you that if you have a concern about an element of school life, please come and speak to us about it so that we can work together to find a solution. We all have the same outcomes at the centre of all that we do; the best possible outcomes for your children and this happens most effectively when families and school work together.

Mobile Phones

Starting this week, we would like the school grounds to become a 'mobile free' zone. This is so that you can see your children into and home from school with a smile and give them your full attention. We realise that there will be occasions where you will need to take an urgent call and we fully respect this, but we would ask for your support in following the new school policy on not using mobile phones in this area and being great role models for your children in terms of phone usage. Our children have designed banners about the use of mobile phones and these are now displayed on the school gates.

Poppies

The Poppy Appeal is the Royal British Legion's biggest fundraising campaign held every year in November, the period of Remembrance. We will be supporting the appeal by selling poppies (paper, reflective and metal) and stationery items (pencils, erasers, sharpeners and rulers) with suggested donations of between 50p and £2 depending on the item. Mrs Love will be selling the Poppy Appeal merchandise before and after school every day this week. Members of the school council will be selling paper poppies in school.

Christmas dates

Wednesday 5th December (9.15am/2.15pm) – Year 2 Christmas show

Friday 7th December – PSA Christmas event

Tuesday 11th December (9.15am/2.15pm) – Reception Christmas show

Wednesday 12th December – Pantomime day, all children to see a performance of Dick Whittington

Thursday 13th December (9.15am/2.15pm) – Year 1 Christmas show

Friday 14th December – Christmas Jumper Day

Tuesday 18th December (7pm) - Key Stage 2 Carol Service at Christ Church

Wednesday 19th December – Christmas dinner day

Wednesday 19th December (11am/2.15pm) – Nursery Christmas sing-a-long

Thursday 20th December – Christmas party day

Thursday 20th December – last day of term for Nursery

Friday 21st December – last day of term for Reception upwards (school finishes at 1.20pm for Reception and KS1 and 1.30pm for KS2)

Questions to ask your children

In the last newsletter, I wrote about the importance of talking to your child about their day at school and using a variety of questions to prompt a conversation linked to an element of their day.

My suggested question for this newsletter is 'What was the most interesting thing that you learnt today?'

Music lessons

At Devonshire, children can access piano, flute, recorder, violin and guitar lessons. These lessons are at an additional cost to parents but happen during the school day so are very convenient for parents/carers. If you have signed your child up for these lessons, please make sure that you read the terms and conditions in the contract that the teacher gives you as you will be expected to adhere to them. There have been occasions where the teachers have not received payment or parents have stopped lessons without the correct amount of notice as set out in the contract which is extremely unfair as this is their livelihood and not paying means that they are not getting their salary for the lessons that they deliver.

Individual and sibling photos

This year's photos will be taken over two days, Wednesday 7th and Thursday 8th November. Please make sure that your children are in their full winter uniform and look particularly smart on those days.