



‘Nurturing brilliance to catch our dream.’



17.05.24

### Attendance

97.2%



Dear families,

Thank you for your patience as we recruit a new teacher for our Year 4, 5, and 6 class next year. I am confident that I will be able to share the full plan with you very soon. We are very grateful to you for entrusting us with your wonderful children. Our focus will be to ensure they continue to receive the experiences, support, and challenges they deserve in the best setting that small schools have to offer.

With trips, swimming, forest school, amazing school-based experiences, sports, choir, every child learning an instrument, and the sheer beauty of the site, pupils truly have an amazing primary school life. We continue to strive to do more to help them achieve their absolute best.

### Removing Barriers

More and more, we notice that pupils are struggling with anxiety. Our goal is always to offer a warm, nurturing and safe place to learn. However, we recognise the impact this can have on families. We will try to signpost outreach or charity-led support to help pupils in their journey through school.

We know that weaker attendance in primary school can lead to school refusers later in life, and want to support in any way we can to help avoid this. Our focus on attendance is not about data; it is about friendships and learning, both of which have the biggest impact on alleviating parental anxiety.

Please talk to us if you have concerns to see what we can do.

Here is a recently shared charity to support some pupils.

[Esteemteam](#)

### Stronger Together

We are all very excited about the show and our 150th celebration. We have received some great ideas from pupils about how we can celebrate, and one parent is driving this for us. If you can get involved, please do.

Pupils have been working on their front cover competition for the Dunsford Show, and some of the entries are magnificent. What a creative group of children we have!



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## Realising the Possible

This is going to be a busy term! We have a variety of trips and experiences booked across the academy, including nighttime adventures, parent meetings, sports day, and a range of other trips. Organising by year group can be more challenging in a small school, so please be patient if we seem a little short-handed at times. We understand the importance of these experiences for your child as part of our Project 70 before Year 7.

## Sense of Belonging

We had some great results from our pupils in their pupils' surveys. Many of the pupils know how much we advocate for them. We also recognise the minority who don't feel that yet and continue to work together to ensure they feel the warmth of our community. This quote from a pupils really struck a chord.

“The school values help me to understand on how to make others happy and teach me to be a more kind person.”

### Clubs:

Monday 3:30-4:30pm NETBALL

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
PTFA Meeting	All	Monday 20th May (7:30pm)	PTFA
Y4 Residential Parents Meeting	Y4	Wednesday 22nd May (3:40pm)	Mrs Wood
Night time Adventure	All	Thursday 23rd May (Evening)	Mr Balfour
Football Match	Invitation only	Thursday 23rd May	Mr Bird
Oaks Bake Sale	All	Friday 24th May after school	Mrs Wood
Science Workshops	YR—Y6	Tuesday 4th June	Office
Sports Day	All	Wednesday 12th June	Office
Y5 Trip to Plymouth	Y5	Friday 14th June	Office
School Photos	All	Tuesday 18th June	Office
150th Anniversary of the School Celebrations	All	Wednesday 19th June	Miss Farress
Y4 Residential	Y4	Monday 24th June—Tuesday 25th June	Mrs Wood
Dunsford Show	All	Saturday 29th June (12-5pm)	PTFA
Y6 Residential	Y6	Monday 15th July—Wednesday 17th July	Mrs Wood
Oak Class Performance	Oaks	Tuesday 23rd July	Mrs Wood
Leavers' Assembly	Y6	Wednesday 24th July	Mrs Wood



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**WILLOWS**

**Attendance**  
**99%**



STAR of the WEEK

**Mimi**

SPORTS STAR:  
**Clara & Otilie Hi.**

What an amazing weekend! It's great that so many of you made it to the beach, as it ties in with our Seaside topic. This week we talked about what we can do on the coast and even did a survey of our favourite activities – it's no surprise that many of Willows enjoy having an ice cream at the beach, and several children talked about fossil hunting and rock pooling!

In Maths, Year 1s are learning about halves and sharing equally while Reception have been re-capping their knowledge of number sentences, identifying number in pictures and using positional language.

With the 150-year anniversary of the school being celebrated this year we are thinking about what is important to us and what we'd like to share with children in the future. We're hoping to put together a time capsule, which can be opened long into the future . . . but what should we put inside? How about photos, some writing about what Dunsford school means to us and perhaps some important classroom items like a pen, pencil, ruler and rubber? What else should we include?

In Forest School we thought about the animals that have the woodland as their habitat and went in search of minibeasts.

Have a fab weekend 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**  
**96%**



STAR of the WEEK

**Noah C-C**

**SPORTS STAR:**  
**Olive**

I would first like to express how proud I am of Cedar class for their respectful behaviour while the Year 6 children tackled their SATS this week.

We've had a fantastic week delving into the life of Sir Francis Drake and the Spanish Armada. The children found it fascinating that he was reportedly playing bowls on Plymouth Hoe when he spotted the Spanish ships.

In Science, we conducted a comparative test using household materials. Inspired by the story of the Three Little Pigs, the children built three different houses and tested them for strength, wind resistance, and waterproofness. They worked brilliantly in their teams, encouraging and supporting one another.

This week, the sentence stacking children have been planning their final English write-up. They will be writing a non-chronological report on a fictional animal. We look forward to sharing these on Seesaw very soon!

Art is a passion in Cedars! This week, we continued our exploration of local artist Becky Bettsworth. Learning how she utilises layers to create her breathtaking landscapes, we used the same technique to craft our own moorland-inspired scenes.

After half term, Forest School will resume for Cedars. Please note the children are required to wear trousers/ leggings to keep their legs from being scratched by brambles, as well as appropriate footwear.

**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 and please ensure they are named.





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OAKS

Attendance  
98%



STAR of the WEEK

SPORTS STAR:  
Cressida

Jessie

Huge congratulations to our wonderful year 6 cohort. They have been incredible this week with their effort, attitude and resilience as they faced their end of key stage two assessments. They have been an absolute pleasure to take through this process and I am so very proud of each and every one of them. They have enjoyed a well-earned treat this afternoon, indulging in a cream tea at the Garden Tea-rooms.

The year 4 and 5 children have also been amazing this week showing the school value of being thoughtful as they have supported their year 6 classmates in lots of different ways. They have had the pleasure of having Mr Bird teach them each morning, and I know that they have worked hard in their lessons for him. They have been busy planning, researching and writing their non-chronological reports on an animal of their choice. They are looking forward to publishing these reports using pictures and diagrams to bring their facts to life.

The whole class enjoyed a first read of their end of year production, ‘The Wizard of Oz’. They are all very excited about this and are looking forward to finding out what part they will play. The year 6 children will have the opportunity to audition for a character of their choosing and have been sent home with a little audition piece to prepare. I hope to carry out auditions at some point on Monday.

**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.

Next Friday, the children of Oak Class will be holding a bake sale to raise money for the ongoing costs of their class pet. They raised an incredible amount that, along with the money from the PTFA, bought the set up and Simba. However, I am sure you appreciate that having a pet means that there are foods and supplements to keep them healthy. We are hoping that this bake sale will ensure that Simba has everything he needs in the run up to the end of term. Any donations of baked

