

10th January 2020

Delabole Community Primary School Newsletter

January 2020

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



Dear Parents and Carers,

Happy New Year and a warm welcome to Term 3.

This term our Value is

Respect

Through our leadership assemblies, our approaches to pupil development and wellbeing and our PSHE curriculum, we will be thinking about how Respect is the foundation on which we build all our relationships – and therefore, all our learning. Our team is totally committed to shaping really engaging, meaningful learning experiences, and we know that children learn best when they learn together. Respect is the glue that binds our community of learners. Our parents are also a critical part of that community.

Linked to our Value, our term 3 Enquiry Question is:

'What Are Our Roots?'

And as we stand on the threshold of a new decade, at no time has this ever been more important. Self-respect and a secure sense of identity is one of the most important pieces of learning our children can experience. It is through their belonging to family, their connectedness to community and their growing sense of what it is to be a global citizen that they will have the confidence to carve their place in a world that is fraught both with challenge and opportunity.

Curriculum

Our Early Years and KS1 children will be exploring their roots in childhood – and particularly a childhood that is close to nature. They will be using a celebration of the great outdoors as inspiration for their play, their thinking, their art, their writing and their science as they capture a sense of place.



Class 3 children have already travelled by train to Egypt and followed in the footsteps of Howard Carter in his discovery of the Tomb of Tutankhamen. Not only will they gather knowledge about the Ancient Egyptians, but they will question the morality of taking grave artefacts from another civilisation. Was Howard Carter an esteemed and intrepid archaeologist...or simply a grave robber?

Class 4 are truly embracing their Cornish roots and considering our great mining heritage. They will be exploring the rich cultural heritage of the wild Cornish landscape at Pendeen, visiting Geevor mine and embarking on a historical and moral exploration of the lives of miners. Their knowledge will expand to follow the spread of Cornish miners across the globe, and some of the environmental and humanitarian dilemmas that mining poses today.

Of course, each step of our Enquiry learning will be supported by a really enticing selection of wonderful children's texts, opportunities to explore the arts, and invitations for the children to challenge themselves with new learning. We are truly in the business of growing our brains!

Something To Be Proud Of

The School Performance Tables for 2019 were published just before Christmas and it is clear that Delabole School has done extremely well in comparison to other schools both in Cornwall and nationally. Go to <https://www.compare-school-performance.service.gov.uk> –for a more in depth look. This is as a result of a great deal of hard work by staff and pupils. We pull out all the stops and aim high for our

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children. Please continue to encourage and support your child so that they can achieve their absolute best. Parents play such a vital role in these achievements and so the work continues this year...

Achieve and Mastery Workshops

Following on from our success in previous years, for 2020, the leadership team and staff have once again coordinated a really focused drive to further raise standards in Maths, Reading and Writing – whilst taking care not to narrow the curriculum in any way. Our children have the potential to make improved progress with the right attitude for learning, and a little support from staff. Some children have the potential to work above Expected standards and we would continue to offer them the opportunity to reach this potential for Greater Depth through our Mastery groups. Other children need a little extra nurture in a small group situation and some learning gaps to be consolidated so they have the confidence to reach Age Related Expectations. The first priority will be pupils in Year 2 and Year 6 who have statutory assessments this year. As with last year, members of the teaching and TA team will be running **Achievement and Mastery groups** throughout the Spring Term.

We strongly advise that parents support these clubs and ensure pupils attend. Some of them offer an early start, but our experience shows us that children are often more sharply focused first thing in the morning. These early clubs also mean that children are not withdrawn from other lessons that they may enjoy during the day. Parents of selected children will receive a letter detailing the workshops and the date they will commence. If you have any questions or concerns, please just come and talk to us.



Year 2 and Year 6 Learning Conversations

In order to keep parents really informed about the forthcoming statutory assessments for Yr2 and Yr 6 (SATs), teachers would like to share learning conversations with the parents of Year 2 and Year 6 children in order to ensure children and parents are well prepared and confident about their progress towards individual targets for the end of Key Stage tests in May. We will also share important information about how you can best support your child. These will take place as learning conversations throughout the school day later this term – the children will also attend. A letter with more details will follow over the next week or so.

Driving Aspiration for our Staff and Pupils

Teachers and TAs across our school are currently involved in a number of high profile projects which will enable our school to be at the cutting edge of school improvement nationally – much of it drawing on important research into aspects of curriculum and learning, as well as using action research to support pupil wellbeing. A brief snapshot here will give you just a glimpse of some of our training and research over the coming months which will benefit every child:

- Trenance English Hub training and coaching for implementation of Read Write Inc progression for phonics and early reading acquisition. The focus is Early Years and KS1.
- Royal Shakespeare Company affiliation and training for the third consecutive year will widen our pool of expertise for ensemble work and developing vocabulary into drama and writing. This is impacting more strongly on whole school approaches to teaching and learning.
- Mrs Murray, our English lead attended Edinburgh Education Conference and will be part of core group working on innovative approaches to Curriculum development through 2019-2020.
- The leadership team have taken part in Curriculum development days with Nicholas Garrick (national consultant through Lighting Up Learning and Curious City project). This to inform profound changes to the way we shape our Enquiry Curriculum moving forward.
- Ongoing networking with teaching teams across the Aspire network is opening up potential for leadership and subject development at every level

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- Our schools are signed up as Early Adopters for the new PSHE/RSE Curriculum prior to its statutory implementation in 2020 in order to receive early training materials with a much stronger focus on supporting pupil mental health. We will be leading the way with this as we believe in it so strongly.
- Staff training on coaching and mentoring which will develop the potential of teachers new to leadership roles.

We hope you will agree that the above opportunities will bring a wealth of expertise back into our schools and will ensure we continue to strive for the very best for our children and families.

Census Day and School Finance

Next Thursday, 16th January 2020, is a National School Census Day. This is when the Department for Education (DfE) collects information about each school to help them plan for the future and, **most importantly, the data is used to set future school budgets.** One of the figures we have to report is the number of Reception and Years 1 & 2 children who are having a Universal Infant Free School Meal (UIFSM) on this day.

The census data is then used to decide how much funding for the year we get for our hot meals. This means that if your child does not have a meal on Thursday, we will not receive any further funding for the rest of the year. If your child chooses to have a meal on another day, we will have to fund this from our school budget

We do not receive funding for the amount of hot meals we supply, only the number of meals eaten on the two census days in October and January each year.

Our solution to this problem is to ask every child in Reception, Year 1 and Year 2 to try the hot meal on Census Day. Then your child will be fully funded to have hot meals during the year thus saving the school any additional costs. Thank you for your support. To encourage a greater take up the meal will be pizza finger with curly fries followed by ice cream sundae.



A Warm Welcome to New Staff

I am sure you will join me in welcoming some new staff for 2020. Mrs Stephanie Cook is joining us to work alongside the Early Years team on Fridays; she will also work in Class 1 on Mondays. She brings a wealth of leadership experience and has been a Read Write Inc. Reading Leader, so she will be invaluable in supporting this new area of school development as an intervention teacher on Wednesdays.

We are also joined by Miss Tor Marshall who will be taking Class 2 forward in light of Miss Whymer's sickness absence. Miss Marshall has taught all over the world and also brings a great deal of experience as

a teacher and leader in Early Years and KS1. It has been so lovely to see the class settle so swiftly and set off on their new adventures in learning as a little community of serious learners.

A Few Gentle Reminders

- Just a reminder that our school policy is to not accept any medication in school unless it has been prescribed by a doctor and has the child's name and dosage clearly on it. This means that the school is not able to administer Calpol. That said, parents are welcome to drop in and administer a dose if it is needed at lunchtime.
- Inhalers – Please can you ensure that if your child is on our asthma register, then we need to have an inhaler in school. If medical circumstances have changed please inform the office.
- It is important that all pupils have their own water bottle which they bring to school daily. Children are encouraged to drink water regularly during the school day. At lunchtime they are allowed to have juice, but anything fizzy or sparkling is not permitted. We appreciate your support in this. We do not permit the drinking of juice in class throughout the day. Water is best for rehydration.

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- On occasions when your child is unable to attend school due to illness, please would you contact the office as soon as possible in the morning. This will prevent unnecessary phone calls. We also require a brief call on every subsequent day of absence since we must input specific codes each day.

Closure Due to Bad Weather

In the extreme circumstances of the school being closed for bad weather you will be notified via the Arbour App and this will also be confirmed on our website and via Pirate FM.

Best wishes



Sue Cox and the team



Wednesday 15 th , 22 nd , 29 th January	Bikeability Balance Foundation Class
Monday 13 th January – 23 rd March	Swimming starts for Class 2, Class3, Class 4
Wednesday 15 th January – 25 th March	Swimming starts for Foundation and Class 1
Thursday 16 th January	Italian Menu – Pizza Finger or Macaroni Cheese
Thursday 16 th January	Football match Delabole V Tintagel at Tintagel Playing Field
Friday 17 th January	Y4 Sports Hall Athletics at Budehaven
Wednesday 22 nd January	Class 4 visit to Geevor
Thursday 13 th February	Last day of Term 3
Monday 24 th February	First day of Term 4
Thursday 5 th March	Round 3 Cross Country at Wadebridge
Friday 27 th March	Last day of Term 4
Tuesday 14 th April	First day of Term 5
Wednesday 15 th to Friday 17 th April	Y5 Nine Ashes Residential
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
Thursday 11 th June	Year group & Class photos
Monday 15 th to Wednesday 17 th June	Y4 Porthpean Residential
Wednesday 22 nd July	Last day of Term 6

