

4th March 2022

Dear Parents,

It has been lovely to welcome the children back to school this week and I hope that you have all had a wonderful half term despite the wet and cold weather. We especially enjoyed celebrating World Book Day yesterday. We loved sharing books with all the children and celebrating this day with our sister school, All Saints Marsh – although only virtually.

It has also been so lovely to welcome parents back at school and I hope that you enjoyed sharing books with your children in their family groups and being able to come in to school again! The children have been in their family groups since the Autumn term but due to COVID restrictions it was not always possible to meet. Family groups are vertical groups with children from EYFS to Year 6. The children stay in these family groups throughout their school life which ensures that they have a close bond with other children in different year groups as well as the close bond with the teacher of the family group. The children come together in their family groups, during assembly time, once a week for a short 20-minute session.



Staff News

Some of you may have noticed that we have a new member of staff in our Nursery. Miss Keeley has joined us on a temporary basis and will stay with us until the end of this academic year.

Miss Joyce writes:

'My name is Miss Keeley and through the agency and great timing, as the season awakes, I've come to help Miss Farress and the team in Nursery. I live in Ashburton after returning to my Devon roots. I have thoroughly enjoyed my first week here, in Dunsford and I am looking forward getting to know your children.'

I am sure you will join me in welcoming Miss Keeley to our Dunsford family.

Having more staff means that we are now able to welcome more children in our Nursery, which is fantastic news. Please contact Mrs Sinton if you would like your child to join us or if you require change of sessions.

Attendance

Attendance is so important to us at Dunsford Community Academy and we really value and appreciate your support with this.



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FLOURISHING FUTURES



Please ensure that your child attends school every day. Every day missed is 6 hours of learning lost. Now that the restrictions have been slowly easing, we need to work together to ensure that children miss as little education as possible, and I would like to thank you all for minimising your children's absences from school.

Please do contact us if we can help your child's attendance and punctuality. We are able to support children back to school when they've been unwell: for example, we can arrange for them to stay indoors at lunchtime. We also have tried and tested strategies we can discuss, should your child be persistently late.

Together we can improve our attendance figures, and we need to do so.

Parents Evening

I would like to remind you that Parent Consultations will take place on 14th and 16th March. The booking will open shortly, Mrs Sinton will let you know when it has been set up. Please note that the parents evening will be held virtually and each child will be allocated 10 minutes.

Finally, I would like to wish you a lovely weekend.

Kind regards

Mrs Stephens
Executive Head of Newton and Teign Hub