



# Dunster First School

Headteacher: Peter Hoyland

## Newsletter No 1



# Autumn Term 2016

Monday September 5<sup>th</sup>

to

Friday December 16<sup>th</sup>



# Dunster First School

Headteacher: Peter Hoyland

19 September 2016

Newsletter No 19

Dear Parents and Carers

Welcome back to school after the summer holidays to what promises to be another very busy and exciting year. A special welcome to all those children and families who are joining us at the start of this term.



Over the summer holidays a number of improvements have been made to the school including a new heating system in the hall and the kitchen and new windows in the hall and the Year 1 classroom.

## Diary Dates

Wednesday September 14<sup>th</sup>

**Monday September 19<sup>th</sup>**

Tuesday September 20<sup>th</sup>

**Wednesday September 21<sup>st</sup>**

Thursday September 22<sup>nd</sup>

**Friday September 23<sup>rd</sup>**

Monday September 26<sup>th</sup>

**Wednesday September 28<sup>th</sup>**

Wednesday September 28<sup>th</sup>

**Friday October 7<sup>th</sup>**

Friday October 7<sup>th</sup>

**Friday October 21<sup>st</sup>**

Saturday October 22<sup>nd</sup> to

Sunday October 30<sup>th</sup>

**Friday November 11<sup>th</sup>**

Monday November 14<sup>th</sup> to

Friday November 18<sup>th</sup>

**Monday November 14<sup>th</sup>**

Tuesday November 15<sup>th</sup>

**Friday November 25<sup>th</sup>**

Monday November 28<sup>th</sup>

**Thursday December 1<sup>st</sup>**

Year 4 visiting Tall Trees Trail - am

**Year 2 Curriculum Information Meeting, 3.30pm**

Year 4 Curriculum Information Meeting, 3.30pm

**Year 3 Curriculum Information Meeting, 3.30pm**

Friends of Dunster First School AGM, 7.00pm

**School Photograph Day**

Meeting of the full Governing Body, 7.00pm

**School Council Elections**

Year 1 Curriculum Information Meeting, 3.30pm

**Harvest Service in St George's Church, 10.00am**

Reception Class Curriculum Information Meeting, 1.30pm

**School Closed for staff training**

Autumn Half Term Holiday

**Remembrance Day Service, 10.40am**

National Anti-Bullying Week

**Parent and Carers Meetings with Teachers, 6.00pm to 9.00pm**

Parents and Carers Meetings with Teachers, 4.00pm to 7.00pm

**Friends of Dunster First School Advent Fair, 6.00pm to 9.00pm**

Meeting of the full Governing Body, 7.00pm

**Film Club Christmas Film Night, 6.00pm**



Member 2015-2016

Friday December 2 <sup>nd</sup> and Saturday December 3 <sup>rd</sup> <b>Thursday December 8<sup>th</sup></b>	Dunster by Candlelight <b>Year 3 and Year 4 Nativity Play, St George's Church, 2.00pm</b>
Friday December 9 <sup>th</sup>	Reception Class, Year 1 and Year 2 Nativity Play, St George's Church, 2.00pm
<b>Wednesday December 14<sup>th</sup></b>	<b>Reception Class, Year 1 and Year 2 Christmas Party, 2.00pm to 4.00pm</b>
Thursday December 15 <sup>th</sup>	Year 3 and Year 4 Christmas Party, 2.00pm to 4.00pm
<b>Friday December 16<sup>th</sup></b> Saturday December 17 <sup>th</sup> to Monday January 2 <sup>nd</sup> <b>Tuesday December 3<sup>rd</sup></b>	<b>Last Day of the Autumn Term</b>  Christmas Holiday <b>First day of Spring Term 2017</b>

A calendar showing the dates for all of the holidays and staff training days is included on the inside cover of this newsletter. A list of current dates can also be found on the school website.

### Staffing News

From the start of the new term, Sarah Masters will be the school's Head of Kitchen and she will be joined by our new catering assistant, Jana Olsanska, who was appointed at the end of last term.



### Reception Class Key Dates

Here is a reminder of the key dates this term for parents and carers with children in the Reception Class



Monday September 5 <sup>th</sup> to Friday September 30 <sup>th</sup>	Children attending on a part time basis, 9.00am to 12 noon or afternoons 1.25pm to mornings 3.25pm.
Monday October 3 <sup>rd</sup> to Thursday October 20 <sup>th</sup>	<b>All children attending mornings and staying for lunch 9.00am to 1.30pm</b>
Friday October 21 <sup>st</sup>	School Closed for staff training
<b>Saturday October 22<sup>nd</sup> to Sunday October 30<sup>th</sup></b>	<b>Autumn Term half Term Holiday</b>
Monday October 31 <sup>st</sup>	Reception Class children attending on a full time basis, 9.00am to 3.25pm.

### Summer Term Attendance

Congratulations to the following children who gained 100% attendance during the Summer Term 2016:

Reception  
Sasha Brodie  
Olivia Parfitt  
Blossom Whittaker

Year 1  
Ollie Curtis  
Joshua Marsh  
Esme Priddle  
Tallulah Webber

Year 2  
Harry Doolan  
Olivia Hazell  
Abigail Lamb  
Kate Lancaster  
Amelia Marsh  
Megan Powell  
Jack Radford  
Isaac Ramsey  
Albert Vickery  
Ben Wintermantle

Year 3  
Oliver Groves  
Holly Lofts  
Riley Lovell  
Daniel McClafferty  
Molly Phippen  
Cheyanne  
Shackleford  
Lexie Webber

Year 4  
Fenton Stothard  
Lily Sutcliffe



Special congratulations to the following children who achieved 100% attendance throughout the school year from 2015 to 2016:



### **100% Attendance 2015 to 2016**

**Sasha Brodie  
Ollie Curtis  
Amelia Marsh  
Joshua Marsh  
Megan Powell  
Fenton Stothard  
Albert Vickery**



### School Meals

**A reminder that all of the children in the Reception Class, Year 1 and Year 2 are entitled to a free school meal each day. Please place your order by completing and returning the weekly menu slips which are sent home on Fridays.**

For parents and carers with children in Year 3 and Year 4 may I remind you that the cost of school meals is £2.10 per meal or £10.50 for the week. Money should be sent each week with advance orders in an envelope or purse with your child's name and class on. Cheques should be made payable to Somerset County Council. Parents wishing to pay termly or half termly should contact Mrs Thrush in the school office.



Menus will be sent home on Fridays for completion and should be returned by the subsequent Wednesday to order meals for the following week.

Anyone wishing to discuss dietary requirements should contact the Head of Kitchen, Mrs Sarah Masters (01643 822060).

### School Clubs

The following school clubs will be running this term:

Club	For...	Days of the Week	Time	Club Leader	Date Starting
DASH Club	Year R to Year 4	Mondays and Fridays	8.00am on Mondays Various times on Fridays	Mr Hoyland	Monday 19 <sup>th</sup> September
Dance Club	Year 4	Mondays	3.30pm to 4.30pm	1610	Monday 12 <sup>th</sup> September
Drawing Club	Year 4	Tuesdays	3.30pm to 4.30pm	Miss Collins	Tuesday 20 <sup>th</sup> September
Multi-Skills Club	Year 2	Tuesdays	3.30pm to 4.30pm	1610	Tuesday 13 <sup>th</sup> September
Tennis Club	Year 3 and Year 4	Wednesdays	3.30pm to 4.30pm for Year 3 4.30pm to 5.30pm For Year 4	Mr Barmby-King	Wednesday 21 <sup>st</sup> September
Film Club	Year 3 and Year 4	Thursdays	3.30pm to 5.00pm	Mrs Vickery	Thursday 15 <sup>th</sup> September
Football Club	Year 3 and Year 4	Thursdays	3.30pm to 4.30pm	Mr James	Thursday 15 <sup>th</sup> September

Information about the clubs and how to join them has either been sent home already or will be sent home over the next few weeks.

Please note that places at some clubs may be limited and it might not be possible for your child to attend all of the school clubs that they want to.

Thanks to the willingness of school staff to give up their time and as a result of the government's PE and Sport grant there are no charges for school clubs.



## DASH Club

DASH (Do Activity Stay Healthy) currently runs on two mornings a week before school and is open to children from Year R to Year 4.



The club runs on Mondays and Fridays. The Monday sessions start at 8.00am and are usually based in the school hall. The Friday sessions include a variety of activities including walks to school, games on the school field and sessions in the school hall. Friday sessions start as early as 7.30am (for the walks) and 8.00am for school based sessions.

At the start of each term a programme is drawn up and circulated to all of the children who have joined.

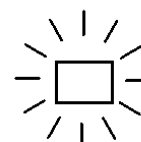
The advantages to attending DASH Club are...

- The combination of two hours PE a week and attendance at DASH Club will mean that your child is getting a minimum of four hours physical activity a week.
- They will have access to small group/high quality PE and sport sessions.
- They will have the chance to socialise with children who are older and younger than them.
- Parents and carers who transport children to school will be able to miss the morning rush on Monday and Friday mornings.
- It is free!

If you would like to find out more about DASH Club please complete the slip at the end of the newsletter and return it to the school office.

## SEAL - Social and Emotional Aspects of Learning - New Beginnings

We are now entering our sixth year of delivering SEAL (Social and Emotional Aspects of Learning) as part of all the children's Personal, Social and Health Education.



New Beginnings

Each half term there is a new theme which is introduced in a special whole school SEAL assembly.

This half term we are working on the theme called 'New Beginnings'. The children will follow this theme to help them settle into their new class by helping to shape their class rules and doing activities that will help them get to know each other better. This theme is used to help children see how we provide a safe and secure environment for them. There will be a celebratory assembly at the end of this half term to share their work and honour their learning and achievement.

These are some ideas you can do at home to support this theme:

Tel: 01643 821254 Fax: 01643 821243 [dunsterfirstschool@educ.somerset.gov.uk](mailto:dunsterfirstschool@educ.somerset.gov.uk) [www.dunsterfirstschool.org.uk](http://www.dunsterfirstschool.org.uk)

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Dunster, Minehead  
TA24 6RX

- 1) Talk to your child about their new class. Talk about the things that are the same as last year and the things that are different.
- 2) Be as positive as possible with your child, give praise and use positive statements e.g. 'Don't shout' is better phrased as 'Please talk calmly'.
- 3) Challenge your child to tell you everyone's name in their class. Or challenge your child to tell you an interesting fact about different children (or adults) in their class e.g. favourite colour or pet.

### Curriculum Information Meetings for Parents and Carers

As with previous years, we are once again going to hold Curriculum Information meetings for parents and carers. The purpose of these meetings will be to give you the opportunity to meet your child's teacher early in the school year and to find out what work your child will be covering during the year, with a particular focus on reading and homework.

These meetings will be held straight after school in your child's classroom and should last no more than 30 to 45 minutes. Each teacher will hold their meeting on a different afternoon so that, if you have more than one child in the school, you will have the opportunity to attend all of the meetings that are relevant to you. A crèche will be available for all of these meetings.

With the exception of the Reception Class, all of these meetings will start at 3.40pm. The meeting for parents with children in the Reception Class will start at 1.30pm.

If you will be attending one of these meetings please complete the slip at the end of this letter and return it to your child's teacher.

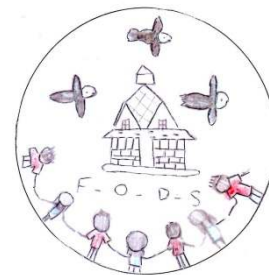
Meeting for...	Date	Crèche in...
Year 1	Wednesday September 28 <sup>th</sup>	Year 4
Year 2	Monday September 19 <sup>th</sup>	Year 3
Year 3	Wednesday September 21 <sup>st</sup>	Year 2
Year 4	Tuesday September 20 <sup>th</sup>	Year 1
Reception	Friday October 7 <sup>th</sup> at 1.30pm	Year R



## Friends of Dunster First School Annual General Meeting - Thursday September 22<sup>nd</sup>

The Friends of Dunster First School's Annual General Meeting will be held in the school hall on Thursday September 22<sup>nd</sup> at 7.00pm.

The Friends of Dunster First School is a group of parents, carers, members of staff and friends of the school who work together to fundraise to support the education of the children at our school. While we have a Chair, Treasurer and Secretary there is no "formal" committee and all parents, carers, members of staff and friends of the school are encouraged to attend meetings and get involved with the fundraising activities and social events that are organised.



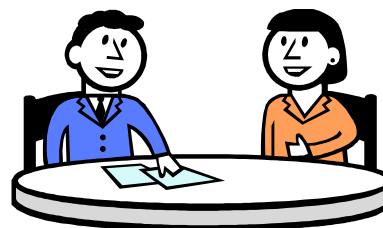
The agenda for the Annual General Meeting will be as follows:

### **FODS Annual General Meeting - 7.00pm**

#### **Agenda**

*Refreshments available from 6.45pm*

1. Apologies
2. Minutes of Annual General Meeting held on Thursday September 22<sup>nd</sup> 2016
3. Matters arising
4. Chair's Report
5. Treasurer's Report
6. Renewal of Friends of Dunster First School's constitution
7. Election of Chair(s), Secretary(s), Treasurer(s)
8. Any other business



Following the Annual General Meeting there will be a short business meeting, which all those attending the AGM are welcome to attend. The agenda for this meeting will be as follows:

### **FODS Committee Meeting**

#### **Agenda**

1. Review of Summer Fete
2. Advent Fair - November 25<sup>th</sup>
3. Other Fund Raising Activities
4. Any Other Business

**I would encourage as many parents, carers and members of staff as possible to attend this meeting.** Our school has benefited over many years from the support of parents and carers through the Friends of Dunster First School. Our ability to maintain and build upon the good work of the past will depend on people's willingness to get involved, so please do come along to this meeting.

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### Monstas After School Club

Monstas After School Club offers childcare provision for children attending Dunster First School. It is open from 3.30pm to 5.30pm throughout the school week.



Monstas After School Club is run by Ruth Webber, Linda Welsher and Sue Fletcher.

To attend the club you will need to register your child and pay an annual registration fee of £5.00. Spaces at the club are limited so it is advisable to book places well in advance. This can be done through the school office.

Charges for sessions are as follows:

£4.50 for the first hour (minimum booking)

£2.25 for each subsequent half hour up to a maximum of £9.00 a session

For further information about the club please contact the school office.

### EXMOOR COAST



### Exmoor Coast Federation Parent and Family Support Drop In Sessions

Members of the Exmoor Coast Federation Parent and Family Support Team will be in school this term on the following dates:

Friday September 16<sup>th</sup> - 8.40am to 9.15am

Friday October 14<sup>th</sup> - 8.40am to 9.15am

Friday November 25<sup>th</sup> - 8.40am to 9.15am

Parent and Family Support Adviser Brandon Calaz, and Emotional Health Worker, Mick Armitage, will be around

on these dates to offer support and advice on emotional health support for individuals and families, loss and bereavement, family separation, eating disorders, anxieties and any other issues impacting on a young person's self-esteem, parenting and behaviour concerns ... or any other topics that you feel are relevant to you and your family.

These informal sessions for parents and carers will be held in the Monstas After School Club room. If you would like some support or advice please just drop in for a chat and a coffee.

### Castle Car Parking Permits

Once again, this year we are asking parents to support us in our efforts to reduce traffic congestion around the school.

In the morning all parents who drive to school are able to park in the Dunster Steep Car Park free of charge before 9.00am. If you arrive at school early in the morning you can use this free parking facility and enjoy a short walk into school.

At the end of the day, parents with children at our school are able to park in the Dunster Castle Visitor car park between 3.00pm and 4.00pm (term time only) to enable them to walk to school to pick up their children, following the route outlined below.

The arrangement, courtesy of the National Trust, is free of charge. If you would like to take advantage of this scheme please complete the slip at the end of this newsletter and return it to school. A valid permit will be issued and this must be shown daily at the Castle Reception on arrival. Because of the movement of vehicles, parents are reminded that they must supervise their children closely at all times when walking through the Castle grounds.

**Parents and carers are respectfully asked not to use the allotment car parks behind the school. This car park is reserved for Dunster First School staff, Dunster Pre-School staff and allotment holders. Similarly parents are asked not to park in West Close as this is used by school buses.**

### Data Checking Sheets

Over the next week we will be sending a copy of the information that we hold on computer about your child. We are required to do this under the Data Protection Act. Could you please check this information and return these sheets to school with any amendments, taking particular care to make sure that your telephone contacts are up to date.



If there are no changes, could you please sign and return the form(s) so that we know that you have seen it.

Information about the data we collect and store on your child is available on request from the school office.

### Free Fruit and Vegetable Scheme

We are delighted that the government's free fruit and vegetable scheme for children in the Reception Class, Year 1 and Year 2 will be continued this year. The scheme is being paid for by the Government as part of their efforts to promote healthy lifestyles by encouraging adults and children to eat five pieces of fresh fruit or vegetables a day.



Under this scheme children in the Reception Class, Year 1 and Year 2 will receive a free piece of fruit or vegetable each day for their morning break. As a health promoting school we are asking parents **not to send in any other snack foods such as crisps or biscuits** for their child's morning break.

Unfortunately, children in Years 3 and 4 are not included in the scheme but we would appreciate it if parents supported the school by also sending in healthy morning breaks.

### Newsletter Adverts

You are invited to help support the cost of producing school newsletters by buying advertising space at a cost of £5 for a full page advert.



This charge helps us to cover the cost of producing the newsletter and, with a print run of around 200, is an effective way of advertising your business or event. For further information contact Mrs Lewis at the school.



### My Final Year at Dunster First School

Finally I would like to inform you that after thirty years at Dunster First School I have decided that the current school year will be my last and I will be stepping down from my position as Headteacher at the end of the Summer Term 2017. Over the coming months the governors will be working with an external advisor to recruit a new Headteacher for the school. I will support them in whatever way I can with this process and will then work with whoever is appointed to ensure a smooth transition for the school.

Yours truly

Peter Hoyland  
Headteacher

**Dunster First School**  
**Request for a 2016/2017 Castle Parking Permit**

Name of parent .....

Name of child .....

Car make and model .....

Registration number .....



**Curriculum Information Meetings Reply Slip**

Name of child ..... Class .....

I/We will/will not be attending the curriculum meeting for my child's class.

I would like to use the crèche facilities for my child (ren)

Name of child

Age

.....

.....

.....

.....

signature of parent .....

*Please return to your child's teacher*



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**DASH Club - New Members**

I would like my child to be considered for a place in DASH Club Yes/No

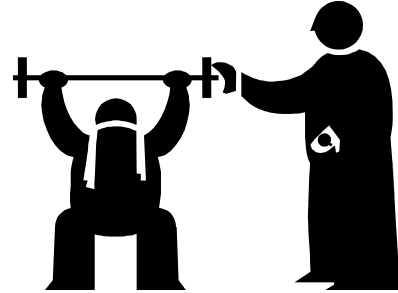
I would like to talk to someone before deciding whether or not Yes/No  
I would like my child to take part in DASH Club

Name of Child.....

Year Group.....

Signature of Parent

.....



**Please return to the School Office**

Parents and Carers of DASH Club members who have already received their programme for this term do not need to return this reply slip.