



Dunster First School- Friday News

Headteacher: Naomi Philp

12th January 2018

Dear parents and carers,

Happy new year to you all. As lovely as the Christmas period was for many of us, meaning we spent highly valued time being with our families, it was also really lovely to get back to our 'Dunster school family' on Monday. Even on these cold and dark mornings we have soon got stuck back in to learning. Those of you who were able to join us for our first awards assembly of the term today, will have seen just how many of our students have already impressed us with their behaviour, kindness and achievements.

With a new Education Secretary appointed this week, education may once again be about to face more changes, yet we reassure you that, here Dunster First School, our values will remain unchanged. We will always put children first and we will always do what is right for the children and the community that we serve, so that every child has every opportunity to excel.

We started our term talking about 'challenge and independence' in line with our British Value this term: 'celebrating difference.' We started the topic considering what we want to achieve in our lives, during this year and even each day. The pupils thought carefully about what they might like to achieve to be proud, both now and in the future, and how they will keep trying, because we believe in the 'Power of Yet.' Please enjoy asking them about their hopes for their futures, we certainly enjoyed finding out who wants to be Prime Minister, the next rockstar, or even a real life superhero!

Included with this newsletter are our calendars for January and February, we hope you enjoy making use of them, if you are like many of us they will no doubt be stuck to a fridge door and added to as the term goes on.

For information: Unfortunately, our street surfing workshops had to be post-poned, but please be reassured they will be rescheduled. Please also note that we are having our first walk to school next Friday morning, from Hopcott. Separate information has gone home about this, but if you have missed it just pop in and see one of us, or give us a call to find out more. Most importantly the bacon butties need pre-ordering!

With my very best wishes,

Mrs Naomi Philp

Head teacher

Student Parliament joke of the week comes from Ben Wintermantle:

What do you call a duck crossed with a Christmas Cracker... A Christmas Quacker!



AWARDS

Kindness Awards:

Reception: Kian Stafford for great sharing and noticing when his friends are upset.

Year 1: Amelia Langdon for always being the first to offer to do jobs

Year 2: Corey Creech for making Year 2 a new 'farm' for golden time during the holidays because ours was broken.

Year 3: Elliot Freeguard - for allowing Tilly (YR4) to borrow his piano book for her lesson.

Year 4: Kate Lancaster-for excellent manners throughout the school week.

Achievement Awards:

Reception: Oliver Bishop for listening carefully and trying his best.

Year 1: Ollie Rutter for knowing the months of the year in order

Year 2: Lexie Cox for impressing Mrs Dalby and Mrs Evans with her work and attitude in maths.

Year 3: Noah Antonelli for collecting his 'Pow' signs for the times tables we have revisited and have learnt so far this year. He also has his division facts stickers for these tables.

Year 4: Albert Vickery for thinking carefully about punctuation and for creating an imaginary play script which was very well presented.

Good News:

Jasper Mayhew for swimming 5 metres and getting his badge and certificate!

Seth Newell for gaining a Blue Peter badge for his poster on the water cycle.

Star of the Week:

This person spoke really well to one of our governors this week. They explained to them about the school and about how proud they were and what a lovely class year 2 were in particular. This person shows a real aptitude for leadership and when we find out our pupils aims for their story, their futures, I am sure that this young person will be Prime Minister! This person has a clear view of right and wrong and supports their peers to make good decisions; they are helpful in class and actively try to look after our school. This person is: Agatha Vickery

Safeguarding/ Safety Notices:

REMINDER: From Jan 8th when you drop children off to school they will have to stay in their classrooms rather than move freely in and out to play. This ensures we know exactly who is in school. We are staffing every classroom from 8:40 until 9am to continue to facilitate a phased drop off, which offers perfect opportunities for that teacher parent conversation. This open door policy does not stop, we just are taking a more controlled approach to managing this morning time. This means that the playground will not be manned, so if you wish to use the playground please remain with your child/ren. **Children can be dropped off at their classes from 8:40am as usual, but they cannot go out to the playground without their parent/ carer.** Please note, teachers are less available on a Monday as we have a morning briefing, apologies if this causes any consternation, but teaching assistants and Mrs Thrush are available for messages.

Other notices:

The next FODS (Friends of Dunster School) meeting is on Thursday 25th January at 7.00 pm in the school hall. This is an opportunity to get involved with essential fundraising for our school – meetings are informal, fun and there are biscuits too! Everybody is welcome ☺

Applying for a school place - Do you have a child who is due to start school or transfer to middle school in September 2018? Please be aware that the deadline for applications is 15th January.

<http://www.somerset.gov.uk/education-learning-and-schools/choosing-a-school/apply-to-start-school/>

<http://www.somerset.gov.uk/education-learning-and-schools/choosing-a-school/starting-at-a-junior-or-middle-school/>

Key dates for Spring Term – more information about events will follow

19th and 26th January – Parent Awards Assemblies

16th and 29th January – Rev. Caroline Assemblies

19th January – Walk to school from Hopcott Common

23rd January – Phonic sessions for savvy parents

25th January 7pm – FODs meeting in the school hall

26th January Non Uniform day to raise awareness of Kawasaki Disease

26th January – Football Gala

5th and 6th February – Parents evenings

8th February – Winter Sports Day

9th February – School closed for INSET

10th February – Half Term holiday

19th February - Chinese New Year Celebration

26th February - World Book Week Celebrations start with Steve Manning Workshop

1st March – World Book Day

Week beginning 19th March – Easter bonnets and Easter activities

24th March – Easter holiday