

17th February 2022

Dear Parents

I hope that you have all had a lovely week and that you are looking forward to a half term starting tomorrow.

Mrs Guntrip remains unwell and I am not anticipating her being back with us before Easter. Once again, due to GDPR I am unable to share with you the exact nature of Mrs Guntrip's illness and I hope that you can appreciate and respect this. I will continue to keep you updated.

World Book Day



On **Thursday 3rd March** we are celebrating Word Book Day. This year we have a number of activities planned:

- Teddy bear 'booknick'- a picnic with a twist! We would like the children to bring in their favourite book and a cuddly toy (sensible toy please) and we will then share our favourite stories with our friends on the field (weather permitting).
- Book tasting sessions where all the children will have an opportunity to experience different books. For this, we would like the children to bring a book to school that they think their friends may have not read before. We would like for the children to bring this to school on Monday 28th February so that we will have enough time to set this up. Children will bring the book home on Friday 4th March. Can we ask that all the books are clearly named!
- We would love to invite the parents to the join the whole school on the field to share their children's favourite books on the day. We would like you to invite you to join us at 3:10 - weather permitting. We understand that you have been missing being a physical part of your child's school learning and I believe this would be a nice way to safely bring you back to school. As restrictions ease, we will be planning further opportunities to welcome you in to support your child.



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FLOURISHING FUTURES

- Each class will also be meeting up virtually with our friends from All Saints Academy to share our favourite extract of our class book.

Recommended Reads

Here at Dunsford, we are always promoting a love of reading throughout the curriculum. Visitors to the school consistently remark on the children's very positive reading attitudes and the depth of their understanding about books. Children's literature is exciting and engaging with many emerging contemporary authors publishing new books every month – there is always a new page turner to escape to! Our English Leads are also engaged in Reading for Pleasure development with our sister school, All Saints Marsh, which further promotes a love of reading for the children.

To support parents in helping their children to access a wider range of children's literature, we have added to our academy website 'Recommended Reads' for each year group: these posters list 100 books for each year group that will inspire and motivate the children even more!

Read Write Inc

Over the forthcoming weeks, as an academy, we are moving towards using Read Write Inc as our phonics programme. Read Write Inc is a highly successful phonics programme which has proven results in enabling children to become fluent, accurate readers. Excitingly, lots of new reading books and resources have arrived in preparation for starting the programme. Once we have started the programme, we are looking forward to working with parents to share how you can support your child at home.

Staff News

After half term we are planning to increase our nursery capacity and are hoping to recruit a Teaching Assistant in the mornings so that we can welcome more children to our nursery. The role will also include MTA cover which as you know has been very difficult to recruit for. We are hoping this role starts just after half term and we will keep you informed.

Thank you again for your ongoing support and I am wishing you a restful and happy half term.

Kind regards

Mrs Stephens

Head of Newton and Teign hub