



## **Dunsford Community Academy**

**Nurturing brilliance to catch our dreams**

Thursday 13<sup>th</sup> February 2025

Dear Parents and Carers,

What an exciting half term it has been! Throughout the school, we've seen incredible progress and enthusiasm in various subjects. Our pupils have been diving into coding in Computing, enjoying inspirational music lessons, and producing fantastic writing about scared animals, the mysteries of the underground world, and the remarkable David Attenborough.

Our assemblies this half term have focused on bravery, drawing inspiration from Malala Yousafzai, Greta Thunberg, and Sebastian Vettel, who have all demonstrated the importance of using their voices for positive change. We hope these stories have inspired our pupils to develop their own sense of agency. To top it all off, we had the pleasure of welcoming storyteller extraordinaire, Clive Pig, to share captivating narratives of Dartmoor legends, fairy tales, and stories from around the world. This event was a wonderful example of the positive impact of our PTFA, and we want to extend our heartfelt thanks to everyone who has supported its many events and the hard work that goes on behind the scenes.

As we bid farewell to Mrs Wilson, who is embarking on the next step of her journey, we wish her all the best for the future and thank her for everything she has given to the school over the past 17 years. I also want to express my gratitude to the entire school community for their understanding and positivity in welcoming me to the school. While we wish for Mr Grimley's recovery, together we have ensured that every child continues their journey towards brilliance. The Learning Academy Partnership, staff, children, parents and I can be proud of our Dunsford Community. This is a special and unique school, and it is a pleasure to support its progress.

We look forward to more fun experiences for the children, engaging lessons, and outdoor activities when we return. Years 4, 5, and 6 are eagerly anticipating their respective residential. We acknowledge that some of these come at a significant financial contribution, and we have worked with Encompass Training for our Year 5/6 trip to offer an alternative one-day experience. Please feel free to catch Mr. Bird for details.

There will be dates for your diary in the first newsletter back, so keep an eye out for that. Finally, I wish you all an enjoyable week off.

Read some cool books, play some board games, enjoy the outdoors, and embrace every adventure!

**Mr Waters**

## Robins



**PE is on Mondays & Wednesdays.**

**Forest School is on Tuesdays.**

This week in our Reception class, we've had a fantastic time exploring new concepts and engaging in exciting activities! In Maths, the children have been learning about partitioning the numbers 1-5, discovering how these numbers can be broken down into smaller pieces. It's been wonderful to see their curiosity and understanding grow as they play with numbers in a hands-on way. We also had an exciting time blending with Year 1-4 students who came down to learn from us in our provision area. This interaction has been a great way to develop the voices of our younger children and foster a strong sense of community within our school.

In Art, we've been busy creating collages and colouring pictures related to people who help us. The children have enjoyed making colourful representations of firefighters, doctors, and policemen, which has sparked many interesting conversations about these important roles. It's been a joy to see their creativity and appreciation for community helpers come to life through their artwork.

## Kingfishers



**PE is on Mondays & Thursdays.**

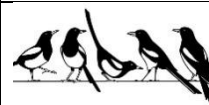
In Kingfishers we have been looking at grouping and sharing, using the language lots of. Can you make groups of equal amounts at home and see how many lots of a number you can make? We've thought about what makes a number odd or even and linked this to our 2 times table. Our work on arrays has also developed into noticing multiplication is commutative.

RWInc is continuing as normal building confidence in red words, sounds and reading the focus stories. The whole class have finished their independent Dunsfordillo write stories this week, from our sentence builders work on 'The Gruffalo'. Those taking part in Sentence Stacking have been finishing their 'The Owl Who Was Afraid of the Dark' stories, using prepositions and lists, with commas, to give extra detail. They have moved onto their independent writes about their own animal.

In music we have used glockenspiels and in art we have completed our design compositions for our final miniature land art creations.

Update: New QR codes have been made available for phonics support at home.

## Magpies



**PE is on Mondays & Wednesdays.**

This week, we've had an exciting time diving into various subjects! In English, the children have been busy planning their own explanation texts, drawing inspiration from the Romans, Boudicca, the invasion of Britain, and Londinium. It's been wonderful to see their creativity and understanding of historical events come to life in their writing. In Maths, we've been exploring fractions, focusing on understanding numerators and

denominators. The pupils have shown great enthusiasm in breaking down whole numbers into parts and grasping these new concepts.

In Art, we've been putting the finishing touches on our abstract landscape paintings, with a special focus on Dartmoor. The children have been experimenting with colour, shading, and mixing techniques to create beautiful pieces of art. Our Whole Class Reading sessions have been particularly fun this week as we've delved into playscripts and the classic tale of 'Jack and the Beanstalk'. The pupils have enjoyed exploring the characters, settings, and plot, bringing the story to life through their imaginative interpretations. It's been a fantastic week of learning and creativity!

### **Barn Owls**

This week in Barn Owl class has been full of exciting learning adventures! In Writing, we have been creatively writing postcards from a fictional character in prison, exploring unique perspectives and enhancing their narrative skills. In Maths, we've delved into the world of percentages, helping everyone understand and apply this important concept in various real-life scenarios. Our PE lessons concluded with the final dance session, where we showcased their rhythm and coordination through a fun and energetic routine.

In Computing, we have embarked on an exciting journey of game development using Scratch, where we are learning to code and design their own interactive games. Art lessons have been equally inspiring, with everyone drawing animals inspired by the distinctive style of Pablo Picasso, blending creativity with artistic techniques. For Whole Class Reading, we've been captivated by the adventures in "Escape to the River Sea," sparking lively discussions and deepening our love for reading. It's been a fantastic week of learning and creativity!

Keep up the amazing work Barn Owls- I have been super impressed with your attitude to learning this half term!



**PE is on Mondays & Wednesdays.**

**Forest School is on Tuesdays.**