



Dunster First School- Friday News

Headteacher: Naomi Philp

2nd February 2018

Dear parents and carers,

We have had some fun this week, with year 3 & 4 having their street surfing sessions, on a day with lovely sunshine too. I was particularly impressed, Mr Elliot tells me that Mr James was quite the natural on the skateboard! Wonders never cease.

Year 4, in not such nice weather, headed up to the Moorland Edge to prepare for their extended writing. The resilience of our hardy outdoors pupils and staff is impressive. When they returned to school, flush from being outdoors, they were ready to create great leaflets for Reception pupils. They are certainly well prepared for Pinkery now, as are all of you after the excellent meeting and information given out by Mr James on Tuesday evening.

Our student parliament have been so active this year, and have just been issued with some great new badges, designed by them. Please do comment on how smart they are if you see them. But more importantly than that they have been thinking of ways to improve our already very lovely school. One of the ways has been to introduce 'playtime' awards for people who are sharing, playing gently, listening and compromising. The next phase for this is to introduce sporting leaders to run activities at lunchtime and breaktimes, they have big plans and it is a pleasure to work with them all. They have also decided that they would like to introduce a Head Boy and Girl role to Dunster First School, with supporting deputies. This will be a year 4 and year 3 opportunity to develop young leaders.

In staffing news, we are advertising the role of School Cook this week, and are keen that we get someone in place for the next 6 months to give Sarah the much needed time with Duncan. Please contact us if you are interested. Plus, great news, we have appointed Mrs Kate Nichols in Reception class as an LSA, and Mrs Louise Parfitt (coming to us from Timberscombe) as an LSA working with SEND pupils. Mrs Carys Newell and Mrs Shelley Payne will cover Mrs Angela Hall's maternity leave, as Angela will be due to depart from us shortly, in March, to welcome the new addition to her family. Finally, there are exciting opportunities for volunteers in West Somerset, if you would like to know more about that again please drop in and see me.

Our themes of the term have been; Challenge and Independence, and we awarded pupils in our special curriculum assembly today. Please check out the award news to see the final recipients, there were many nominees!

With my very best wishes,

Mrs Naomi Philp
Head teacher



Student Parliament Joke of the week: This week we have 2 jokes because we couldn't decide between them!

What did the mummy bunny say to the baby bunny?

...Tut tut tut!

By Albert Vickery

Why did the homework eat the boy?

...Because it was a chompetition!

By Alice Tytler

Request from Student Parliament: please can you encourage your children to send us jokes and do us pictures showing happiness for this newsletter, and or put suggestions in our box outside of year 4 - thank you.

AWARDS

Kindness Awards/ Gentle and Kind Playtimes:

Reception: Bea Bridal

Year 1: Jacob Bond

Year 2: Jess Blay

Year 3: Will Goble

Year 4: Ben Higgins & Hannah Richards

Achievement Awards: Independence

Reception: Amanda Lynch for trying her sounding out on her own.

Year 1: Sophie Griffiths for learning without adult support.

Year 2: Connie Akay for having a great attitude to learning and trying things on her own.

Year 3: Cass Heley for using and finding resources rather than just asking an adult.

Year 4: Evie Ware for having a go before asking for help.

Achievement Awards: Challenge

Reception: Nyssa Clarke for never taking the easy option and trying her best.

Year 1: Jasper Mayhew for keeping trying and really working on his handwriting.

Year 2: Olivia Parfitt for having a go even when it's hard.

Year 3: Kenzie Cox for keeping going even when it's hard and then self-correcting and improving work.

Year 4: Noah James for not giving up when things get tricky.

Lunchtime awards/ great manners at lunchtime:

Oscar Cox, Florence Twiss, Seth Newell, River Reeves, Tilly Nicholls, Abby Lamb

SAFEGUARDING/ SAFETY NOTICES:

Absence: A reminder of our attendance and safeguarding procedures: Please note that we require parents/carers to let the school know if their child is unable to attend school, by telephoning/emailing/contacting the school during the morning of absence by 9:30am. It is our safeguarding duty of care to ensure that our pupils are safe and well. If we are not alerted, or able to contact a parent/carer when a pupil is absent, then we do have a responsibility to undertake a safe and well visit to the home. For instance, an absence from school, with no contact from a parent or carer, can be the first indicator there is something seriously wrong.

OTHER NOTICES:

Kitchen cover staffing: We are seeking a School Cook to cover for 6 months sick leave. Hours negotiable but over a lunchtime period. Pay can be confirmed to interested candidates. Please contact the office for more information.

Parent and Teacher Meetings

Meetings for parents and carers with teachers will take place on the following dates:

Monday 5th February 5.00 pm – 8.00 pm

Tuesday 6th February 4.00 pm – 7.00 pm

We would hope that all of the parents and carers with children at our school would want to attend these meetings. In order to help us with our appointment planning, could you please complete the accompanying reply slip and return it to your child's teacher as soon as possible. When all of the slips have been received they will be returned to you with the approximate time of your appointment - wherever possible, we will do our best to accommodate those parents and carers with children in different classes. We are aiming to give parents and carers about ten minutes with their child's teacher. By giving you plenty of notice for these meetings we hope that you will be able to make childcare arrangements for your children and that they will not accompany you on these evenings.

Guitar and Ukulele Lessons

Starting next half term, Mickie Ritchie will be running a ukulele and a guitar club.

Ukulele Club will start at 3.30pm each Thursday and will last 20 minutes. The cost will be £3 per week per pupil and is suitable for children in Year 1 and Year 2. Ukuleles can be provided if children don't have their own.

Guitar Club will start at 4.00pm each Thursday and will last 30 minutes. The cost will be £4 per week per pupil and is suitable for children in Year 3 and Year 4. It would help if children could bring their own instrument.

Mickie is also available for individual guitar or ukulele lessons on Thursday afternoons at a cost of £30 per hour.

If you are interested in your child taking part in either of these clubs, please contact Mickie on 0796 3087124 or email mickie_ritchie@hotmail.com

FODS notices:

Bingo is on the 16th March: Helpers are required this year so please let FODs know if you are able to support us by undertaking a role on the night. Please donate your unwanted left over Christmas gifts for prize hampers – the non uniform day for this will be the Monday 5th March. We also need Hamper helpers on the afternoon of the 12th March.

Book week helpers are also required for the morning and after school manning of the book fair. Book week is the 26th Feb – 2nd March. Please email FODs or contact the school if you can help.

KEY DATES FOR SPRING TERM – MORE INFORMATION ABOUT EVENTS WILL FOLLOW

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

2nd March – Dress up as a book character day (***this is the Friday of Book Week***)

12th March (pm) - FODS Prize hampers afternoon – ***can you help?***

16th March – FODs Bingo – ***can you help with preparations or on the night?***

Week beginning 19th March – Easter bonnets and Easter activities

24th March – Easter holiday

Dunster First School

Parent / Teacher Meetings

Please complete the slip below by ticking the times at which you would be able to attend and return it to school as soon as possible.

We would be grateful if you could be as flexible as possible

Monday February 5th

5.00pm to 6.00pm

6.00pm to 7.00pm

7.00pm to 8.00pm

Tuesday February 6th

4.00pm to 5.00pm

5.00pm to 6.00pm

6.00pm to 7.00pm

Name of child

Year

Signature of parent

Please return this form to your child's teacher