



**Dartmoor**  
MULTI ACADEMY TRUST



# Nurture, Inspire, Achieve

A small school, learning together in the local community

22<sup>nd</sup> May 2020

Dear parent/carer,

It's hard to believe that next week is Summer half term! Thank you for your patience with teachers and staff who have been providing lessons and feedback on Class Dojo as well as in school preparing classrooms to be safe to potentially accommodate limited pupils from the start of June in line with the government's latest guidance.

## Return to school

Further details will be sent out to all parents about our possible provision from the start of June on Wednesday 27<sup>th</sup> May. We are planning to welcome children to school from Tuesday June 2<sup>nd</sup> as Monday will be a staff training/ inset day to ensure all staff are aware of our risk assessments and site specific procedures. From Tuesday 2<sup>nd</sup> June, children will be kept in a small micro - group which will not mix with other groups including at break and lunch times. Our classrooms have been adapted to allow easy cleaning twice a day, this means all soft furnishings have been removed as has anything that is hard to clean, including displays and all resources/ clutter. Children will be seated 2 metres apart when in class and asked to maintain socially distancing where possible. Here is an example of what the classrooms look like:



Initially, we predicted that we would be able to accommodate 6 children within the school based on 3 children in two classes. Having emptied the rooms and been able to keep the hall as a teaching space, we are now able to accommodate 12 children in total across the 2 groups. Many thanks to those of you who have responded via email to either register interest in a place or let us know that you are not sending your child back to school as yet.

In addition to this letter there is a letter from Daryll Chapman, CEO of the Trust – please take time to read this also.

## Wellbeing and safeguarding

Whilst none of us knows exactly when all our pupils will be able to return to school, we do know that for both staff and students, being back at school is likely to feel very different. We are aware of the impact such difficult times can have on children and young people's mental health and wellbeing. It's **Mental Health Awareness Week 2020** and I thought it would be a great time to explore whether you have everything you need to help your children at home to cope with the situation that we are in.

Here are some useful resources for parents and young people to support you during this time:

- [Wellbeing journal for kids \(PDF\)](#) - Outside the Box has produced a free activity journal to help children to enhance their mental wellbeing through a range of activities
- [Childline](#) - provides support and information about Coronavirus which is updated regularly
- [Childline Kids](#) - Content targeted to under 12's
- [Childline Calm Zone](#) - For breathing exercises, activities, games and videos to help let go of stress
- [Children's Commissioner \(PDF\)](#) - A Children's guide to coronavirus

For concerns about children who may be struggling with their mental health or anxiety, [NSPCC](#) have advice to help you support them.

You can also take a look at the dedicated [COVID-19](#) space and another useful page featuring [support and tips to help you keep children safe](#).

## Mindfulness and Home Learning

Practising mindfulness at times like these can help to rewire the brain to work in calmer and more positive ways. To get you started, I am attaching a 'First Steps to Mindfulness' guide that you may find useful.

During half term we will not be planning learning activities for your child and teachers are not expected to respond to anything that you post on Class Dojo. I hope that they all have a well-earned break before we may be back at the beginning of June. I'm sure the children could also do with a break from learning activities but PLEASE keep up the reading at home.

We all hope you have a fantastic half term week in the sunshine (hopefully!).

Kindest regards,



Mrs D A Petersen (Acting Head of School)

## GALLERY



Millie enjoys the local environment



Holly's banana mousse!



Birthday baking – great team work!



Misty caring for her seedlings



Annie shows her nurturing side!



# Book-tastic competition!

While you are at home why not:

Read a book

Listen to an audiobook

Or share a book with your family

Show us what you have read by creating a bookmark about the book

Cockatoos by Quentin Blake.  
Tuva and Linnea aged 'nearly 5'



Rainbow Magic by Daisy Meadows  
Jade aged 8



Enter our Competition.  
Winner receives a book token and extra books for your school.

Ylva aged 5  
Good Little Wolf by Nadia Shireen  
Five Little Reindeer by Stuart Lynch



Take a photo and ask your teacher to send it to us at Babcock School Library Service at the e mail address below.  
£20 of book tokens to be won. £10 for the best KS1 entry and £10 for the best KS2 entry.  
Schools of the winning pupils will each receive 10 new books for their school library (Subscribing schools only).  
Closing date 26<sup>th</sup> June 2020

