

Delabole Community Primary School Newsletter

October 2019

See this newsletter and more on our school website www.delaboleschool.org



Dear parents and carers,

Our whole school Value this term is 'Belonging.'

Our Enquiry statement is 'Home is where the heart is.'

Welcome to a very packed newsletter. We hope that within the following information, you will gain a flavour of what it is to belong to Delabole School and why our school is uniquely different.

A first word about Curriculum.

Curriculum is a word which educators use all the time, but it shouldn't be taken lightly. It

isn't just about subjects and academic learning; it is about the offer of provision that our schools provide from the moment a child walks through our doors till the moment they leave – and beyond that, through the very important relationships of trust that we endeavour to forge with our families, linking home and school. It should be tangible and consistent. This is very hard to achieve but we are constantly striving as a team to meet that challenge. We think of curriculum as the DNA of our school – it is a thread running through all that we do, whether it is our focus on language development, our celebration of Reading and our passion for books as a catalyst for learning, or our commitment to the nurture of emotional intelligence in our pupils. It is visible in the children's writing, their enquiry focuses, their performance, their play and their attitudes to learning. It is what takes them from the relatively narrow (but deep) understanding of belonging to a family, to a much wider understanding as a global citizen by the time they leave Year 6, hopefully ready for a vibrant 21st century future. What a journey that is!

The children know that they bring their own 'DNA' to learning – they are well versed in their understanding of brain growth – but they are also beginning to understand that their learning increases daily through opportunities and experiences with both adults and their peers, all underpinned by our school environments. This is the nature and nurture of curriculum – each go hand in hand and it is a huge responsibility as well as a beautiful thing!

Our Exhibition of Learning – Belonging: Home Is Where The Heart Is



You, as parents are integral to that relationship of nature and nurture, so we would like to invite you to An Exhibition of Learning in our school. This will be held on Thursday 17th October at DPS from 1:15pm in the school hall. Parents will be invited to attend the exhibition accompanied by their child's class in 30 minute slots throughout the afternoon, and also freely after school. Children will only be released from class during this 30 minute slot



Learning is nature and nurture

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which will be shared with you via text message. We hope to bring the hall alive with all their learning around their focus this term: Delabole Quarry Through The Years. We are also delighted to share donations of photographs and artefacts from members of the community which have greatly enriched our learning.



A word about Reading

Reading development has been a major focus of this term and staff have been very busy making some far reaching changes to our reading provision. These will continue throughout the year, but we wanted to make sure our initial standpoint on reading was strengthened from the outset. Although we achieve very highly in Reading by the end of KS2, we still think there are refinements to be made.

As part of this, we have completely switched our phonics and early reading

programme to Read Write Inc. a systematic programme devised by Ruth Miskin, a leading light in the early acquisition of reading skills. Children in Early Years and KS1 will receive very high quality daily teaching and will be equipped with fantastic new reading resources which are exactly matched to their phonic progression. Struggling readers further up the school will receive support through intervention. All readers will continue to be bathed in the highest quality texts we can find – as always.

We are very excited about this, but it has cost thousands of pounds to implement, and has taken time and care. We have therefore postponed our usual Book Snuggle till after half term so that we can share the new programme with parents, show you the resources and train you properly to support your child's reading at home. More details will follow but in the interim, the traditional Reading Record Book has been rethought with a focus on the love of reading. It will be given to your child and introduced to you next week. In the meantime, thank you for your patience as we assess all children and screen their phonics so that we can pitch all our reading books precisely, and prepare our Love Reading Journals. We are now ready to go!

European Day of Languages

This is such a popular annual event and this year we will be celebrating our 'Day of Frenchness' on Friday 11th October. There will be food tasting as the school hall is transformed into a Café Français, the sharing of French stories and lots of games and activities in French. We will be inviting children to come to school in the colours of the Tricolor flag: Red, white and blue.



Harvest Celebration

This really popular community event will take place at St John's Church on Thursday 17th October from 10:30am. We hope to see as many families as possible so that the children can share their poetry and singing performances. All donations food items will be circulated to our local families in Delabole by our FODs group. Please bring donations to the school office by Wednesday 16th so that we can set up our display at the church in time for our celebration. Thank you in advance for your generosity.

Meet and Greet

Thank you to those of you who have attended Meet and Greet. Now they are all finished, the slides will appear on each class web page for parents who were unable to attend but who need some information about class protocols and school priorities.

Parents Evenings

A reminder that these important early conversations with your child's teacher are planned on the following dates next week.

Delabole School - Wednesday 9th October 3.30 till 6.30pm and Thursday 10th October 4.00 till 7.00pm (Children in Foundation will have appointments on Wednesday only and Mrs Stanley will factor any remaining appointments in after school on other days. She has training on the 10th).

It is really important that parents come accompanied by their child as this is a three-way learning conversation where the child needs to be involved as much as possible. On the late evening appointments, Mrs Cox will be available in the entrance to each school, and will be sharing information about the end of Key Stage 2 assessments so that parents of any year group can have a look through last year's papers and ask questions about the implications for their child, as they move up through the school and prepare for this important milestone before transition to secondary school.

All parents of SEN children will have a separate, longer appointment with their child's teacher and Mrs Dingle so no need to come to parent's evening

School Drop Off – A Thank You and a Plea

We would like to thank all the parents who have really supported school drop off and pick up protocols. They are such an important time of the day for safeguarding reasons as well as setting the tone for being ready to learn. The classrooms are feeling much calmer in the mornings for the children. Sadly, there is a small minority of parents who are still entering the school and walking through classrooms at a time when we have very vulnerable children who we are trying to settle, or when early nurture/intervention groups are happening. I do want to appeal to these parents to please contact us if they need support with getting their child into school. We can work with them on this, but for the sake of all our children, we cannot have parents wandering through school. It is a safeguarding issue.

Clubs Pick Up

If you are picking up a child after clubs, please could parents come to the school door. We cannot release children to parents who are sat in their cars waiting as this is a road safety hazard. Thank you.

Signposts to New Policies

The following policies are now on our website: Aspire attendance Policy and Mentally Healthy Schools Policy. Please contact us if you have any questions.

Best Wishes

Sue Cox and the team.



Key Dates

Wednesday 9 th October 3.30 to 6.30	Parents Evening
Thursday 10 th October 4.00 to 7.00	Parents Evening
Friday 11 th October	Day of Frenchness
Thursday 17 th October 10.30 am	Harvest Festival at St John's Church
Thursday 17 th October from 1.15 pm	Exhibition of Learning
Thursday 17 th October	Last Day of Term 1
Monday 28 th October	First day of Term 2
Friday 20 th December	Last day of Term 2
Tuesday 7 th January	First day of Term 3
Thursday 13 th February	Last day of Term 3
Monday 24 th February	First day of Term 4
Friday 27 th March	Last day of Term 4
Tuesday 14 th April	First day of Term 5
Friday 8 th May	May Bank Holiday – school closed
Monday 11 th May to 15 th May	Y6 SATS
Friday 22 nd May	Last day of Term 5
Monday 1 st June	First day of Term 6
Monday 1 st to Thursday 4 th June	Y6 Bristol Residential
Friday 5 th June	RCS – Community Cohesion Day – school closed
Wednesday 22 nd July	Last day of Term 6