



Dunster First School

Headteacher: Peter Hoyland

Newsletter No 9

**HAPPY
NEW YEAR!
2017**

Spring Term 2017

Tuesday January 3rd

to

Friday 31st March

Tel: 01643 821254 Fax: 01643 821243

dunsterfirstschool@educ.somerset.gov.uk

www.dunsterfirstschool.org.uk

13 St Georges Street
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TA24 6RX



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Dear Parents and Carers,

Welcome back to school after the Christmas holiday and best wishes to everyone for the Brand New Start that comes with the New Year of 2017 and a new school term.

May I please bring the following to your attention:

Diary Dates

Tuesday January 3 rd	First Day of the Spring Term 2016
Wednesday January 18th and Thursday January 19th	Interviews for Headteacher
Monday March 23 rd	Meeting of the Board of Governors - 7.00pm
Thursday February 2nd	Pinkery Information Meeting for Year 4 Parents and Carers - 7.00pm
Friday February 3 rd	West Somerset Sports Association's Football at Knights Templar First School - 3.45pm to 5.30pm
Tuesday February 7th	Safer Internet Day
Friday February 10 th to Sunday February 19 th	Spring Half Term Holiday
Monday February 27th to Friday March 3rd	Book and Story Week (more details to follow)
Monday March 6 th	Parent and Carers Meetings with Teachers - 6.00pm to 9.00pm
Tuesday March 7th	Parents and Carers Meetings with Teachers - 4.00pm to 7.00pm
Monday March 20 th	Meeting of the Board of Governors - 7.00pm
Friday March 31st	Easter Hat and Bonnet Parade
	Easter Service in St George's Church - 2.00pm
Saturday April 1 st to Sunday April 16 th	Easter Holiday
Monday April 17th	Bank Holiday Monday
Tuesday April 18 th	First Day of Summer Term
Wednesday April 19th to Friday April 21st	Year 4 Residential Trip to Pinkery

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Member 2015-2016

School Clubs

School Clubs will start on the following dates:

Name of Club	Year Group	Day	Club Leader(s)	Date Club starts/ notes
DASH Club	R to 4	Mondays and Fridays	Mr Hoyland	Monday January 9 th This terms programme has been sent home.
Fundamentals Club	1	Tuesdays	1610	Tuesday January 10 th A letter confirming children's places at this club has been sent home.
Tennis Club	3 & 4	Wednesdays	Simon Barmby-King	Wednesday January 11 th This club will continue for all those children who attended the club last term.
Film Club	3 & 4	Thursdays	Mrs Vickery	Thursday January 5 th Please note this club finishes at half term.
Football Club	3 & 4	Thursdays	Mr James	Thursday January 5 th Please note this club finishes at half term.

SEAL - Social and Emotional Aspects of Learning

Good to be Me

As part of all the children's Personal, Social and Health Education the children are continuing to follow a programme called Social and Emotional Aspects of Learning, known to the children as 'SEAL'.



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 'Good to be Me'. The children will have the opportunity to do lots of work about understanding their feelings and managing their feelings, as well as helping children feel good about themselves. There will be a celebratory assembly at the end of this half term to share their good work and honour their learning and achievement.

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

- 1) Let children know how we as adults feel about things.
- 2) How many different feeling words can your child think of?
- 3) Brainstorm together different ways of calming down and which works best for your child e.g. counting to ten, taking 3 deep breaths, going for a walk etc.
- 4) Read a story book together and talk about how the characters are feeling.

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Autumn Term Attendance

Congratulations to the following fifty two children who all achieved 100% attendance during the Autumn Term 2016. All of these children received a certificate at the start of this term to mark their achievement.



Reception Class

Lacey Dimmock
Amelia Langdon
Cory Marshall
Toby Ware
Kaiden Winter

Year 1

Jessica Blay
Samantha Blay
Sasha Brodie
Cormac Corley
Corey Creech
Ruby Edwards
Eva Furse-Sowden
Amy Green
Gabriel James
Seth Newell
Stephen Stokes
Alfie Thresher
Oscar Ware
Blossom Whittaker

Year 2

Ollie Curtis
Cass Heley
Joshua Marsh
Charlotte
McClafferty
Esme Priddle
Erin Ramsey
Helaina Sherrin
Orla Strong

Year 3

Harry Doolan
Olivia Hazell
Ben Higgins
Noah James
Emily Johnson
Abigail Lamb
Amelia Marsh
Megan Powell
Jack Radford
Isaac Ramsey
Alice Tytler
Albert Vickery
Ben Wintermantle

Year 4

Lorena Bray
Katy-Lou
Bretherton
Star Esson
Taylor
Hollingsworth
Holly Lofts
Riley Lovell
Daniel McClafferty
Ethan Mitchell
Millie Slader
Abigail Sweet
Lexie Webber
Jake Woodward

Over the next week or so an attendance report for your child will be sent home. If there are any discrepancies on the report please contact the school office. As a guide satisfactory attendance is 92%, while the average for children at our school last term was 97.3%.

Wassailing in the Community Orchard Dunster - Tuesday January 17th

The Dunster Community Orchard is performing the ancient tradition of wassailing the Apple Trees at 7.30pm on Tuesday January 17th 2017. You are all invited to meet at the Buttercross Orchard St Georges Street, Dunster ... whatever the weather.

You can bring something to bang ... a drum, a tin can, anything to make a loud noise!



The evening will involve 'The Wassail', firing of shotguns, music, stories, songs, and hot cider (and other refreshment) followed by a flaming torch procession around the Village stopping at hostelries, for more songs, stories, and refreshments.

You can park for free at Dunster Steep car park, wrap up, pop your wellies on, torch in pocket, and it's only a short walk to the Orchard.

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Inclement Weather Procedures

As a school, we will always aim to keep the school open and will only close when to remain open could endanger children and staff. Any decision to close the school will be made by myself in conjunction with the school's Chair of Governors. If we have to close the school we will aim to make the decision by 8.00am.

In the event of severe weather conditions preventing the school from opening, we are grateful to the following people for agreeing to be contact points for parents to ring.

Minehead	Anne Leworthy	07783 569959 (unable to respond to texts)
Carhampton	Greta Thrush	01643 821670
Luxborough	Elizabeth Worley	01984 640307

In order to keep the school telephone lines free for essential calls, parents enquiring about possible school closure should contact one of the above volunteers. Should computer links allow, we will endeavour to contact those parents who have registered their mobile numbers with the school by text message and will also post closure details on the news page of the school website, www.dunsterfirstschool.org.uk.

To enable information to be circulated as early as possible, and to reduce the burden on the school's systems, School Transport will notify those parents who have provided up to date contact details if school buses are running late, have broken down or are not running due to poor weather conditions.

Information about closures will be broadcast by the following local radio stations:

BBC Somerset	95.5FM and 1566MHz
Heart Somerset FM	102.6FM, 96.5FM and 97.1FM
Breeze FM	107.2FM

Year 4 Residential Trip to Pinkery

This year's residential trip to Pinkery for children in Year 4 will take place from Wednesday April 19th to Friday April 21st. Information about this trip will be sent home over the coming weeks.

An information meeting for parents and carers about the Pinkery trip will be held on Thursday February 2nd at 7.00pm. This meeting will be held in the Year 4 classroom. At the meeting you will be provided with information about the visit to Pinkery and have an opportunity to talk to some of the members of staff who will be accompanying the children on the trip.



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School Dinners

Towards the end of last term a number of families were not returning their pink school meal forms or, if they were returned some key information was missing. To help us ensure that your child gets the meal that you have ordered and one that they will be happy to eat, could I please ask parents to ensure the following...



- a) That meal order slips are returned by the requested date.
- b) That meal slips are named. Please include your child's first and second name.
- c) That you write in your child's year group.
- d) That you sign the form.
- e) That if you select a jacket potato or sandwich that you also include the filling that your child would like.

Finally if at all possible it would be helpful if meal choices have been discussed with your child so that they know what you have ordered for them. On occasions children can get upset if they are given a meal that they don't like.

If we do not receive a form then we will provide your child with the main choice (1A) on the menu.

Thank you for your help with this.

Yours truly,

Peter Hoyland
Headteacher