



Dunster First School

Headteacher: Peter Hoyland

Newsletter No 15



Summer Half Term Holiday
Saturday May 27th to Sunday June 4th



School Swimming Starts
Monday June 5th
(Swimming Timetable inside)

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www.dunsterfirstschool.org.uk

13 St Georges Street
Dunster, Minehead
TA24 6RX



Dunster First School

Headteacher: Peter Hoyland

Friday May 12th

Newsletter Number 15

Dear Parents and Carers

May I please bring the following to your attention.

Diary Dates

Monday May 15th to

Friday May 19th

Monday May 15th

Friday May 26th

Saturday May 27th to

Sunday June 4th

Monday June 5th

Friday June 9th

Monday June 12th

Monday June 12th

Monday June 19th

Monday June 19th

Friday June 23rd

Friday June 30th

Friday June 30th

Monday July 3rd

Monday July 3rd

Wednesday July 5th

Year 2 SATS Week

West Somerset Primary Tennis Challenge

Year 2 visit to Dunster Castle (more details to follow)

Summer Half Term Holiday

School Swimming lessons start

West Somerset Sports Association Catchball Gala, Minehead Middle School (more details to follow)

Year 1 Phonics Check

After School Swimming sessions start

Meeting for parents and carers with children moving from the Reception Class into Year 1, 3.30pm

Beacon to Beach Run Offs. 6.30pm (more details to follow)

Year 2 visit to Dunster Beach (more details to follow)

New Parents Morning, 9.10am (more details to follow)

Exmoor Coast Federation Family Support Drop-in Session - 8.40am

Year 2 visit to Minehead (more details to follow)

Meeting of the Board of Governors, 7.00pm

Reception Class and Year 1 visiting Nutcombe Bottom (more details to follow)

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Thursday July 6th	West Somerset Sports Association Area Sports at Knights Templar First School, 1.30pm (more details to follow)
Friday July 7 th	Orienteering event at Dunster Castle for Year 4 (more details to follow)
Tuesday July 11th	School Sports Day, 1.30pm
Wednesday July 12 th	School Sports Day (Reserve Day)
Friday July 14th	Year 4 Leavers Party, 6.00pm (more details to follow)
Tuesday July 18 th	Reception Class and Year 1 visiting Dunster Beach (more details to follow)
Wednesday July 19th	Teddy Bears Picnic (more details to follow)
Thursday July 20 th	Year 4 Leavers Performance, 1.45pm
Friday July 21st	Last Day of Summer Term
Saturday July 22 nd to Sunday September 3 rd	Summer Holidays
Monday September 4th	School Closed for Staff Training
Tuesday September 5 th	First Day of Autumn Term 2017

Summer Swimming

After half term swimming will be starting. Swimming lessons in school time will start during the first week back after half term, with after school swimming starting on Monday June 12th. The timetable for this year's swimming will be as follows:

School Swimming Timetable 2016	9.10am to 10.15am	11.00am to 12.20pm	1.45pm to 3.10pm	After School Swimming
Monday	Year 4		Year 3	Year 1
Tuesday			Year 3	Year 2
Wednesday	Year 4	Year 2	Year 1	Reception
Thursday		Year 1	Year 2	Year 3
Friday	Pre-School		Reception	Year 4

Swimming lessons in school

I will be taking the swimming lessons for the children in Year 4, Mrs Lancaster will be taking the swimming lessons for the children in Year 3 and swimming coach, Jo Storey, will be taking the lessons for the children in the Reception Class, Year 1 and Year 2.

In order for swimming lessons to run as smoothly as possible we would be grateful for parents, carers and grandparents to help supervise changing during these sessions. If we don't get enough volunteers it might not be possible to run all of the planned sessions.

All volunteers will need to be cleared through the Disclosure and Barring Service (DBS), so if you intend to help but have not yet been cleared, please contact the school

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office as soon as possible for details on the application process. People who have been cleared within the last two years will not need to go through the DBS process again.

If you have been DBS checked and are able to help with one or more of your child's swimming sessions please contact your child's teacher.

For Reception Class lessons we not only need volunteers to help with changing but also to provide support for children in the water.

It will be important that all swimming kit is clearly labelled with your child's name. Swimming kit should come into school in a named waterproof bag that will prevent other items, such as reading books, from getting wet.



Thanks to the money raised by the Friends of Dunster First School and by those children who were sponsored to take part in this year's Swimathon, all of the swimming that we provide is free.

After School Swimming Clubs

After school swimming clubs will start in the second week back after half term. The timetable for these sessions is included in the main swimming timetable (see above).

After School Sessions for Children in Year 4

For these sessions we will need parents and carers who have been DBS checked to supervise the children who are swimming. In addition, we also need parents and carers who have been DBS checked to supervise waiting children. If we do not get enough offers of help for any particular age group we will not be able to run these after school sessions.



Any brothers or sisters of those children who are swimming must be supervised by their own parents/ carers. It will not be the responsibility of those parents and carers who have volunteered to look after children from the year group who are taking part in school sessions to look after children from other year groups. If required children can be booked into Monstas After School Club.

Regrettably, with the possible exception of those parents and carers who are helping to run after school sessions, we are not able to allow brothers and sisters to swim in the same sessions as each other.

We will be expecting a very high standard of behaviour from children taking part in after school swimming sessions. Children who are not able to behave appropriately will not be allowed to attend these sessions.

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If you would like your child to attend after school swimming club sessions please complete and return the slip at the end of this letter by Wednesday June 7th. Reply slips returned after this date may not be accepted.

After School Swimming for Children in the Reception Class and Years 1, 2 and 3
Parents and carers with children in Year 3, Year 2, Year 1 and the Reception Class will need to supervise their own children at after school swimming sessions. However, we will still need to have one or two "nominated" parents and carers from each year group to lead the sessions.

If you would like your child to attend after school swimming club sessions please complete and return the slip at the end of this letter by Wednesday June 7th. Reply slips returned after this date may not be accepted.



Swimathon Sponsorship

Thank you to everyone who raised money for the Rotary Club of Minehead and the Quantocks at this year's Swimathon. As a school we raised £181.00. This money will be shared between the school and charities supported by the Rotary Club. The money for the school will be used to subsidise the cost of school swimming.

Year 4 Residential Trip to Pinkery

Thank you to the children, staff and volunteers who helped to make this year's Year 4 trip to Pinkery such a success. The children had a wonderful three days away taking part in a range of activities that included, paint-balling, camouflage and concealment, grass sledging, problem solving, walking through dark and wet tunnels, getting very muddy and finding out all about the magic of Exmoor.



There are lots of photographs from the trip currently on display on Dunster TV. Since returning to school the children have produced some wonderful art work and very soon Mr James and Miss Turton will display All the Pictures on the Wall in the front lobby. Those pieces of art work chosen to be submitted for the Pinkery Art Competition will also be displayed in Webbers Estate Agents, Friday Street, Minehead.

Following the trip to Pinkery the children in the class wrote some wonderful poems about Pinkery and Exmoor, two of which we have included in this newsletter.

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The Magic of Pinkery

Way out in the distance you hear the faint hoot of a Short eared owl scouting for food.

This is the place to watch a Buzzard circling the sky hunting for food that will see it through for another day.

Further away from the Pinkery Centre you hear cattle bellowing by the blue silky water of Pinkery Pond.

Away in the distance you can see all the Hawthorn trees stretched out in the direction of the wind like a signpost showing you the way.

Beneath my feet I hear the crunch of all of the people walking in the misty and frosty grass.

I can hear the sound of the bubbling and babbling stream as it rushes across the moors and onto the sea.

This is the place that I'll never forget, that I'll always love and that will stay in my heart forever.

*Harry Vince
Year 4*



The Magic of Pinkery

Through the early morning mist, I can just make out a Buzzard soaring above the moors hunting for its prey.

I can see the stream rippling, bubbling and I can hear it trickle and gurgle as it rolls in a never ending rush to the sea.

My fingers run down the rough and uneven trunk of the Hawthorn tree as it leans over the grassy bank.

My eyes are drawn to a Skylark way up above and I can hear it calling to the afternoon sun.

Way out on the horizon, you can hear the noisy cattle bellowing as they tug at the moorland grass.

This is the place that I visited when I was a child and it is a place that I will never forget.

Finlay Twiss
Year 4





Monstas After School Club Cake and Daffodil Sale

Thank you to everyone who supported last term's Monstas After School Club Cake and Daffodil sale. A total of £63.06 was raised for club funds.



Marvellous Musicians

Congratulations to Alisha-Beth Fairbrother (Soprano Saxophone) and Maisie Lyddon (Clarinet) for passing their Grade One music examinations. Both girls achieved a Distinction in their exam! Thank you and congratulations as well to their music teacher, Bev Trimmings.



Key Dates for Year 4 Parents and Carers

With a term to go until our Year 4 children transfer to Minehead Middle School here is a reminder of the key dates for Year 4 children and their parents.



Thursday June 15th Year 4 spend the afternoon at Minehead Middle School

Monday June 26th Meeting for parents and carers at Minehead Middle school at 6.30pm. This meeting is for parents and carers only. No children to attend please.

Tuesday July 4th Year 4 spend the day at Minehead Middle School. During this visit they will find out which class they are in and who their teacher is going to be.

Meeting for Year 4 Parents and Carers at Minehead Middle School starting at 6.30pm.

On May 10th we sent home information packs from Minehead Middle School. The packs included Pupil Detail Forms which need to be returned as soon as possible to Mrs Thrush in the School Office.

Finally, I am sure that you will join me in saying a huge thank you and well done to Mrs Thrush who celebrated twenty five years of working at the school on Thursday May 11th. As you can see from the picture she celebrated the day in style.

Best Wishes

Peter Hoyland
Headteacher



After School Swimming 2017 (for children in Year 4)

I wish my child (name) in Year to take part in After School Swimming.

He/ She will be taken home by

I am able/ unable to help with supervising children in the pool

I am able/ unable to help with dressing and supervising waiting children

I have a current DBS check

Signed..... (Parent/carer)

Please return to the School Office by Wednesday June 7th



Reception Class, Year 1, Year 2 and Year 3
After School Swimming - 2017

I will/will not be taking my child to after school swimming sessions

Name of child.....

Year group.....

Signed..... (Parent/carer)

Please return to the School Office by Wednesday June 7th



NSPCC Visit to School

Tuesday May 23rd



The NSPCC's Speak Out, Stay Safe Programme is visiting our school on the afternoon of May 23rd. A representative of the charity will be leading two special assemblies; one for the children in the Reception Class, Year 1 and Year 2 and another one for the children in Years 3 and 4.

Further information about the NSPCC visit is included in the envelope accompanying this newsletter.

Please help us to raise money for the NSPCC

We will be using May 23rd to help raise money for work of the NSPCC. We are asking each child to come to school wearing one item of green clothing...socks...trousers...a shirt...a jumper or even a hat and to bring in £1.00 for the privilege of doing so.

