



‘Nurturing brilliance  
to catch our dream.’



19.04.24

### Attendance

97.3%

Dear Dunsford families,

#### 150th Celebration

We are very excited about planning an upcoming event, which we hope to keep simple yet memorable for our 150th year. A big thank you to one of the parents who has come up with a great idea, which we will let you know more about nearer the time.

#### Sense of Belonging

What a fantastic treat to come back on ‘Tuesday’ with Ste-reophonics ‘Have a Nice Day’. And indeed, the children had a great day! We were all talking about how happy and smiley they all were to come back to school and see their friends. Thank you for supporting such an easy transition for them; it’s always a challenge leaving your sides, and you made it easy for both them and us. We welcomed Mrs Mealey to the Academy and threw her in at the deep end early on with a Willows trip. Please check in with her and give her the Dunsford warmth. We are very lucky to have two such fantastic practitioners.

#### Stronger Together

Career Fair — may I remind you to share what you do so we can organize a career fair? It’s a great opportunity to showcase passion for your work and ignite a career interest in the children. So far, only three people have completed the survey. Can we do better?

<https://forms.gle/aAysf7CPvNoEGdr79>





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**Realising the Possible**

This week, we welcomed Christine Wick to the Academy. She is the director for the Teign Valley Players, who are putting on 'The Little Prince.' She visited on behalf of the troupe and shared some of her experiences, which ranged from actress to set designer, working alongside famous directors like M. Night Shyamalan and Steven Spielberg. The children were fascinated and asked some brilliant questions about her career choices and the roles she has undertaken. We hope you will support them by booking online for a ticket: £5 for children and £8 for adults .

Teign Valley Players ([thelittleboxoffice.com](http://thelittleboxoffice.com))



**Clubs:**

Monday No clubs

Tuesday 3:30-5pm DRAMA

Wednesday 3:30-4:30pm FOOTBALL

Thursday 3:30-5pm BIKE CLUB

Friday 3:30-5pm SPORTS CLUB

Event	Class/Year	Date	Contact
Bikeability	Y5	Tuesday 7th May— Thursday 9th May	Office
Census Day	All	Thursday 16th May	Office
SATs Week	Y6	Monday 13th May— Thursday 16th May	Office
Willows Trip	Willows	Monday 10th June	Mrs Clayburn & Mrs Mealey
Sports Day	All	Wednesday 12th June	Office
School Photos	All	Tuesday 18th June	Office
Y4 Residential	Y4	Monday 24th June—	Mrs Wood
Y6 Residential	Y6	Monday 15th July— Wednesday 17th July	Mrs Wood



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## MAPLES

Amazing first week back in Maples!

Welcome back to the summer term, everyone. We hope you had a fun and restful break.

This term, we will be exploring, discovering, and learning about animal and plant life cycles.

This week, we created a mini pond for Willow's tadpoles in our outside learning environment.

In communication and language, we used stories and photos about the frog life cycle to encourage the children to talk about what they can see. The children have been introduced to new vocabulary to explore and use as they describe the pictures.

For PSED, we have encouraged the children to develop their sense of membership as part of the community by working together to look after our tadpole pond – feeding and giving them a water change.

In maths this week, we have been singing the number rhyme ‘Five Little Speckled Frogs.’ We have set up a role-play pond area with props for the children to use as they count how many frogs are left on the log each time. Also, the children are starting to describe the sequence of events in the life cycle of a frog using 'first,' 'then,' 'next,' or 'after that.’





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WILLOWS

Attendance 99%



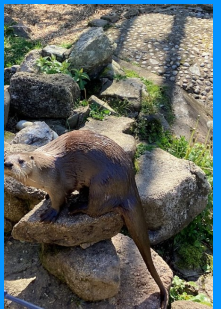
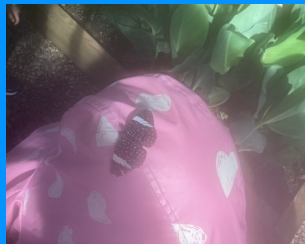
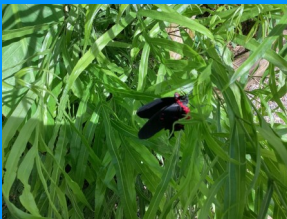
Hamish

STAR of the WEEK: The Whole Class – for their super behaviour and their learning mindset during our visit to the Otter and Butterfly Farm!

SPORTS STAR: Temperance

Welcome to the Summer Term! It's so good to see that Willows have had a restful holiday and are raring to learn this term – and what a way to start with our school trip to the Otter and Butterfly Farm at Buckfastleigh. We had the perfect weather for our trip and had soooo much fun from the moment we set off. The butterflies were colourful and beautiful, and their habitat was lovely and warm! Dave told us all about their life cycle and read The Very Hungry Caterpillar to us. The otters were fed stinky fish right in front of us and we saw a mummy otter called 'Willow' with all her babies. We had lunch in the park then played on the equipment, before heading back for some photography and observational drawing time. Before we knew it, it was time to hop back on the bus and return to school. We'll be having a strong focus on handwriting this term and if your Willow is in Green Group for phonics, please keep an eye on Seesaw for the latest sounds that we are practising. From Mrs Clayburn, Mrs Mealey and Mrs Wilson

Wednesdays: PE - please come in PE kit for the day
Thursdays: please bring the following to change in to: wellies, waterproof coat & trousers
Fridays: Swimming—ensure children bring in their swimming kits to school





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**CEDARS**

**Attendance  
98%**



**Florence M.**



**STAR of the WEEK: Everyone in Cedars for their outstanding performance of the Bee Musical!**



**SPORTS STAR:  
Lizzie**

Welcome back! I hope you all had a wonderful Easter break and were able to enjoy the sunshine when it finally graced us with its presence. This term promises to be a busy one, filled with exciting events such as sports day, swimming, and hopefully more enriching visits to enhance our learning experiences!

I'm thrilled to kick off our new learning journey this term. In History, we'll be delving into the lives of significant explorers. Our focus will be on Christopher Columbus and Neil Armstrong, exploring their expeditions, historical contexts, and the global impact of their discoveries. In Science, we'll be immersing ourselves in the fascinating world of materials and their properties. The children will have hands-on experiences exploring the suitability of various materials in different situations. And excitingly, this term marks the beginning of our Spanish language learning adventure!

In Maths this week, we've been continuing our exploration of money. It's wonderful to see so many of the children practicing with coins and notes, becoming more adept at recognising them and understanding their value. We'll be delving deeper into concepts such as adding amounts and problem-solving, like figuring out how much change they'll receive.

Next week, we will start our writing unit focusing on non-chronological reports. We will showcase the children's written work on Seesaw over the coming weeks.

Don't forget that swimming lessons will be held every Friday! Please remember that girls are required to wear swimming hats and bring a hair



**PE is on Wednesdays** :PE kits should be in school during the week and not worn to school on any day.

**Swimming is on Fridays:** Ensure swimming kits are brought to school on the day.





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Attendance

95%



OAKS



Tabby



Winter

STAR of the WEEK

SPORTS STAR:

Kitty & Tabitha

It has been a fabulous start to summer term with the children returning to school rested, happy and ready to learn. Summer term is a busy one with lots of learning, assessments and opportunities for trips. The year 6 children are on their final countdown to sitting the national SATS papers. A letter with further information will be sent to year 6 parents next week.

This week, the children have begun lots of new units in their lessons. In maths, the year 6 children have been exploring algebra, they have used pictorial representations before moving on to formulae and equations. They have used their understanding of the concept to work through reasoning problems. Year 4 and year 5 have begun their new unit of perimeter and area. This week they have measured and calculated the perimeter of shapes.

In history, the children have begun their new unit of learning: Ancient Greece. They have explored when this time in history took place on a timeline, what was happening in other parts of the world at the same time, and where it was taking place. The children also analysed sources from early Greek civilisations: the Minoans and the Mycenaeans. They were able to make assumptions about their beliefs, jobs and architecture through these images.

A huge thank you for your generosity while we have been raising funds for a bearded dragon. I plan to purchase the set-up this weekend and reserve the bearded dragon. I am hoping that we can have the bearded dragon settled in its new home in the next couple of weeks!

The children have begun their Forest School sessions again this half term, these will take place every Thursday. Despite the weather improving, children will still need a suitable over clothes to put on over their uniform and a change of footwear.

Swimming started today and will take place every Friday, please ensure that children have swimming clothes and a towel in school every week.

**PE is on Wednesdays.** PE kits should be in school during the week and not worn to school on any day.

**Forest school is on Thursdays**-ensure appropriate clothing is brought to school.

**Swimming is on Fridays.** Ensure swimming kits are brought to school on the day.

