



Friday 9th October

Dear Parents

I am writing to you this week as I have key information that I would like to share with you. I am hoping that, by writing this letter, you will be able to refer to this information as and when you need to and that you will also have the opportunity to ask any questions and gain clarity.

As always, please direct any questions to the admin email address at [dunsford@lapsw.org](mailto:dunsford@lapsw.org) or speak to myself or your child's class teacher directly.

### **COVID-19**

I understand that discussions surrounding COVID-19 are prevalent in the media at the moment. You may have also heard about infection rates within areas of South Devon and naturally you may have many questions. I would like to reassure you that, within school, we are continuing to work within the guidelines set by the government including frequent handwashing, using the catch it, bin it, kill it approach and following advice from Public Health England. We continue to advise that, if your child is experiencing any symptoms, that you do not attend school but that you call the school office and we will support you with the necessary steps that you need to take. This is a naturally worrying time for parents but please rest assured that we continue to work within the safety measures set to keep the children and staff safe. Please refer to our school website where you will also find a copy of our risk assessment. In addition to this, we would ask that you support us in **wearing a face covering from Monday** when you are dropping and collecting your child to and from school. This is to ensure that we are putting further measures into place which we feel will further keep our school community safe. It is also worth reminding parents at this moment of the importance of social distancing and the rule of six measures which have been set out by the government. It is so important that we are doing everything that we can at this time to prevent any cases of COVID-19 within our school community. Thank you for your support with this.

### **Parent's Evening**

It is hard to believe that we have almost reached the end of the first half term of this academic year. So many things have taken place in what feels like a short period of time and it is now time to reflect on, and celebrate, the academic year so far.

With this in mind, I wanted to take this opportunity to inform you about Parent's Evening which is taking place on both **Monday 19th October** and **Wednesday 21st October** and how this will be conducted.

Unfortunately, as much as we would like to, we will not be conducting face-to-face appointments for this first meeting. We do, however, highly value the importance of timely feedback and communication and we have therefore worked to ensure that we can still hold Parent's Evening meetings in some form.



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**TOGETHER WE EMPOWER EXCELLENCE**



Your child's class teacher will be using Google Classroom to hold virtual meetings with both you and your child(ren). It is important that we are able to discuss your child's progress with you, to celebrate their achievements so far and to discuss next steps as we move forwards into the next half term. I would like to reassure you that we will do all that we can to ensure that you have a positive experience despite the format looking different this year.

You will soon be able to book a **10 minute appointment** with the class teacher through Eduspot booking system. If you experience any difficulties using this system then please speak to Mrs. Sinton in the school office and she will be happy to support you.

Once you have been allocated an appointment time, you will be able to access the meeting via the meet link that will appear in Google Classroom. You will need to log into Google Classroom with your **child's login details** to access this link. To ensure confidentiality for all pupils and parents, please **do not click the link to join the meeting until your allocated time.** The class teacher leading the meeting will allow you into the meeting so please do not worry if you are 'waiting' to be permitted to join. We hope that you understand that this is to ensure the privacy of all and also so that you are able to make the most of your appointment time in a safe and secure way.

If your child/children is in Nursery or reception your appointment will be held on Google hangout. Please can you book via Eduspot also. You will then be sent a link for this appointment.

If you are unable to attend a virtual appointment on the days specified, please can you speak to the class teacher (or email the school admin account) and they will be more than happy to support you in organising an alternative appointment. If for any reason you will not be able to attend the appointment due to internet problems (and you would prefer a phone call) please can you also communicate with the class teacher regarding this.

### **Remote Learning Plan**

It is not that long ago, as you will remember, that schools were operating in a different way than usual due to COVID-19 lockdown restrictions. Whilst we are hoping that we will not be in this same situation again, this can obviously not be guaranteed.

You will also have noticed that the children have been practising using different apps in the Google Classroom suite (both in school and as part of home learning) and this is to ensure that they are familiar with using Google Classroom in the event that we are required to move to remote learning provision.



Along with this letter you will find a remote learning plan attached that will be a source of information for you in the event that we re-enter a lockdown or heightened restriction phase. This document outlines details to explain what remote learning is, what parents and children can expect in terms of the curriculum offer and feedback, information relating to the submission of work and finally the roles of teachers, parents and pupils in enabling the success of remote learning.

We are very fortunate as a school that we have been able to work with our partner schools across the trust to construct this remote learning plan and to be able to collaborate with other leaders and teachers.

Please do take the time to read the plan so that, in the event of remote learning beginning, you have had an opportunity to clarify and ask any questions.

Thank you once again for supporting your child/children to access Google Classroom. It is so beneficial that they have the opportunity to familiarise themselves once again with this learning platform in order that they will be able to gain the most from this.

### **After School Clubs**

Thank you to everyone who replied and expressed an interest in both the multi-skills and forest school after school clubs.

Multi-skills club will begin on Wednesday 14th October 2020. The dates are as follows:

Wednesday 14th October  
Wednesday 21st October  
Wednesday 4th November  
Wednesday 11th November  
Wednesday 18th November  
Wednesday 25th November  
Wednesday 2nd December  
Wednesday 9th December

The club will take place in the village hall and will be led by Mr. Coupe. Mr. Coupe will begin the session at 3:30pm and he will walk the children to the hall straight from school at the end of the day. Please can I ask that you collect your child promptly at 4:30pm when the club finishes as this is the end of our allocated session time in the hall.

In addition to this, we have updated our risk assessment to ensure that we remain working within the safety measures for COVID-19 as set out by the government. The risk assessment is on our website so please do take the time to look and and ask any questions you feel you may have.

For children wishing to attend this club, a letter will be sent home for Y2 – 6 on Monday. Please complete the consent form by Tuesday. This club will be on a 'first come first serve' basis and you can book this via Eduspot.



Mrs. Twelvetimes will be leading the Forest School after school club and she is intending to contact parents directly to organise this. This club will begin after the half term break.

### **Musical Experience**

As you are aware, we are currently unable to take trips and visits to see a live orchestra. This is a shame as we know how much the children at Dunsford love music. So, with this in mind, we are excited to be bringing a 'musical experience' to them!

Over the coming weeks, each class is going to have the opportunity for a musical cinematic experience within their classroom.

We are going to be showing the children an hour long recorded 'live stream' of the Bournemouth Symphony Orchestra. This is a concert that has been recently filmed and is accessible for schools to use in order that children may still have the opportunity to listen to a 'live' orchestra, discuss the different pieces of music, the instruments used and to appraise their experience.

We will be using the large screens in the classrooms and turning up the volume to give the children the most realistic experience that we can. We wanted to share this news with you so that you may be able to talk to your children about this over the coming weeks.

This leaves me to wish you all a wonderful weekend from all of the staff at Dunsford Community Academy. I am looking forward to hearing all about it on Monday!

Best wishes,

*Mrs. Guntrip*

Mrs. Guntrip

Head of Academy