



# Dunster First School - Thursday News

Headteacher: Naomi Philp

8th February 2018

Dear parents and carers,

It has been a busy, happy and fast half term: from the phonics session for parents to our parent's evenings, from street surfing workshops to winter sports, from 'walk to school' to the football gala, from award assemblies to non uniform day to raise awareness for Kawasaki Disease. We have certainly fitted as many fun-filled learning experiences into this short half term as possible. In addition, we have found time to plan the next phase of fun-filled engaging learning; so coming up to welcome us back after the holiday, another Dress Up day, this time to inform our learning about the Chinese New Year. Children can come dressed up for school on our first day back (19<sup>th</sup> Feb) in clothes to celebrate and mark the occasion. We suggest they might like to wear, red or yellow and red, or come dressed as the year they were born (which is a horse in my case- I think I will go for red!) or as the animal for this year, or maybe even wearing chinese dragon emblems. We encourage a creative response, but equally, endorse the simple colour based outfit; what ever works for you as parents. We do know these fun days make the children excited to return after the holiday but can be a parent's worst nightmare when the night before you suddenly remember you promised to make a dragon outfit! Hopefully this letter will give you plenty of time to prepare. Please remember that the dress up for the children does need to be reasonably practical and safe for a day at school too!

There is a workshop on Weds 21<sup>st</sup> for year 2 and 3, separate letters are included about this. It is a drama workshop run by Channel 4, as they are looking for new talent for a potential new TV programme focussing on young people's career aspirations. Parents do need to return the slip to the class teacher (attached to the separate letter) if they **do not** want their child to participate.

So much to look forward to next half term: our ukulele and guitar lessons start, World Book Day activities, the FODs Bingo, let alone all the Easter bonnet parade fun.

Have a wonderful half term, enjoy the family time together.

With my very best wishes,

Mrs Naomi Philp  
Head teacher

## Student Parliament Joke of the week:

What Safety do you have at Christmas?

...Elf & Safety!  
By Albert Vickery



## 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:

### 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](mailto:mickie_ritchie@hotmail.com)

### FODS notices:

**Bingo** is on the 16<sup>th</sup> 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 5<sup>th</sup> March. We also need Hamper helpers on the afternoon of the 12<sup>th</sup> March. Please complete and return the form at the end of this letter if you can help

**Book week** helpers are also required for the morning and after school manning of the book fair. Book week is the 26<sup>th</sup> Feb – 2<sup>nd</sup> March. Please complete and return the form at the end of this letter if you can help.

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

9<sup>th</sup> February – School closed for INSET

10<sup>th</sup> February – Half Term holiday

19<sup>th</sup> February - Chinese New Year Celebration

26<sup>th</sup> February - World Book Week Celebrations start with Steve Manning Workshop

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

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

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

Week beginning 19<sup>th</sup> March – Easter bonnets and Easter activities

24<sup>th</sup> March – Easter holiday

# Book Week 2018: Monday 26<sup>th</sup> February - Friday 2<sup>nd</sup> March



Dear Parents / carers,

Once again at Dunster we will be celebrating all things BOOKS! Prior to, and throughout Book Week there will be a variety of different activities, events and challenges for the children to participate in. Some will need to be done with you and others will be done with their classes.

- **The 'extreme' reading challenge** – We are challenging the children of Dunster First School to see who can read in the most extreme (but safe!), unusual or interesting place. If you find yourself during half term scaling Dunkery Beacon, on an aeroplane or spinning round on a roundabout in the local park, take your book along ask a grown up to take a photo.



Then print it off and bring it school and it will be added to our Book Week display. If you are unable to print your photo then please send it to school marked 'extreme reading to [dunsterfirstschool@educ.somerset.gov.uk](mailto:dunsterfirstschool@educ.somerset.gov.uk). Please don't send your photos until after the half term holidays.

This will also run in the week prior to, as well as during Book Week. Hopefully your child will find some weird, wonderful and wacky places to read but remember to keep safe.

- The **book fair** in the hall will be open daily (timetable to follow). Here you will be able to purchase books and stationary. At the end of the week the school will receive an amount of money for each class to spend on new books for each class. **If you are able to help either before or after school with this then please complete the form at the end of this letter or let Mrs Vickery or Mrs Thrush know.**



- There will be a **'Where's Wally?' hunt** around the school during Book Week. If you find them all, you might win a prize. More details to follow
- Years 3 and 4 are being challenged to read or have read to them as many different types of texts as they can over half term and the week leading up to Book Week.



- Each class will be holding a **book swap**. We will be inviting all children to bring in a good quality but unwanted book into school on **Wednesday 28<sup>th</sup> February** and then they will have the chance to swap it for another book, which they can bring home and enjoy with you.
- Finally we will be having our traditional book character parade on **Friday 2<sup>nd</sup> March**. Your child is invited to dress up as their favourite book character on this day.



## Happy reading!



## VOLUNTEERS NEEDED FOR FODS EVENTS

Name \_\_\_\_\_

Please indicate below if you are able to help with the following events

### Volunteers to man our Book Fair during Book Week 26<sup>th</sup> February – 2<sup>nd</sup> March

Monday 08.30 – 09.30	
Monday 15.30 – 16.30	
Tuesday 08.30 – 09.30	
Tuesday 15.30 – 16.30	
Wednesday 08.30 – 09.30	
Thursday 08.30 – 09.30	
Thursday 15.30 – 16.30	
Friday 08.30 – 09.30	
Friday 15.30 – 16.30	



### Volunteers to help with FODS Bingo

Making Bingo Prize Hampers Monday 12 <sup>th</sup> March pm	
Setting up the school hall for Bingo Friday 16 <sup>th</sup> March from 15.30	
Helping serve refreshments Friday 16 <sup>th</sup> March during the evening	
Clearing away after Bingo Friday 16 <sup>th</sup> March	