



# DEVONSHIRE DISPATCH

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

Twitter - @DevonshireSM2

25<sup>th</sup> March 2019

## Devonshire Diary

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

Tuesday 26<sup>th</sup> March – no A-Z (after school) club

Tuesday 26<sup>th</sup> March – Nursery closed

Friday 29<sup>th</sup> March – PSA mufti day (bring £1 or a bottle)

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

Tuesday 23<sup>rd</sup> April – INSET day (school closed for children)

Wednesday 24<sup>th</sup> April – first day of the summer term

Monday 6<sup>th</sup> May – Bank Holiday (school closed)

Monday 13<sup>th</sup> - Thursday 16<sup>th</sup> May – Year 6 SATs

Monday 27<sup>th</sup> – Friday 31<sup>st</sup> May – half term

Monday 3<sup>rd</sup> June – INSET day (school closed for children)

Tuesday 23<sup>rd</sup> July – end of the Summer 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 95.9%.

There are 12 classes with attendance that is above our target of 96% - Woodpeckers, Nightingales, Eagles, Chaffinches, Larks, Birch, Cedar, Chestnut, Cherry, Holly, Hazel, and Pine. Congratulations to Hazel class who had 100% attendance last week.

At the half way point through the school year, 120 children have 100% attendance and have been awarded a certificate to mark this achievement. Well done!

Punctuality continues to be monitored. Last week, only 3 classes had every child arriving at school on time for all 5 days of the school week. We need to aim for all classes to have this level of punctuality. For that to happen, every family needs to take responsibility for getting to school on time. Remember our school gates open at 8.40am and close at 8.55am; arriving after 8.55am means that children are late and therefore missing out on learning.

## World Book Day

On Thursday 7<sup>th</sup> March we celebrated World Book Day at Devonshire Primary! World book day is a celebration of authors, illustrators, books and (most importantly) it's a celebration of reading. It was fantastic seeing many of the children and staff dressed up as their favourite characters.

As you know, we love a competition here at Devonshire, so, inspired by either a well-known or favourite book, each class decorated their classroom door. The winning classes were: Oak, Sycamore and Wrens. Congratulations!

We are also currently reading as much as possible to contribute 'minutes' to Achievement for All's 200 Million Minutes challenge. 'The 200 Million Minutes Reading Challenge aims to encourage a love of reading and make sure all children and young people, irrespective of their background, challenge or need, are engaging with literacy and lead brighter futures.' The Devonshire community have currently read a combined total of 44,028 minutes – but I'm sure we can improve on that! I look forward to seeing lots of children clocking up more reading minutes in the next 8 days.

Mrs Scrivens

## Time Tables Rock Stars

When it comes to times tables, speed and accuracy is important – the more facts you remember the easier it is for your brain to do harder calculations. Everyone from years 2 to 6 now has a Times Tables Rockstars login. If you have not done so already, go to [www.ttrockstars.com](http://www.ttrockstars.com), create your avatar and start rocking! You can play in tournaments, arenas or simply improve upon your personal best each time. You can challenge your friends or even your teachers! The quicker and more accurate you are, the closer you get to becoming a Times Table Rock Star. "It's a great way to learn your times tables and have fun at the same time" (Year 4 Devonshire Pupil). If you have any questions please speak to your class teacher or Mrs Love.

### **Health and Safety**

At the start and end of the school day, if you have younger children with you when you are waiting at the school gate, please ensure that they stay with you. The areas where parents/carers wait to collect children are busy places; it is essential that you know where your child is and that you do not allow them to run around amongst the parents waiting, or climb on walls which are not designed to be climbed on. Our priority is safely dismissing the school children at the end of the school day but we are finding that we are increasingly having to monitor the actions of younger siblings.

When crossing roads on the way to or from school, please ensure that you are with your children rather than having them walking a couple of metres ahead or behind you. I was made aware of a recent incident where one of our children was almost hit by a car because there was a significant distance between them and their parent and the child was wandering across the road without looking and because of this distance the parent was unaware of this near-miss.

If your child has their ears pierced, please ensure that they do not wear earrings on days that they have PE or swimming and only stud earrings on all other days.

### **Travel plan news**

From the 25<sup>th</sup> March until the end of term, Devonshire staff and pupils will be taking part in the Sustrans Big Pedal event. Sustrans Big Pedal is the UK's largest inter-school cycling, walking and scooting challenge that inspires pupils, staff and parents to choose 'human power' for their journey to school. If Devonshire have over 15% of the community using 'human power' to get to school then we will be entered into a draw each day that this happens and could win prizes to support school travel and the chance to win the Sustrans big pedal trophy.

In the last couple of weeks, Devonshire children have been designing a walk to school badge to be entered into a national competition. The winning designs will be turned into more than 400,000 badges! The theme of the designs had to be inventions that changed the world so the children had to think carefully about their chosen invention before drawing them on a badge.

### **Chess news**

Well done to Aathiran who recently competed in a chess tournament and won 3 out of 5 of his matches even though he was in some cases competing with children who were 2 years older than him.

### **Impressive effort and attitude to learning**

Year 6 is a particularly important year; not only is the children's last year in primary education but it is also an opportunity for the children to embed the skills that are going to make their transition to the next stage in their education as smooth as possible. We have been talking to the children about the importance of their attitude to learning and the impact that this will have on the progress that they make and the success that they will have. To recognise the efforts that Year 6 are putting in to their learning, the Year 6 staff team have been awarding children who demonstrate a particularly positive attitude to their learning and/or have demonstrated sustained effort in their learning with raffle tickets. Many Year 6 children earned a number of raffle tickets in the first week of this initiative and it was lovely to see the children's excitement at earning tickets themselves but also their enthusiasm for others who had earned a ticket(s). When I had lunch with Year 6, they were very keen to tell me who had earned raffle tickets. The first draw was made on Friday and Charlie from Pine class was the worthy winner of an Amazon voucher. Congratulations Charlie!

Year 6, the chance to earn raffle tickets and be entered in to the next draw has started again. Let's see who the next winner is!

### **Staffing news**

At the end of this term, Mrs Spiller retires from teaching at Devonshire. She has taught at Devonshire for a total of 20 years. Mrs Blackhall (teacher of Woodpeckers class) will be beginning her maternity leave next term. Mrs Bernardo will be teaching in Woodpeckers for the summer term.

Mrs Hadland has joined the office team; we know that she will be made to feel very welcome by everyone in the Devonshire community.

### Parents' evening

The Parents Booking System is still open to make a Parent Teacher Consultation appointment. Please log onto [www.devonshireprimary.org](http://www.devonshireprimary.org) and scroll down to Parent Consultation Afternoon to follow the link.

Parent Consultation appointments take place on Tuesday 26<sup>th</sup> March 2019 and the booking system closes on Monday 25<sup>th</sup> March 2019.

Mrs Paula Harrison (Assistant Head Inclusion) and Mrs Emma Green (Family Support Worker) will be available to make an appointment with. Please speak to the school office if you wish to make an appointment to see them.

Please note A-Z Club will be **CLOSED** after school on Tuesday 26<sup>th</sup> March due to the earlier start of parents evening. Please ensure you collect your child at **1:20pm for Reception – Year 2** or **1:30pm for Year 3 – Year 6**.

### High school places

Year 6 have recently found out which schools they will be moving on to in September.

These schools include: Overton Grange, Harris Academy, Greenshaw, Stanley Park, Wallington County Grammar, Sutton Grammar, Carshalton Boys Sports College, Nonsuch, Woodcote High, Cheam High, Wilson's, Carshalton High for Girls Wallington High School for Girls, Whitgift and Carew Manor.

Mrs Scrivens and I offer an appointment to all Year 5 parents to discuss their child's transition to high school. These appointments are in June because some of the school's open evenings are in July with the remainder being in September and the final choices having to be made by the end of October. Year 5 parents - look out for the letters that will be sent home giving you further details of how to book an appointment.

### 2019/2020 term dates

#### Autumn term 2019

Tuesday 3<sup>rd</sup> September – first day of term for children (Monday 2<sup>nd</sup> September – INSET day)

Monday 21<sup>st</sup> – Friday 25<sup>th</sup> October – half term

Monday 28<sup>th</sup> October – INSET day (school closed for children)

Thursday 19<sup>th</sup> December – last day of term

#### Spring term 2020

Tuesday 7<sup>th</sup> January – first day of term for children (Monday 6<sup>th</sup> January – INSET day)

Monday 17<sup>th</sup> – Friday 21<sup>st</sup> February – half term

Friday 3<sup>rd</sup> April – last day of term

#### Summer term 2020

Tuesday 21<sup>st</sup> April - first day of term for children (Monday 20<sup>th</sup> April – INSET day)

Monday 25<sup>th</sup> – Friday 29<sup>th</sup> May – half term

Monday 1<sup>st</sup> June – INSET day (school closed)

Tuesday 21<sup>st</sup> July – last day of term

### Lost property

As we approach the end of term, please check if your child has lost anything which might have made its way to lost property. At the end term, the content of lost property is gone through and anything that is not named will be recycled.

### Sutton Little League

Trials for Sutton Little League are taking place on the first 3 Saturdays of May. If this is something that you are interested in finding more information about, please follow this link

<https://my.suttonlittleleaguefootball.com/Cms/Spaces/TRIALS/Sutton+Little+League+Football+Trials+2019>

### School photos

The last date to hand in orders for class photos is Wednesday 3<sup>rd</sup> April.