



DEVONSHIRE DISPATCH

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28th January 2019

Devonshire Diary

Wednesday 30th January – Year 1 visit to Christ Church

Wednesday 30th January (2.30pm) – Reception stay and play

Monday 4th February – Year 5 safer internet sessions

Monday 4th February (6.30pm) – Parents' meeting in the Key Stage 1 hall 'Knowing the dangers that your children face on line' with the local authority e-safety adviser

Thursday 7th February – Year 5 RE day

Thursday 7th February – Year 6 trip to the Buddhist Temple (Pine and Oak)

Tuesday 12th February – Year 3 trip to Beddington Park

Monday 18th – Friday 22nd February – half term

Wednesday 27th February – Year 6 trip to the Buddhist Temple (Sycamore and Willow)

Tuesday 26th March – parents' consultation sessions (school closes at 1.20pm for Reception and Key Stage 1 and at 1.30pm for Key Stage 2)

Friday 5th April - end of Spring term (school closes at 1.20pm for Reception and Key Stage 1 and at 1.30pm for Key Stage 2)

Attendance

Attendance for the school as a whole is 96.3%.

There are 15 classes with attendance that is above our target of 96% - Wrens, Woodpeckers, Nightingales, Larks, Chaffinches, Eagles, Birch, Cedar, Cherry, Chestnut, Holly, Hazel, Pine, Oak and Willow. In the first week of this term, 2 classes had 100% attendance, a fantastic achievement. Well done Birch and Chaffinches!

This year, we are also focusing on punctuality. It is very concerning that since the start of this term, 86 children have arrived late to school at least once. When a child is late, they are missing out on learning, and teachers, teaching assistants, office staff and the kitchen team have their working routine disrupted as they have to amend registers and explain to the child what they have missed. Please make sure that your child gets to school on time. We will be starting our fortnightly late gate this week.

Children who are late must be signed in by whoever has brought them to school; please do not leave your child to sign themselves in or stop momentarily in the road whilst your child gets out of the car and walks in to school. Your children's safety is of paramount importance.

School Development

At the start of the new term it is a good opportunity to remind you of our key areas of development for this school year.

Attendance

- For attendance to exceed the national average (96%)
- To decrease the number of children arriving late for school

Behaviour

- To ensure that behaviour is consistent throughout the day.

Challenge

- To ensure that all children are provided with opportunities that challenge them and their thinking

Enrichment

- To encourage children to be independent and self-motivated learners by providing them with opportunities to apply and embed their knowledge.

Top of the Form

On Monday 14th January, 4 of our Year 6 children represented Devonshire in the Top of the Form competition. They were asked a variety of tricky general knowledge questions, with each round being on a different area of general knowledge. In total they had 40 questions to answer and demonstrated a wealth of knowledge. The team were excellent ambassadors for Devonshire and worked very well as a team. They scored 48 points and although they were narrowly beaten by another school's team, we were very proud of their efforts.

Small Change, Big Difference

Devonshire is currently working on making small changes that will make a big difference. Hazel class have been working on the importance of reducing the amount of food that we waste. They have shared their learning with the rest of the school in assembly. Many parents are completing food waste diaries as part of the campaign. Look out for more news about our work on this very important project.

Extra-curricular activities

At Devonshire, learning doesn't just happen in the classroom, we have a variety of extra-curricular activities that happen before school, at lunchtime or after school. In fact we have 30 different extra-curricular activities each week.

We have extended the number this term to also include lunchtime activities that are available for the children to participate in. In the parents' questionnaire, parents/carers asked whether we could extend the number of activities for the younger children. We have done this and the following activities are offered to our younger children – colouring club, construction club, 'cartoonation' club, gymnastics, musical theatre, drama academy, sewing club and art club.

Data collection sheets

Each child will be bringing their data collection sheet home in the next few weeks; please check them carefully and ensure that all of the information is correct and only return them to the school office if changes need to be made.

Parent Workshops

We received very positive feedback from our recent parent workshop on our new PSHE scheme 'Jigsaw'. Our next parent workshop will be taking place on the 3rd July at 2pm. This will be the final workshop of the year and in direct response to parent feedback, the focus will be responding to children's anxieties.

Please do join us at our e-safety parents' meeting on Monday 4th February at 6.30pm in the infant hall. This is a very important topic. It is vital that we know the dangers that children can face on line and that we educate them about how to stay safe when using the internet. It will also focus on ways you can support your child to stay safe online.

School trips

School trips are a very valuable part of the curriculum; they enhance and enrich the children's learning. We recognise that they are an additional cost to families but we work hard to source the best value in terms of where the trip is and how we get there. In many cases, Key Stage 2 use public transport which reduces the costs of the trip and we use the local area for many of our trips. We can only continue with trips if we receive sufficient parental contributions. We do not have the capacity within the school budget to fund the trips. If the costs of the school trip are not able to be covered then we have to make a decision as to whether the trip can go ahead. On each trip letter it gives you details of what to do and who to speak to if you are struggling to make the contribution for your child.

Parent governor vacancy

Our governors are a very effective group who work with the senior leadership team to pursue the school's key objectives and through this ensure that the highest standards of teaching and learning are maintained so that the children have the best possible outcomes. They are a very important part of the Devonshire community. We currently have 2 vacancies for parent governors on our governing body. If this is a role that you would be interested in, please look out for the information being sent home about how to apply to become a parent governor and if you have any questions about the role; please do not hesitate to ask.

Flute news

Congratulations to the children below who have been successful in the flute exams that they have recently taken Manishi (grade 4), Samarth (grade 3), Archisha (grade 3) and Helena (grade 2),

School uniform

Please can we remind you that boots should not be worn as part of the school uniform. We have noticed a number of children wearing boots. If your child needs to wear boots to school, they must bring in their school shoes to change into once they are in school. We want children to be proud members of the Devonshire community and part of this is wearing the correct uniform.