



Dartmoor
MULTI ACADEMY TRUST



Nurture, Inspire, Achieve

A small school, learning together in the local community

10th July 2020

Dear parents/carers

We were delighted to welcome back some extra pupils this week following the relaxing of social distancing to 1m plus. As a small, rural school, we have such limited places and have had to prioritise for the last couple of weeks of the Summer term. Safety and hygiene controls are all still in place, with regular hand washing and deep cleaning. Overall, the new pupils have slotted in beautifully and it has been refreshing to watch friendships reform and happy faces enjoying their learning in school again!



Spencer and Megan have been exploring using plant based dyes for forest school bunting

Back to School arrangements for September

With the last day of the Summer term on Friday 17th July, we are planning ahead for the new academic year. Please be reassured that we are following government guidance at all times in the planning undertaken and are working closely with the Trust Health and Safety team to consider the safest possible ways to ensure ALL pupils are able to return in September. Next week, a letter with more detail will be sent home – please look out for this as it will contain key information.

SAFEGUARDING: Gaming: a video guide for parents and carers

Online gaming can offer many positive experiences. It can give children and young people the chance to escape into a virtual world, to learn, and to connect with others. However, there is a risk of children and young people viewing inappropriate content in games and being contacted by adults seeking to exploit them.

With an increased use of the internet during lock-down, we are seeing an increase in issues arising from online gaming. Cyberbullying is bullying that takes place online. Unlike bullying in the real world, online bullying can follow the child wherever they go, via social networks, gaming and mobile phone. If online gaming occurs outside of school, we can help by discussing this with parents concerned, advising on steps to take as well as educate our pupils further in our internet safety curriculum coverage.

Thinkuknow have also produced a new video guide and accompanying article, developed in collaboration with The Association for UK Interactive Entertainment (Ukie), that helps parents and carers to understand:

- How in-game chat works;
- How it might be abused by others, and;
- What they can do to help keep their children safe whilst using in-game chat

https://www.thinkuknow.co.uk/parents/Support-tools/presentations-for-parents/?utm_source=Thinkuknow&utm_campaign=176d7bc4c3-TUK_ONLINE_SAFETY_AT_HOME_30_06_20&utm_medium=email&utm_term=0_0b54505554-176d7bc4c3-64907562

There is some excellent advice also on the NSPCC website: <https://www.nspcc.org.uk/what-is-child-abuse/types-of-abuse/bullying-and-cyberbullying/>

Please do monitor your child's gaming closely; we will do our best to educate them in what is acceptable online. Thank you.

Covid-19 updated guidance for parents

UK Government publish Guidance for parents and carers of children attending out-of-school settings during the coronavirus (COVID-19) outbreak:

These settings provide enriching activities that give children the opportunity to socialise with others outside their household and promote their wellbeing. We also recognise the importance of these settings in providing additional childcare options to parents and carers, particularly those with younger children, who may need to return to or continue to work during the school holidays.

<https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/guidance-for-parents-and-carers-of-children-attending-out-of-school-settings-during-the-coronavirus-covid-19-outbreak>

FISH are offering child care during the summer holidays based at St James Primary School, Okehampton. They will be offering a range of activities, and hope to ease the pressures of juggling work life with family in the school holidays. The cost will be £25.50 per day and will run from 8.00am - 6.00pm.

Please complete the form below to register your interest and FISH will be in contact with you.

Places are limited to 45 children.

If you would like further details on FISH please use the following link : www.funinschoolholidays.co.uk

<https://forms.office.com/Pages/ResponsePage.aspx?id=kG0H07J4vUqeBclPjiicRnIQax2A75VKtdlTAzqF25IURVpIOU1DWEs0UDBUWkZIR1BSTzBPRjRDWC4u>

Action for Children offer free parenting support

Every parent needs a little help sometimes, and especially during lockdown. That's where Action for Children can help.

Action for Children, who deliver our children's centre services in Devon, are offering online parenting support for families with children aged 0-19. From where to go for help, to coping with challenging behaviours, to how to keep your children entertained at home, you can find advice and practical help on their website. Have a question about parenting? Action for Children's online coaches are available for free, confidential 1-1 live chat called TALK. Available from Monday to Friday, they're there to listen and support you with all your parenting queries.

Stay safe and have a great weekend!

Kind regards,



Mrs D A Petersen (Acting Head of School)

GALLERY



Andrew happy to be back at school



Arthur carefully using plant based dyes



Emily's instrument



Bertie Junk Modelling



Wrens forest Adventures

DIARY DATES

Last day of term

Friday 17th July

Term Dates 2020 – 2021

Autumn Term 2020

Thursday 3rd September	Non-Pupil Day
Friday 4th September	Non-Pupil Day
Monday 7th September	Non-Pupil Day
Tuesday 8th September	Non-Pupil Day
Wednesday 9 th September	All Pupils Return

Half Term – Monday 26th October to Friday 30th October 2020 Inclusive

Monday 2nd November	All pupils return
Friday 18th December	Last Day of Term

Christmas Break – Monday 21st December 2020 to Friday 1st January 2021 Inclusive

Spring Term 2021

Monday 4th January	Non-Pupil Day
Tuesday 5th January	All pupils return

Easter – Friday 2nd April to Friday 16th April 2021 Inclusive

Summer Term 2021

Monday 19th April	All pupils return
Monday 3rd May	May Day Bank Holiday

Half Term – Monday 31st May to Friday 4th June 2021 Inclusive

Monday 7th June	All pupils return
Friday 23rd July	Last Day of Term
Monday 26th July	Occasional Day
Tuesday 27th July	Occasional Day