

Dartmoor dartmoor federation
MULTI ACADEMY TRUST **d**

Nurture, Inspire, Achieve

A small school, learning together in the local community

8th January 2021

Dear parents/ carers,

I hope that you were all able to enjoy Christmas despite the restrictions that were imposed upon us all. What a week we have all had... Following this week's announcements from the government, we have done our absolute best to respond at very short notice and have managed to accommodate a small number of children who have needed to attend school so far. We have prioritized smaller numbers to try and limit the risk of transmission of the virus.

I have written several communications so far and tried to keep you as up to date as possible. I also know that your child's class teacher is in contact with you - I hope that you have found this useful. We aim to commit to contacting you at home each week either by phone call, message on Class Dojo or email. Please continue to check your Class Dojo for updates from your child's class teacher.

There is much to be thankful for at this time of loss for so many people. Personally, I am thankful for the amazing hard work that teachers are putting in to change their approach at the last minute due to the unforeseen circumstances we have all been thrown into. Mrs Luxford and Mrs Dickinson - you are amazing!

MILK TOKENS

Reverend Brooke and the church community have kindly offered milk tokens to families to help in these hard times. Tokens can be requested through the school office and then collected from the school gates on arrangement. One token is exchangeable for 1 litre bottle of Taw River Dairy Milk at Riverside Stores, Bridestowe. Please do let us know if you require milk tokens. We can also make use of them in school to provide milk and hot chocolate to the children accessing critical worker provision. Huge thanks to St Bridget's for this caring incentive for our rural communities.

SWIMMING and updates

With the closure of schools comes the stop to some of the things we were looking forward to this term. Swimming at Aqua-Stars is on hold for the half term. We will keep you informed if and when things change. Wrap around care is not permitted in any of our Federation schools, this includes Breakfast Club and after school clubs. This will be inconvenient for some but with keeping everyone safe, it is the best option in this present climate.

STAFFING

It is unforeseen what will happen in the coming weeks but already we are facing staffing challenges and also the need to keep everyone safe. Teachers will be working part of the week face-to-face in school and the rest of the week at home, contacting families and delivering remote learning. Occasionally, we may have to use Federation staff - this week for example, we have been lucky to procure Mrs Lee from Bridestowe. I would like to thank Mrs Lee for lending a hand at such short notice and for being wonderful with our small number of pupils in school. Other staffing changes will be communicated as necessary.

DEVICES and DATA

Schools, academy trusts and local authorities can now request help to increase mobile data allowances for children and young people who:

- do not have fixed broadband at home
- cannot afford the additional data needed to access educational resources have access to a mobile device that uses a participating network
- are experiencing disruption to their face-to-face education or have been advised not to attend school

If increasing mobile data isn't a suitable option for some children, schools can also request 4G wireless routers.

We are working hard to ensure that all children have access to digital devices at home to be able to access their home learning. Please contact the school office if you are struggling at home, using a parent's phone for example as we may be able to help. Thank you.

SCHOOL MEALS

There will be a reduced menu available to the children who are attending school. Please see attached. The meals will be prepared at Bridestowe and delivered to us daily. No catering staff will be on site. Please contact the school office if you would like your child to have meals at school.

Finally, thank you for the generous gifts that you kindly organised for staff this Christmas. We really were overwhelmed by your kindness and your singing at the gates made the festive season for staff even more special!

Stay at home, stay safe and look after each other,

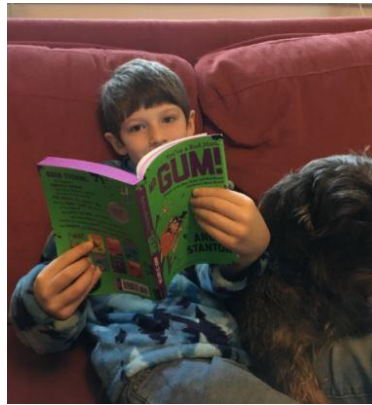
A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'D Petersen', written in a cursive style.

Mrs Deirdre Petersen

Home Learning Gallery



Aaliyah on Maths Whizz



Andrew enjoying his new book



Massan's learning space



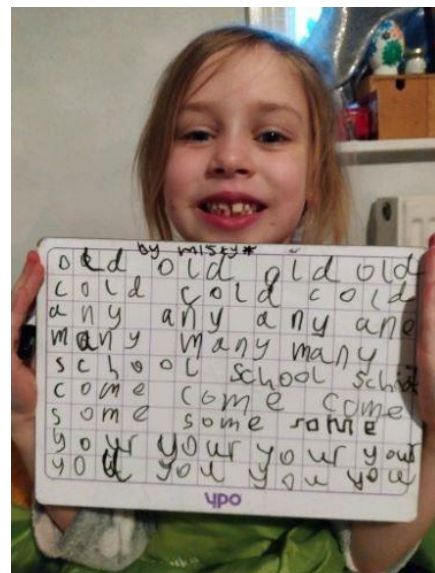
Harry's Globe



Jude having fun with ice



James enjoying Maths



Spelling Practice



Devon Norse Menu

This menu will operate as required until further notice.

Please note - Meals may be served in takeaway containers with disposable cutlery.

	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday
Main (Option 1)	Sausages, Mashed Potato & Baked Beans	Pasta Bolognese & Vegetables	Roast Chicken, Potatoes, Vegetables & Gravy	Organic Pork Meatballs in Tomato Sauce with Pasta & Vegetables	Mini Battered Fish Fillet with Chips & Vegetables
Vegetarian Alternative (Option 2)	Quorn alternative <i>*Quorn Sausages</i>	Quorn alternative <i>*Quorn Mince</i>	Quorn alternative <i>*Quorn Fillet</i>	Quorn alternative <i>*substitute Meatballs with chopped Quorn Sausage</i>	Quorn alternative <i>*Vegetable Fingers</i>
Desserts	Ice Cream Tub	Yoghurt Pot	Chocolate Cracknel	Flapjack	Shortbread

Jacket Potatoes available everyday as a main alternative

Fresh Fruit available everyday as a dessert alternative

Dairy Free & Gluten Free alternatives can be available on request. Please speak to your school kitchen to arrange this.



Are you experiencing financial hardship over winter?

In response to the calls for **school meal support for vulnerable children** over the school holidays, a COVID Winter Grant Fund has been made available to local authorities and district councils to support families experiencing financial hardship over the 2020-21 winter. Children eligible for free school meals will be issued with food vouchers and district councils will be able to support families through their hardship grants.

Early Help will also be able to help families in this situation with a grant of up to £100 per family to support them to buy food and pay utility bills over the winter.

If you are working with families that are experiencing financial hardship this winter then please contact **Early Help** so that they receive this and other financial support to improve their situation. Their hardship does not need to be COVID related or recently acquired but repeat requests for help may be best supported through Early Help partners to sustainably improve the families financial situation.

Who is eligible?

The criteria set by Early Help is as follows:

- You are a family (at least 2 people where at least 1 person is either pre-birth or up to 18 yrs old)
- You are not eligible for hardship grant funding through your district council **or** you have not yet applied
- You are experiencing financial hardship linked to or independent of COVID (e.g. unemployed, furloughed, being made redundant)
- You need financial help to pay utility bills or buy food and essential items for your family

How can I apply?

Complete the simple application form below and return to the mailbox for your area

[Early Help Winter Fund Application.docx](#)

Northern Devon: Earlyhelpnorthsecure-mailbox@devon.gov.uk

Southern Devon: Earlyhelpsouthsecure-mailbox@devon.gov.uk

Mid and East Devon: Earlyhelpmideastsecure-mailbox@devon.gov.uk

Exeter: Earlyhelpexetersecure-mailbox@devon.gov.uk