

Delabole Community Primary School Newsletter

November 2020

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



Dear Parents and Carers,

Strange Times Indeed

Welcome to a very strange Autumn 2. Never before has it been more important for us to keep in touch and hold on to the relationships we share with you around your child's learning. As the National lockdown takes its hold on our village community and it becomes even harder to meet face to face, we would like you to know that we miss those carefree daily exchanges with you more than ever and look forward to a time in the future when things can return to normal.

And so, this newsletter combines two very different strands – firstly, a celebration of some of the learning which has been enjoyed in school over the past few days, and secondly some important updates around continued ways of working together.

As always, everything amounts to the same common goal. We just want to keep everyone safe and able to enjoy the great learning opportunities we have planned. Our absolute commitment is that we hold on to the sanctity of our learning space and the children's experience is untainted by the wider issues.



Our Value this term is Perseverance and it is more pertinent to the times than we could ever have imagined. Throughout this term, we will be exploring the meaning of this word – what it means to keep going in the face of challenge and how human endeavour, at no matter what level, inspires us, makes us stronger and enables us to overcome our deepest fears. Children will be exploring examples of perseverance and endeavour through all aspects of their curriculum, and will also be thinking about their own personal learning challenges and what it means to be an effective learner; to commit to a challenge, plan to overcome it and then see it through – even when times are tough. This could be as detailed as mastering a times table fact or as huge as learning to manage tricky friendship issues.

Sitting beneath our Value is our Enquiry Question – 'What Matters Most, The Journey or The Destination? This question is designed to help children think about 'how' great things are achieved and the effort involved. Another great message for their mindset as learners.

A Beautiful Tapestry of Learning No Matter What

There is absolutely no sign that teachers are playing the curriculum safe in our school! On the very first day of this term as part of their Geography and Science focus, children in Class 2 had a series of unforgettable encounters with extraordinary creatures. From a Bearded Dragon to a tiny Dung Beetle, we were inspired by the wonders of nature. And then we met a Princess! Princess the Tarantula was very gentle with us as we were a little mesmerised by her. Some of us even held her and many of us had to overcome some fear to do that!

Meanwhile in Class 4, children have discovered an ancient burial mound and are using their questioning to piece together evidence about the life and death of a great warrior. As the term unfolds, their encounter will be with Beowulf – our oldest Anglo-Saxon story – and a look at what perseverance on a quest for good over evil means for a band of warriors. Of course, they will be linking this to our Learning Warrior status too.

For Class 3, the theme of perseverance charts Ernest Shackleton's monumental expeditionary force to the Antarctic and what it means to survive in the most hostile of conditions. It was an utter joy to see the children arrive in role for their learning on Monday and they now all know how to build an igloo! Often we ask children to suspend reality and buy into the 'spell' of learning we create. In many ways it felt like they had been transported to another time and place – I hope the photos do this justice.

Our youngest children are working on the story of The Owl Babies and what it means to be anxious but brave. Unfortunately, due to lockdown, we have had to postpone our visit from the Owl Sanctuary, but we have booked it for later in the year.

Celebrating Good Attendance

This is one of the most unexpected outcomes for the year so far. With all the uncertainty and so many challenges, I cannot thank parents enough for trusting the school and sending your children in with so much consistency and commitment. It is making a huge difference to their confidence and the momentum of their progress. In Key Stage 1 and Early years especially, the progress in phonics and Reading is very promising. In Key Stage 2, with so much depth of learning, it means that they are really involved and slowly regaining their independence and commitment. Current attendance at Delabole 96.6%.

Important Safety Updates

We are continually reviewing our protocols in school and keeping an eye on the government guidance and levels of risk in our locality. Now, as we enter the second lockdown, staff are tightening up safety regimes in school whilst holding on to as much normality for the children as possible.

From Monday 9th November, we will not be holding face to face meetings with parents except under exceptional circumstances. All meetings will either be via phone call or our Teams video calls. We are used to using these so if you need to meet using Teams, we will manage all the IT for you and just send you a link. It works along the lines of Zoom and is a great tool to have at our fingertips at the moment.



6th November 2020

Equally, we are further reducing footfall in school so the front office will not be open for drop-ins unless absolutely necessary. Please call the office staff by phone before coming in. Any non-staff adults entering the premises will need to wear a mask please.

At the moment, we are not asking parents to wear masks in the playground as long as they are socially distanced at drop off and pick up. Because we are a small school and have effectively staggered these times, there is little crossover of parents and most people are being so respectful of the situation. Please help us to hold on to this by keeping your distance at all times.



After School Clubs

Unfortunately, due to further government guidance this week, and the lockdown situation, we must now close all after school clubs from next week. We realise this is so disappointing but will pick them up again as soon as we are able.

Kernow Flu Vaccinations

These are due to take place on Monday 30th November. We have been sent information with a request to share it with relevant parents. The guidance is as follows:

'If a pupil is unwell or on medication on the day of the vaccine then the nurses will need to take their temperature. The pupil's temperature must be under 37.8 for the vaccination to go ahead. Ear thermometers with disposable covers are being used for this. If unable to vaccinate, a notification email is sent to the parents.'

Should the pupil's temperature be over 37.8, then the pupil will need to be isolated in school, sent home and tested for Covid.'

It is important for all parents to be aware that this may result in family isolation, so that they can make an informed decision as to whether to continue their consent for vaccination.



Recovery Funding Plans

You may be aware that schools have been given catch-up funding in order to implement their recovery curriculum. Schools are free to decide how to use this money as long as they can demonstrate the impact of it on pupil progress. We have identified Phonics, Language and Reading development across the school as a fundamental gap that needs to be addressed. For this reason, our recovery funding will provide additional staff in school to support release for our trained practitioners to deliver even more effective Read

6th November 2020

Write Inc provision. There is a statement on our website which outlines this for parent information.

Children in Need

We will be celebrating Children in Need with a non-uniform day next Friday 13th November. Details of how to donate will follow shortly.



Remembrance

This year, although we will not be able to join our community for Remembrance, we believe that this is an important cultural milestone for the children. For that reason, we will be observing a reflective silence in school and will share a poem and some images on our website/social media. We have been given a poppy for each child to wear which will be distributed next week.



Book Fair

We are delighted to still be able to run this event digitally this month. The book stands will be available in school for children to visit in their bubbles, but to help with the purchase of books, there will be a pre browse downloadable order form, parents will pay over the phone for any purchases. More details will follow.

Christmas

Just a brief note to let you know that, as with most other aspects of life at the moment, Christmas will look a little different this year, but it will still be celebrated so that the children don't miss out on the usual activities in school. All the expected events such as Christmas dinner, Christmas parties and Christmas Jumper Day will still happen. We will think through the details of each one nearer the time and keep you informed.

The two things that will not happen this year are our Christmas Fete and a face to face Christmas Performance. That said, there will still be a Nativity in which our youngest children get the chance to shine, accompanied by performance from other year groups. This will be filmed and posted on our website so parents can still enjoy this very special milestone.

Key Dates

Friday 13 th November	Children in Need Non-Uniform Day
Thursday 26 th November to Wednesday 2 nd December	Scholastic Book Fair
Monday 30 th November	Whole School Flu Vaccinations
Friday 18 th December	Last day of Term 2
Tuesday 5 th January	First day of Term 3
Monday 11 th January to Friday 5 th February	Swimming lessons
Wednesday 10 th February	Last day of Term 3
Monday 22 nd February	First day of Term 4

6th November 2020

Thursday 4 th March	World Book Day
Thursday 1 st April	Last day of Term 4
Monday 19 th April	First day of Term 5
Monday 3 rd May	May Bank Holiday – school closed
Monday 10 th May to Friday 14 th May	Y6 SATS
Friday 28 th May	Last day of Term 5
Monday 7 th June	First day of Term 6
Monday 7 th to Thursday 10 th June	Y6 London Residential
Monday 7 th to Wednesday 9 th June	Y4/5 Delaware Residential
Friday 11 th June	Inset Day – school closed
Thursday 8 th July	SJS Y6 Transition Day
Thursday 22 nd July	Last day of Term 6

Best wishes



Sue Cox and the Delabole team