



Dartmoor
MULTI ACADEMY TRUST



Nurture, Inspire, Achieve

A small school, learning together in the local community

13th November 2020

Dear parents/ carers

The second half of the Autumn term is now in full swing and, with a second lockdown, we are taking every measure that we can to keep staff and pupils safe whilst following the latest government schools guidance. I wanted to keep this newsletter as 'Covid-free' as possible and bring you some of the great things that have been happening so far this term in school.



Firstly, the children marked Remembrance Day with a 2 minute silence. Children from class 2 shared the reading of the poem *Flander's Field*; *The Last Post* was played followed by a prayer of remembrance by Mrs Luxford. All the children held poppies created from fallen leaves to remember those who had fallen in wartime. A wreath, made by all the children from recycled bottles, wool and willow, was laid at Lydford memorial during the village service on Sunday.

What the pupils said...

'When I read Flander's Fields I felt very sorry for the people who died in the war because they gave their lives for our safety. When we had a minute silence we could say thank you to the heroic soldiers.' Holly

'When I was reading I felt sad and special at the same time. I felt sad because the people who went to war sacrificed themselves to protect us and special because I was chosen to read.'

Home Reading

Staff would like to say thank you to all parents and children who have been engaging in home reading and posting evidence of reading on Class Dojo. This extra practice is really helping to assist with progress in early reading and in reading fluently and comprehension skills also.

Strategies to try at home

- Talk about the book with your child before reading – you could introduce any words to them you think they will struggle with.
 - Encourage your child to read a section/the whole book again to make sure it makes sense and to improve the expression they use.
 - If they are finding a book difficult, don't ask your child to sound out every word - focus on words you know that your child can decode.
 - Sometimes read with your child (paired reading) or take it in turns to read a page.
 - Draw your child's attention to repeated words – encourage them to read them by sight, instead of sounding out.

Top tips for supporting reading at home

- Ask lots of questions about the book before reading, during and afterwards. Questions should range from literal retrieval of information to hypothesising about 'whys', possibilities and opinions.
- Try to hear your child read every day.
- Little and often is more beneficial than a long session once a week.
- Limit how long you are reading for - the amount of reading time should match your child's span of attention.
 - Choose your timing carefully - it's best not to embark on a reading session when your child is tired.
- Mix lots of different types of book – an interest in a certain genre is brilliant but breadth and balance create a stronger reader in the long term.
 - A bedtime story read by you or together is still the most valuable reading activity at home. Aim to model expression, voices, response to word layout or punctuation. Puzzle over events or actions together. Discuss the book together as partner story detectives!

Thank you FOLS!



We have had so many positive comments on the fabulous boot cleaner which was purchased by FOLS for the children to minimise the amount of muck spreading around the school following forest school. I have even seen pupils just wiping their feet on the way into school. It really is a wonderful asset for us all and we would like to say a huge 'THANK YOU' to FOLS for agreeing to this purchase.

Christmas 2020 at Lydford

Christmas at Lydford this year will have to be different due to the current climate. We are pleased to say that we can continue to produce an outstanding Christmas production, *'The Nutcracker'* through the company Show Up via Harriet Davis. The children have a fantastic opportunity to engage with a real film production experience and parents will be able to watch this virtually. More details to follow soon. **If you have not already done so please can you give permission for your child to take part** on School Gateway. You will find this in the payments section. Please add to your basket and checkout. You will not be charged.

During the week beginning 14th December, we will be doing lots of Christmas crafts and activities. Unfortunately, we are unable to have the usual special visitor or parties but we will ensure it is extra special for the children nevertheless.



The children in Class 2 enjoying taking part in the final session of Joe Wickes fundraising fitness challenge. We then enjoyed eating Pudsey cookies at playtime.

Diary Dates

Thursday 3rd December – Filming day at the village hall (*The Nutcracker*)

Friday 11th December – CHRISTMAS JUMPER DAY – wear your festive jumper to school!

Wednesday 16th December – CHRISTMAS LUNCH – pupils and staff only

Friday 18th December – end of the Autumn term/ beginning of Christmas break

With warmest wishes,

A handwritten signature in black ink, which appears to read 'D Petersen'.

Mrs D A Petersen (Acting Head of School)