



**DUNSFORD**  
COMMUNITY ACADEMY

**'Nurturing brilliance  
to catch our dreams.'**



Whole school  
Attendance

**91.3%**

Dear Parents and extended families,

I am sure you have seen the government's new push on attendance and the importance of being in school every day. I know we often talk about the impact of weaker attendance on pupils' routines, mental health, friendships and academic progress, so you have an excellent grasp on this. It is the season of sniffles and coughs and it's always a tough decision to send children into school. They often present poorly in the morning/evenings and perk up during the day. If you send them in feeling under the weather, let us know and we will keep a close eye on them. Feel assured we will send them home again if they continue to present as under the weather.



### Stronger Together

We have some continued exciting times ahead of us working alongside our Trust colleagues. We are always incredibly lucky to have specialists in the Academy and last week we welcomed the English lead, Mrs Watson. We welcomed her into lessons and were able to receive professional development from her during the day culminating in a meeting around 'deepening the moment' and looking at how we support pupils to be effective writers. Writing remains a focus for us in the Academy. Like the children, every professional in the Academy is looking to sharpen their skills.

Thanks to our work with our new Hub, we will also welcome a Maths lead from Dartington Academy who will support our subject lead in quality assuring our provision for mathematics, Mrs Humphries. Two or more heads are always better than one.

Finally, we have been increasing our support for SEND and interventions across the Academy with support in house and Trust involvement. We are very lucky to invite an Educational Psychologist into the academy in March. This will support staff and pupils enormously to be the best we can be.

### Clubs:

Monday 3:30 – 5pm STEM  
Tuesday 3:30 – 5pm DRAMA  
Wednesday 3:30 - 4:30pm FOOTBALL  
Thursday 3:30 – 5pm ART  
Friday 3:30 – 5:00pm SPORTS

### Removing Barriers

You should now have received your Seesaw logins as parents and for your children. Please feel free to support children with their learning, especially if they have done something amazing or want to show something connected to learning. If you could also continue to remind them it's meant for schoolwork and a little less social media, that would be great too! We will be sharing on here more regularly for you to see their work.

### Parent Evening - January

As you are aware Parent Evening will be happening before half term so we can share with you your child's start to the year and any focus you may be able to support with. Staff will be reporting back on whether pupils are working at an age-related expectation in core areas and what they made need support with to achieve this or greater depth. They may also inform you of specific targets your child is working on in personal development, special educational need, behaviour or attendance, all of which we know have an impact on them.

It's an incredibly useful time for you to feedback to us about how they are doing in school socially and anything you think they might be struggling with. It can be challenging to know how to support your child given the teaching strategies and content. We have tried to cut down on too much homework as a response to pupils needing time to decompress at home, but there are some great routines to get into to support them during their education lives. In English, **reading** every night to you or independently for between 10-30 minutes (should be about 2 pages per minute for a just right book), **writing** in their reading record, spellings with handwriting focus, and learning quickly addition/subtraction and multiplication/division facts will make an enormous difference. This time routine supports transition to secondary school, where homework is more demanding.

Our Eco Committee have been living our values last week being thoughtful about our environment and its inhabitants. They have been working with our amazing parent volunteers to create bird food ready for our big bird watch. The rest of the Academy will be joining them next week to create their own.



Event	Class/Year	Date	Contact
Parent Evening	Cedars & Oaks	Monday 22nd January Wednesday 24th January (TBC)	Oaks/Cedars teachers
National Measurement in school	Reception - Year 6	Friday 26th January	Office
NSPCC Number Day	All	Friday 2nd February	Class Teachers
Half Term break	All	Friday 9th February	