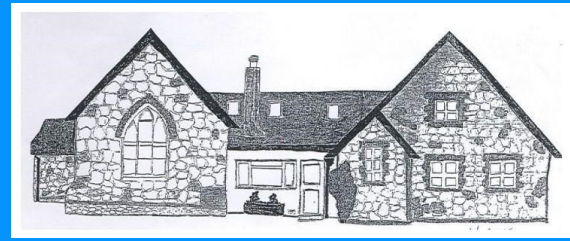




‘Nurturing brilliance to catch our dreams.’



19/12/24

Head Teacher

What a fantastic season it is to be in school. It’s incredible to see the journey children have travelled to perform on a stage in front of a live audience. It’s hard to express the level of anxiety we all feel when performing, and thanks to everyone who was able to support by practicing, organising, and hosting such lovely events. It’s really brought the Christmas spirit into the school.

As the last newsletter this side of the holidays, the team and I would like to thank you for your continued support. We all wish you a very restful Christmas and a healthy start to the New Year. We hope everyone remembers to look after themselves and seek out help and support from family and friends, if needed, in this time that can be so happy for some and so challenging for others.

Stronger Together

Thank You for Supporting Love the One!

A huge thank you to the PTFA and everyone at Dunsford Community Academy for your incredible support of Love the One through the Chocolate Tombola at the Dunsford Christmas Fair.

We’re delighted to share that the Tombola raised £156.50 on the day. With an additional donation and the opportunity to triple this amount through a corporate ‘giving day’ on Tuesday, 26th November, the total donation to Love the One reached an amazing £600!

A special thank you to everyone who generously donated chocolate—it made the Tombola a fantastic success. We hope all the winners are enjoying their chocolate treats!

Your kindness and collaboration have made a real difference. Thank you again for supporting this wonderful cause.

Sense of Belonging

Reminder: Reception Applications for September 2025

If your child is due to start Reception in September 2025, please remember that the deadline to submit your application is 15th January 2025.

Applications should be made via the Devon County Council website. Ensuring your application is submitted on time will help secure a place for your child at your preferred school.

For more information and to apply, visit the Devon County Council website [here](#).

Removing Barriers

The Importance of Good Attendance

At Dunsford, we believe that regular school attendance is crucial for every child's education and well-being. To help monitor and support good attendance, we follow our Attendance and Absence Policy, which you can view [here](#). As part of this policy, any child whose attendance falls below 96% will receive a letter informing parents of their child’s current attendance level. I want to emphasise that these letters are not a criticism. We fully understand that some absences, such as for illness, are unavoidable. These letters are simply a way to keep you informed and to offer support if needed.

To explain the purpose of these letters further, here’s an excerpt from our Attendance and Absence Policy:

"Attendance Letter 1 will be sent advising the parent that their child’s attendance has dropped below 96% and the impact that poor attendance can have on pupil wellbeing as well as their education."

Thank you for your continued support in ensuring that all our pupils can make the most of their time in school.

Event

Class/Year

Date

Contact

Term Starts

All

Tuesday 7th January

Office



‘Nurturing brilliance to catch our dreams.’



19/12/24



Robins



SPORTS STARS:
Everyone in Robins!

STAR of the WEEK

Head Teacher Awards

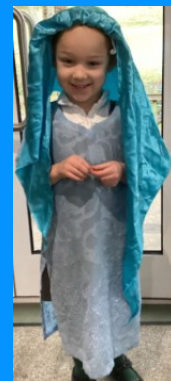
Sonny

What a wonderful Christmasy few weeks; Christmas dinner, watching the Pantomime (a big thank you to our cracking PTFA), our class Christmas story performance! All the children have been fantastic and have been an absolute joy to have in our new Robins Class. I very much look forward to getting stuck into our new learning next term. I hope you all have a wonderful Christmas holiday, and I will see you all in the new year!

Merry Christmas

Mrs Baker

Mondays & Wednesdays: PE kits should be in school during the week and not worn to school on any day.
Fridays: Forest school. Please bring the following to change in to: wellies, waterproof coat & trousers.





‘Nurturing brilliance to catch our dreams.’



19/12/24



Kingfishers



Clara



STAR of the WEEK



Head Teacher Awards

Wow what a super busy week and a bit for Kingfishers!

We went to a panto, rehearsed a show, performed ourselves and have still been working really hard in our learning too!

In maths we have been exploring how changing the amount of tens and ones in a number affects it’s size, using comparative language: ‘greater’, ‘bigger’, ‘more than’, ‘less than’, ‘fewer’, ‘smaller.’ We have used resources and looked at where the numbers appear on our number line, practising ‘before’ and ‘after.’

We have continued our RWInc as well as continuing to spot –ed verbs in our class stories.

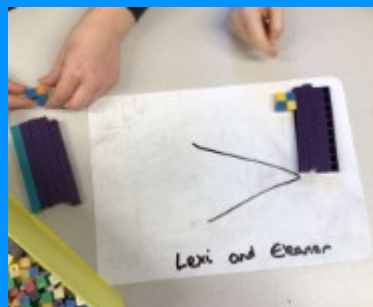
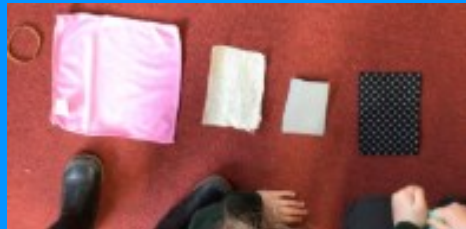
In science, we have also explored elasticity, making predictions and then testing.

Our main focus though has been our wonderful show which we hope you enjoyed! We were so brave and can be really proud of ourselves! Go Kingfishers!

Merry Christmas everyone and Happy New Year!

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Forest School is on Tuesdays—Please bring the following to change in to: wellies, water-proof coat & trousers.

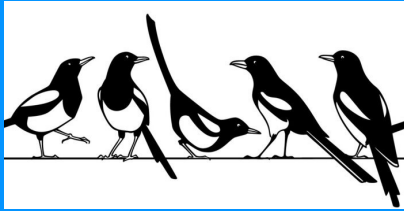




‘Nurturing brilliance
to catch our dreams.’



19/12/24



Magpies



Alfie



STAR of the WEEK



Head Teacher Awards



SPORTS STARS:

Sophie & Kit

It's beginning to feel a lot like Christmas! It was so wonderful to see Magpies enjoy their festive school dinner last week – the smiles and songs were magical. The trip to the pantomime was magnificent – the children were impeccably behaved and thoroughly enjoyed the performance – a perfect memory for them all. A big thank you to the PTA for providing such a memorable experience for our children and a special thank you to the Magpies parent helpers – Mrs Hopkin and Mrs Callaghan.

We hope you have listened to our poetry performances on seesaw – we have really enjoyed reading and listening to a variety of poems but the nonsense, silly ones have been our favourites.

We are all very proud of our DT models – the brief was to produce a moving vehicle with wheels and an axle – everyone achieved this and we thoroughly enjoyed testing them out in the playground.

It has been a fantastic term in Magpies with lots of amazing learning – I am very proud of all of them. Finally, wishing you all a very Merry Christmas with your families!

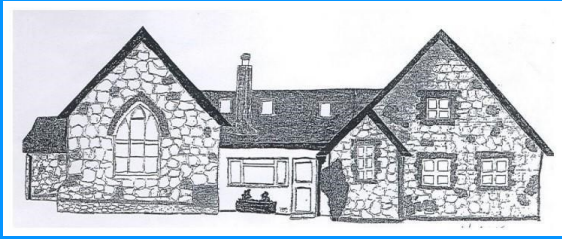


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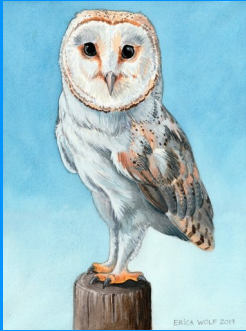




‘Nurturing brilliance to catch our dreams.’



19/12/24



Barn Owls



SPORTS STARS:
Bryn, Claudia, Kitty & Thomas

Tabby

STAR of the WEEK

Head Teacher Awards

It is certainly feeling more like Christmas in Barn Owls class. We have had so many exciting treats happening over the past two weeks! It was lovely to see everyone enjoying their Christmas lunch last week with lots of smiles and loud singing!

On Friday we were able to go and watch the Pantomime Cinderella in Exeter. The children were so polite and well behaved- I could see from their faces that they all had an amazing time. Big thank you to the PTFA for giving us this opportunity and a big thank you to the parent volunteers from all class but especially Mrs Gallagher who helped out with Barn Owls class!

Later this week, we will be finishing our writing and performing them on Seesaw. We have been writing a persuasive speech to encourage an author to visit or write a new book. We hope you enjoyed our speeches!

Barn Owls have been really helpful this week as we able lend Mrs Boatman some help with the KS1 nativity by helping Kingfishers class with their lines and costumes- they were all so respectful and kind!

We have also been rehearsing our Christmas songs ready for the church Christmas celebration on Wednesday! We were so excited to share our songs with you and spread the Christmas cheer!

It has been an amazing start to the year and the resilience and determination of all is something to be admired. I hope everyone has a restful break and a lovely Christmas with friends and family!

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