



# Dunsford Community Academy

Nurturing brilliance to catch our dreams

Thursday 6<sup>th</sup> February 2025

Dear Parents and Carers,

Happy Thursday everyone. There is quite a lot in the newsletter today, so please do read on.

## **Nits**

There have been a few rounds of nits in the school this year, which, of course, we cannot completely eradicate. However, there are a few easy steps we can all take to reduce the spread. Please regularly check your child's hair and let us know promptly if any are found. Our uniform policy allows us to request that long hair be tied up, and for the time being, we kindly ask that all children follow this guidance. Together, we can reduce the number of cases.

## **Hot Lunches**

Thank you for being prompt in ordering lunches. Our food is cooked and delivered by the kitchen team at Dartington, who order and prepare the correct amount of food in advance. Their preparation time begins at 8am, which is why we cannot order hot lunches on the day. Please make sure lunches are ordered at least 24 hours in advance to support the team in supporting us.

## **Mrs Baker**

Many of you may have already noticed the happy news that Mrs Baker is expecting a baby! This is incredibly exciting, and we all wish her the very best for the months ahead—what an adventure awaits! Mrs Baker's maternity leave will begin after the Easter break, and the school is currently organising a seamless transition with her maternity cover. More information will follow soon.

## **Mrs Wilson**

Mrs Wilson also has some exciting news to share. After 15 years at Dunsford, she has decided to take on a new challenge and will be continuing her journey at a nursery closer to home. While this will be a big change, I'm sure you'll agree that she truly embodies our value of bravery. We have no doubt she will continue to flourish in her new role.

Mrs Wilson has been a dedicated member of our team, providing excellent support to our students and making a significant impact on their learning for many years. Our whole community is grateful for her hard work, and while we are sad to see her go, we wish her every success in the future.

Mrs Wilson's last day will be Friday 28<sup>th</sup> February with her last afternoon session on Thursday. To ensure a smooth transition, we will be appointing a new Teaching Assistant to support EYFS moving forward. We will share more details soon—if you know anyone who may be interested, please direct them to our vacancies page online.

## **Mrs Russell**

Excitingly, one of our recent vacancies has been filled by Mrs Russell, who will be joining our EYFS team on March 3<sup>rd</sup>. She recently moved to the area and has extensive experience in pastoral support, helping children develop confidence and independence. The Reception children who have already met her gave glowing reviews, and her calm, kind, and supportive nature will be a fantastic addition to Dunsford. Please make sure to say hello in March!

## **A Lighter, More Musical Note**

One of the special things about Dunsford is that, even from the office, you can feel the hum of learning from Magpies and Barn Owls. Wednesday was a standout moment as the musical notes of *Mamma Mia* drifted down the stairs, quickly followed by *Make You Feel My Love* echoing through the hall. The children in both classes were completely engaged in their music lessons, and the joy in their learning was

heartwarming. There aren't many classrooms where you expect to see just glockenspiels, only to be greeted by saxophones, flutes, guitars, and bassoons!



### Mr Grimley

Many thanks for all the kind messages wishing Mr Grimley well. He has sent his appreciation for the lovely cards from families and children, and we continue to hope for his speedy recovery. I will provide updates as soon as I know more, but I want to reassure parents that the school remains stable, and we continue to push forward, nurturing brilliance and catching dreams. Moments like this highlight the strength of being part of a trust, and we are grateful for the united support of the whole trust team.

Thank you for all the kind comments over the past few weeks and for being so understanding. Your welcome has been second to none.

Thank you for your continued support and cooperation.

### Mr Waters

<p><b>Robins</b></p> <p>This week at Robins, we've continued our exciting journey learning about 'People Who Help Us'. The children have been discovering the vital roles played by paramedics, police officers, firefighters, lifeguards, and vets. Each day, we've explored how these everyday heroes keep us safe and healthy, and the children have loved learning about the different ways they can help in their own communities.</p> <p>In Maths, we've been focusing on subitising numbers from 5 to 10. The children have been developing their ability to instantly recognise quantities within this range without having to count. This fundamental skill is a key building block for their mathematical understanding, and we've been impressed by their enthusiasm and progress. Thank you for your continued support and encouragement at home!</p>	 <p><b>PE is on Mondays &amp; Wednesdays.</b></p> <p><b>Forest School is on Fridays.</b></p>
<p><b>Kingfishers</b></p> <p>It's been a busy week in Kingfishers! As well as taking on the challenge of addition and subtraction, including crossing ten, Kingfishers have been exploring repeat addition with their 2, 5 and 10 times tables! They have been looking at arrays and what the images mean.</p> <p>RWInc is continuing as normal building confidence in red words, sounds and reading the focus stories. Those taking part in Sentence Stacking have built the beginning part of their stories and our character is just setting off on their adventure- we wonder what exciting events will happen along the way... In handwriting, we have moved on from the arm to boat join and have been working on our arm to sun joins.</p> <p>In small groups, we have created food chains in science and talked about the carnivores, omnivores and herbivores in our chains. We know how important plants are for us to survive as the producers at the start of the chain!</p> <p>Update: Wow moments (the special achievements or amazing effort that you have seen at home) will be shared during the first part of the week, in place of Friday's show and tell.</p>	 <p><b>PE is on Mondays &amp; Thursdays.</b></p> <p><b>Forest School is on Tuesdays.</b></p>

## Magpies

Another busy week of learning in Magpies!

In English, we've been diving into explanation texts, and have started writing an explanation together named The Street Beneath our Feet. We've enjoyed reading the classic story of "A Bear Called Paddington," following the adventures of the lovable bear. Our focus in maths has been on finding the perimeter of different shapes, measuring and calculating the total distance around them.

During our history lessons we've explored the impact of the Roman invasion on British life today, discovering how ancient history still influences us. In science, we've been learning about seed dispersal and even made our own paper sycamore spinners to see how seeds travel.

We've been recreating abstract art inspired by Martin Bush and Clotaire Lehoux, experimenting with colours and shapes. In Spanish, we've practiced saying what fruits we like and don't like, expanding our vocabulary.

Keep up the great work, Magpies!



**PE is on Mondays & Wednesdays.**

## Barn Owls

This week in our Barn Owl class, we've embarked on an exciting new Writing unit where students are creatively writing postcards from fairytale characters in prison. Imagine the Big Bad Wolf penning a note from his cell! In Maths, we've been exploring the concepts of area, length, and perimeter, with students measuring various objects and spaces around the classroom. It's been a hands-on experience that has really brought these mathematical concepts to life.

In PE, we've been having a blast with dance routines inspired by the 2000s and honing our tennis skills. The energy in the class is contagious! Our Art lessons have been equally inspiring, as students planned their own pieces in the distinctive style of Pablo Picasso. Finally, in Whole Class Reading, we've delved into a fascinating non-chronological report on Saturn, uncovering the mysteries of this magnificent planet. It's been a week full of creativity, movement, and discovery!



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