



# DEVORAN NEWS

## Message from the Head

Dear Parents and Carers

This has been a very positive week that has seen an overwhelming number of children bringing in healthy snacks from the list within our new Whole School Food Policy. I would like to thank you all for your continued support with the implementation of this.

Thank you to everyone who attended our 'Meet the Teacher' events this week. If you were not able to attend, you will receive a copy of the PowerPoint by email. Having listened to parents who have been asking for more clarification on spelling and ideas of how to support their child at home, the teaching staff have reviewed the idea of sending home spellings. More information can be found on the following pages which helps to explain 1) how we teach spelling in school and 2) how we will be sending spellings home without the focus on a weekly spelling test driven by marks out of ten.

This week we have welcomed our Foundation Stage children into our school. After four half-day sessions, today was their first full day in school and the children and staff have loved it! They have all settled in exceptionally well – well done Foundation children!

On Friday 20 September, there is planned strike action for Climate Change. As a school, we understand that not all children will feel comfortable in striking and that they may want to mark the event and support the global day of action in other ways. All classes will be spending the day focusing on climate change and they will be taking part in a series of activities to mark this important event. We are also going to attempt to do a whole school project – watch this space!

Next week, Year 3 and 4 are going to start their weekly chess sessions that are going to be delivered by a Chess in Schools and Communities tutor. They will be having lessons every week as part of their weekly maths learning. We are also opening a club for Years 5 and 6 so that everyone can have a go! More information on this can be found below.

I hope that you have a lovely weekend.

Best wishes

Miss Lock

### be a volunteer



If any of our parents, grandparents or carers have any time which they would like to spend volunteering in school with regular activities such as listening to reading or helping in class, we would love you to get involved. Please could you get in touch with Mrs Dodd in the office, either in person or by email [admin@devoranschool.co.uk](mailto:admin@devoranschool.co.uk).

School week commencing 9 September

**98.1% - whole school attendance**

**Attendance Congratulations:**

**1<sup>st</sup> place is Year Foundation with 100%  
Classes with over 97% and above  
Year 2, Year 3, Year 4 and Year 5**

## Key Dates

3 October – 15:30 - Penair Q&A session with James Davidson (Year 5 and 6 parents)

### SHARING ASSEMBLIES:

**All assemblies are on Tuesdays at 2:30pm**

15 October - Year Five

29 October – Year Four

5 November – Year One

19 November – Year Two

26 November – Year Three

3 December – Year Six

**PARENT CONSULTATIONS:** (appointments to follow)

Wednesday 4 December – 15:30 - 18:30

Thursday 5 December - 15:30 – 18:30



## Chess Club

Starting on Friday 20 September 15:15-16:15, tutors from Chess in Schools and Communities will be starting a chess club for children in Years 5 and 6. The main teacher will be Toby Willis, student at Falmouth University; sometimes he will be assisted by Robin Kneebone, retired teacher and experienced chess organiser. Both are in the current Cornwall chess team. Chess will be taught using the methods pioneered by the leading junior chess clubs in the country.

<https://www.chessinschools.co.uk/>

If you like strategy computer games, and would like to learn a game that's played by all ages all over the world, do come to the chess club. You do not need to know how to play: it will be taught from scratch.

You can sign up to book your child a place via **ParentPay**.



Dear Parents/Carers,

Over the last year, some KS2 classes have been trialling the Read, Write Inc. Spelling programme to teach specific spellings and spelling rules. We are now going to roll this out over all year groups (with Foundation and Year 1 still continuing with their usual phonic sessions). We aim to make spelling fun, enjoyable and interesting in order to help patterns and trickier words memorable.

In the past, many of our children have found memorising spelling for a weekly test stressful or they have forgotten the spelling of the words immediately after the test. Therefore, we have invested in a rigorous scheme that teaches children a method for working out how to spell any words which have regular patterns. There is also a focus on irregular spelling patterns which need to be memorised. Read Write Inc Spelling provides a structured, systematic way of teaching that is continually practised and reinforced from Foundation Stage through to Year 6, until spelling knowledge is committed to children's long-term memory.

Reda Write Inc Spelling runs in approximately two-week units of around 15 minutes per day which comprise of teacher-led activities, paired work and independent activities covering all the spelling requirements of the National Curriculum. All units follow the same format of fun activities, together with tips explaining when each spelling pattern is likely to be used. Alongside this, children can record the words they find difficult to spell in a log book to continue to practise them; they are actively encouraged to use them within their writing across all subjects. Assessment throughout a unit is ongoing and more formal assessment of spelling takes place every 6 weeks.

In addition to the daily spelling sessions, **children will be taking home the special focus tasks, once every 2 weeks on a Friday.** The tasks include high frequency and often misspelt words that will be practised and assessed on Fridays (through a lighter-approached 'jumping orange words quiz') and consolidated in the following week. We ask parents to help children work through the special focus tasks and help children practise the words in them fortnightly using exercises such as the examples below. **We will be assessing children next week, so the first set of special focus tasks will be sent home on Friday 27 September.**

Some children who are having targeted spelling interventions within school will be given a 'Stareway to Spelling' word list to take home instead, but will also take part in the 15 minute sessions during the day to ensure that they still access their Year Group content.

Thank you for your continued support with this engaging new approach to spelling!

Kind regards,

Mrs Dodson, Literacy Co-ordinator

## Activities for learning challenging words:

**Mnemonics** – help your child to think of their own phrase to learn the tricky bits of the words. This can be said in a silly voice or a rap!

### island



An island  
is land  
surrounded  
by water

**Word in a word** – help your child find a hidden word within the word to help remember it.



**Rainbow Writing**



**Say it as it looks**

Wh**a**t (as is a for apple) is that?

**TW**o (say twoh)

**DO**es (say oe as in toe)

**MO**ther, **BR**other, an**OT**her (say o as in hot)

**A sticky letter**

# look

**For example:**

'o' in people: draw a face

'i' in friend: dot for the head, stick body

'i' in juicy: draw a lolly or fruit

'u' in build: draw a house

'l' in leg: draw a leg

'u' in biscuit: draw half a biscuit

'o' in young: draw a baby in its cot

'w' in who: draw a worm

Drawing an image around the word



This strategy is all about making a word memorable. It links to meaning in order to try to make the spelling noticeable.

You can't use this method as your main method of learning spellings, but it might work on those that are just a little more difficult to remember.

**Pyramid words**

p  
py  
pyr  
pyra  
pyram  
pyrami  
pyramid

This method of learning words forces you to think of each letter separately.

You can then reverse the process so that you end up with a diamond.