



Friday 2nd October

Dear Parents and families,

What another fantastic week at Dunsford Community Academy! The weather may have dulled slightly outside but our spirits have remained high and our enthusiasm for learning has soared inside!

I do hope that you are enjoying reading the class newsletters. I look forward to receiving them from teachers every week as it is a real celebration of exactly what the children have been learning and experiencing in every class. I would like to take this opportunity to thank our teachers and staff for all of the hard work and dedication that they put into ensuring that all children have the best possible learning experiences throughout the week and that they make progress. It is fabulous to see all of the different opportunities that the children engage with every week and to see them leaving each day with big smiles on their faces.

As you will have noticed, Mrs. Hedger and Miss. Holt have enjoyed spending time on the front gate this week getting to know you better and providing opportunities for enhanced communication. They have been welcomed with a smile and kind greeting from all parents and this has been lovely to see. Thank you also for ensuring that you have maintained social distancing measures during these times; it makes such a difference that you are able to support the school by adhering to the safety restrictions put into place.

As we move into the season of Autumn, I would like to remind you that your child(ren) will require a waterproof coat. I would also like to invite you to send in a pair of Wellington boots (if possible) so that the children can continue to access outdoor learning. Staff would love for the children to continue visiting the field and we don't want the changing weather to restrict this! If you are also able to, please could you send in a spare pair of socks or tights to ensure that your child can remain comfortable at all times. Please can I ask that any items of shoes or clothing that you send in to school are named- we are not always successful when playing 'guess the owner of the item!'

We are currently in the process of organising after school clubs. Thank you to those of you who took the time to express an interest in either multi-skills, forest school or both. We are currently calculating numbers and will be in a position to bring you more information regarding this next week!



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TOGETHER WE EMPOWER EXCELLENCE



For those of you who are not aware, my background is in that of music. I studied music at university and my instrument was my voice- I used to sing and perform opera! Why do I say this? I wanted you to know, as parents, that I am passionate about music and the curriculum provision that our pupils receive. We have resumed private music lessons already as our peripatetic music teacher has been able to resume in a way that is in-line with safety measures and restrictions. I am currently looking into ways to continue to develop our music provision further and we have already begun music lessons in Cedar class this week. Thank you for your patience as I work to ensure that we extend our music curriculum in a safe way. I absolutely recognise the importance of this curriculum subject and it is one that I will strive to develop over the coming weeks.

Thank you to those of you who have contacted the school to ask for support or explain technical issues with Google Classroom. I am hoping that, as teachers have worked with both you and the children this week, that you have started to overcome some of these difficulties. We want all children and parents to become as familiar and confident as possible with using Google Classroom in the event that we need to move to using remote learning. We will, of course, be sharing additional information regarding this to support you over the next few weeks in order that you have the opportunity to ask any questions and to clarify points. I would, however, like to say that I am very impressed with the time and effort that families have already put into navigating and using this online learning platform- thank you!

Finally I would like to take the time to give a special mention to Dunsford Community Academy PTFA. I was privileged to be invited to my first meeting this week and I was completely blown away by the hard work and dedication that this group of parents show for the children of our school. The enthusiasm and ideas to overcome our current restrictive situation and continue to raise funds and give back to the community were truly inspiring! I would urge anyone who would like to join a proactive, motivating body to speak with Mr. Corbett, Chair of the PTFA.

Challenge:

Last week I set families an autumnal challenge and I was extremely impressed to see the different creations which the children brought into school. Thank you to everyone who took part!

This week I would like you to use household recyclable items to create a musical instrument of your choice! This could be in the form of an existing instrument or an invention of your own. I can't wait to see what you are able to produce this week!



This leaves me at a point where I would like to wish you, from the whole of Dunsford Community Academy staff, a wonderful weekend and we look forward to seeing you on Monday.

Best wishes,

Mrs. Guntrip

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Head of Academy