



# **Dunster First School**

Headteacher: Peter Hoyland

## **Newsletter No 3**



# **Harvest Service**

## **St George's Church, Dunster**

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

### **10.00am**

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)

13 St Georges Street  
Dunster, Minehead  
TA24 6RX



# Dunster First School

Headteacher: Peter Hoyland

03 October 2016

Newsletter No 3

Dear Parents,  
May I please bring the following to your attention:

## Diary Dates

**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>**

Friday December 2<sup>nd</sup> and

Saturday December 3<sup>rd</sup>

**Thursday December 8<sup>th</sup>**

Friday December 9<sup>th</sup>

**Wednesday December 14<sup>th</sup>**

Thursday December 15<sup>th</sup>

**Friday December 16<sup>th</sup>**

Saturday December 17<sup>th</sup> to

Monday January 2<sup>nd</sup>

**Tuesday December 3<sup>rd</sup>**

**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**

Dunster by Candlelight

**Year 3 and Year 4 Nativity Play, St George's  
Church, 2.00pm**

Reception Class, Year 1 and Year 2 Nativity Play, St  
George's Church, 2.00pm

**Reception Class, Year 1 and Year 2 Christmas  
Party, 2.00pm to 4.00pm**

Year 3 and Year 4 Christmas Party, 2.00pm to  
4.00pm

**Last Day of the Autumn Term**

Christmas Holiday

**First day of Spring Term 2017**

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)

13 St Georges Street  
Dunster, Minehead  
TA24 6RX



Somerset Total  
Communication



Member 2015-2016

### The Co-op Local Community Fund

Following a successful application last year our school has been one of three local groups selected to receive funding from the Co-op Local Community Fund.



We applied for funding to help improve the school gardens by the Year 3 classroom. The project will include landscaping the gardens, adding new furniture and if enough money is raised purchasing and installing a "Hobbit Hut" which can be used for small group activities, such as story time.

Our successful application means that over the next six months we will receive 1% of Co-op members' purchases of all Co-op branded goods and the other services, such as insurance, that the company provides. Any money raised locally by the scheme can be given to the school by logging onto your Co-op membership account and choosing Dunster First School!

If you would like to help raise money for the school you will need to become a member of the Co-op and once registered start to use your membership card every time you shop in the Co-op in Alcombe or Minehead. Existing Co-op members do not need to re-join.

A leaflet explaining more about the Co-op membership and the Local Community Fund accompanies this newsletter.

Please encourage family and friends to join up as the more people who support this scheme the more money will be raised for the school.

### School Games Mark Gold Award

Following an assessment on September 20<sup>th</sup> our school was awarded the Sainsbury's School Games Gold Mark Award 2015 to 2016 for our high quality PE and sport provision. This is third consecutive year that we have achieved the gold award.



The award recognises our work over the past twelve months to provide as many opportunities for children to:

- access a range of extra-curricular sports clubs
- access a wide range of sports and activities within the school curriculum
- take part in a wide range of inter-school and intra-school sports competitions.

### School Harvest Service - Friday October 7<sup>th</sup>



Parents, Carers, Grandparents and friends of the school are invited to attend this year's Harvest Service in St George's Church, Dunster on Friday October 7<sup>th</sup> starting at 10.00am.

Once again we will be collecting groceries (tins and packets) and fresh produce for the MENCAP residential home in Bampton Street, Minehead. Bampton Court is home to a number of adults with learning difficulties and had been in existence since 1993. As a charity MENCAP receives no financial support from the government.

Harvest gifts can be brought into school on the morning of the service and taken to your child's classroom. A collection for a charity chosen by the School Council will also be taken at the end of the Harvest Service.

### School Council Election Results

Thank you to all those children who put themselves forward for election to this year's School Council. The class elections, which were held on Wednesday September 28<sup>th</sup>, were all very close with the following children being elected to represent their classes:

Year 1	Ella Woodward and Gabriel James
Year 2	Katie Miller and Harry Wallace
Year 3	Erin Strong and Isaac Ramsey
Year 4	Millie Slader and Jude Stanbury



The Exmoor Coast Federation School Council Members (who also serve on our School Council) are Maisie Lyddon and Jake Woodward.

The first meeting of the new school council will be held on Wednesday October 5<sup>th</sup>.

### Road Dahl Summer Library Reading Challenge

Congratulations to Gypsy-Hope Reeves (Reception Class), River Reeves (Year 2) and Lyla-Rose Stevens (Year 3) who also completed the Big Friendly Summer Reading Challenge but whose certificates were a little late arriving in school.



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)

13 St Georges Street  
Dunster, Minehead  
TA24 6RX

### Friends of Dunster First School Annual General Meeting

Thank you to those people who attended the Friends of Dunster First School Annual General Meeting on Thursday September 22<sup>nd</sup>. At the meeting the following officers were elected for 2016 to 2017:

Chair - Peter Lancaster

Treasurer - Rosin O'Hagan

Secretary - Ellen Vickery



### Friends of Dunster First School Advent Fair Planning Meeting - Thursday October 13<sup>th</sup>

The Friends of Dunster First School will be meeting in the Year 4 classroom at 7.00pm on Thursday October 13<sup>th</sup> to start planning this year's Advent Fair.

If you would like to get involved in our biggest fund raising event of the year then please come along to the meeting. We urgently need new parents and carers to help with the planning and organisation of this event so please do come along!

### Hamper Baskets Needed!

Unwanted empty Hamper Baskets and/ or Wicker Baskets are needed for our Grand Advent Fair Raffle. If you have one you can donate then please send it in to the school office.



### Headteacher Recruitment

The governing body have now started the process of recruiting a new Headteacher for the school. As part of this they have decided to make a short film that will be used to promote the school to any potential candidates.



Filming will be taking place on Thursday October 13<sup>th</sup>. As the film is about the school it will be important that it features some of the children.

We will though make sure that only those children for whom we have permission will be used in any filming. If you do not wish your child to take part in the film please contact Mrs Thrush in the school office.

### Dunster First School Complaints Policy

At the meeting of the full Governing Body on Monday September 26<sup>th</sup> the school's Complaints Policy was reviewed and updated. A leaflet outlining the school's complaints procedures is available from the front lobby outside the Year 4 classroom. Please contact Mrs Thrush in the school office if you would like a copy or alternatively visit the school website at [www.dunsterfirstschool.org.uk](http://www.dunsterfirstschool.org.uk) where a copy of the policy can be found in the Information section.

## Measles

You may be aware that measles is circulating in many areas across the country; there continues to be cases in many parts of the South West. Transmission is occurring most in areas with a lower uptake of MMR vaccine; in particular parts of Devon, Somerset and Dorset. The majority of cases are of secondary school age but people of all ages are being affected. Following an outbreak in South Devon in the summer we continue to see the majority of our cases in Devon.



Measles is a highly infectious viral illness spread through coughing and sneezing and close personal contact. Most people feel very unwell but do recover completely from measles, however, on rare occasions there can be serious complications.

The first stage of measles includes a runny nose, conjunctivitis (red eyes), a cough and an increasing fever that comes and goes. A rash appears on day 3 or 4 while the individual is still feverish and miserable. Anyone with suspected measles should be excluded from school or work until five days after the rash first appears.

MMR vaccine offers a high level of protection against measles. The first dose should be given at 12 months of age and the second with the pre-school booster, but if these have been missed it is never too late to have them. Two doses are required to provide a high level of protection. This is important for the protection of the individual and also to protect those who cannot be immunised because of age, pregnancy or an underlying medical condition causing immunosuppression. For these vulnerable people, measles can be a particularly serious disease.

If you are unsure whether your child/children have been fully immunised, you can check with your GP surgery and make an appointment to receive any doses of MMR vaccine they may have missed to ensure they have the 2 doses to provide protection against measles and also rubella and mumps.

MMR is also beneficial if given within 72 hours of exposure to the virus.

If your children do have signs or symptoms of measles, please contact your GP to seek medical advice. Please telephone the GP surgery before visiting and tell the receptionist that the person may have measles so that the surgery can ensure that arrangements are made to avoid exposing other patients to a potential infection.

Further information is available from NHS Choices:

<http://www.nhs.uk/conditions/measles/Pages/Introduction.aspx>

Information about the MMR vaccine can be found by visiting

<http://www.nhs.uk/conditions/vaccinations/pages/mmr-vaccine.aspx>

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)

13 St Georges Street  
Dunster, Minehead  
TA24 6RX

## 2016 Parents and Carers Survey

Thank you to all those parents and carers who returned the surveys that were sent home with the children's reports at the end of last term. Sixty three (52%) surveys were returned and the results were as follows:



Statement	Strongly Agree	Agree	Disagree	Strongly Disagree	Don't Know
My child is happy at Dunster First School	94%	6%	0%	0%	0%
My child feels safe at Dunster First School	95%	5%	0%	0%	0%
My child makes good progress at Dunster First School	90%	10%	0%	0%	0%
My child is well looked after at Dunster First School	95%	5%	0%	0%	0%
My child is well taught at Dunster First School	90%	10%	0%	0%	0%
My child receives appropriate homework for their age	68%	32%	0%	0%	0%
Dunster First School makes sure its pupils are well behaved	82.5%	16%	0%	0%	1.5%
Dunster First School deals effectively with bullying	58%	22.5%	0%	0%	19.5%
Dunster First School is well led and managed	98.5%	1.5%	0%	0%	0%
Dunster First School responds well to any concerns I have	90.5%	8%	1.5%	0%	0%
I receive valuable information from Dunster First School about my child's progress	86%	14%	3%	0%	0%
Dunster First School keeps me informed about what is going on at the school	89%	11%	0%	0%	0%

100% of those who responded said that they would recommend Dunster First School to other parents and carers. The survey was discussed at the Full Governing Body meeting that was held on Monday September 26<sup>th</sup> and as a result school staff and governors will be looking to develop the following aspects of our work during the current school year.

- Looking at ways of improving how we communicate with parents and carers through the use of electronic communication, e.g. emails, Twitter.
- Looking at ways of raising parents and carers awareness of how the school will manage incidents of bullying.

Yours truly,

Peter Hoyland  
Headteacher

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)

13 St Georges Street  
Dunster, Minehead  
TA24 6RX