

"Mighty oaks from little acorns grow"

Our vision:

We constantly strive to promote the overall development of all our pupils and staff. We want the children to come to school happy and eager to learn in a caring environment, where all members of the school community feel that they can reach their full potential.

Dear All

It was lovely to see so many of our families come into school for our science morning. As the weather was so warm, we were able to enjoy the wildlife area, gardening area, field and patio as well as the classrooms to explore different aspects of the science curriculum which the children are currently learning about.

On behalf of our staff and pupils, I would like to thank the PTFA for all their hard work in raising money to enhance the children's learning. Their next event is the Summer Fayre. Volunteers will be needed to help make this event a success so please give a small amount of your time! More details of their activities can be found further on in the newsletter.

Our next whole school event will be sports day which will be held on the school field this year. Details will be sent out nearer the time. We hope to see you there!

We are delighted to have appointed Mrs Jo Anderson as our new Kitchen Manager! We are currently recruiting a Kitchen Assistant to fill her previous role. If you currently have any time to spare over the lunchtime period and would be happy to help assist serving the lunches and putting out the tables and benches, we would be very grateful. Please talk to Mrs Stanbury in the school office.

The minutes of our most recent Parent Forum meeting can be seen at the end of this newsletter.

Alison Bourne

CVSA Football league finals

After a series of games across the year, we would like to congratulate both the Yr5/6 and the Yr3/4 football teams in qualifying for the finals. It was another very hot day but both teams battled it out for the trophy in their respective leagues. After a loss at first for both teams, they went on to play for 3rd/4th place. The effort of the children could not be faulted throughout even into extra time. Congratulations on both teams for receiving 3rd place!

Wilcombe Wobbler

The Duchy School had the opportunity to once again take part in the annual Wilcombe Wobbler. The children took part in a challenging one mile course around the school grounds. All the children were fantastic especially as it was a very hot day! We took a first place medal in the Yr3/4 boys race and second place medal in the Yr5/6 boys race as well as securing the first place trophy for the Yr 3/4 boys team. Great job everyone!

Year 3/4 Rounders Tournament at Blundells

On Thursday 14th June, children from Years 3 and 4 attended a rounders tournament at Blundells. Duchy took two teams who played against various different schools. The children demonstrated a fantastic progression of skills and enthusiasm throughout the games. There were some fantastic rounders scored in addition to some excellent fielding which meant that Duchy brought home several of the match wins. Well done!

KS1 Eden Project Trip

The children in KS1 had a brilliant day at the Eden Project this week. They learnt a lot about plants and their importance which is going to enhance their science lessons in the classroom this term. They saw incredible plants that they had never seen before. They were beautifully well-behaved and the other visitors commented on their good manners.

Our fortnight in pictures...



Science Morning



Wilcombe Wobbler



KS1 Eden Project



CVSA Football league finals

Our Notice Board

Road Safety

It's great to see so many of our children riding their bikes to school and bringing them safely onto the school grounds. However, some children are riding to school without a cycle helmet which is obviously potentially very dangerous. Please ensure that your child wears a cycle helmet.

School Uniform

Many children are wearing trainers to school. Our school uniform policy states that school shoes, not trainers, should be worn. If you have any problems around school shoes, please speak to your child's class teacher. Please also see the uniform list at the end of this newsletter.

Non-prescribed Medicines in School

Following a review of the Administration of Medicines Policy by Ventrus, non-prescribed medicine (including analgesics such as paracetamol) can be administered by trained school staff with written consent from the person with parental responsibility for the pupil.


We will therefore administer non-prescribed medicines where it would be detrimental to the child not to do so and where the protocol in the policy has been followed.

GDPR

S11/1 Data Collection on Admission to School: Pupil Information:

With new GDPR data regulation coming into effect on 25th May 2018, we have updated our Privacy Notice for Parents and Carers. Our commitment to privacy has not changed. The Privacy Notice has been reorganised to make it easier to read and to address new data regulation requirements and outlines how we collect, use, share, and protect the personal data. Our Data Protection Officer is Emma Emery who is contactable on (01392) 256020 email: dpo@ventrus.org.uk

Celebrations!

Mathematicians of the Week	
	
Our mathematicians for the last fortnight are:	
Foundation	Effie & Mollie
Cook	Megan
Raleigh	Sam & Amber
Drake	Ella & Bailey
Acland	Amy & Jessica
Reynolds	The whole class & Isaac
Brunel	Emily, Tegan, Lillia, Dimitrios & Daniel

Stars of the Week	
	
Our stars for the last fortnight are:	
Foundation	Saskia & Coby
Cook	Belle
Raleigh	Jackson & Jackson
Drake	Flora & Bonnie
Acland	Elijah & Millie T
Reynolds	The whole class & Ruben
Brunel	Elliana & Ellie

Friendship Points	
	
Our current Friendship totals are:	
Holland	870
Wales	910
Italy	850
South Africa	760
New Zealand	830
Japan	850
Brazil	960

Well done to all our Stars and Mathematicians as well as to Brazil Friendship Group!

Class Attendance Certificates: Foundation and Raleigh!!

PTFA News

The PTFA are pleased to inform you that the Duchy Dash fun run raised £572.50. This money along with amounts raised from other events means the PTFA are now able to purchase for the school the new lighting for the hall for stage productions. The total cost of the lighting is £4,200 and the work will hopefully be done at the beginning of July in time for the KS1 summer shows and Year 6 production.

This year the PTFA has also been able to fund £250 for the duck hatching experience, £350 towards the school trips (£50 per class) and £800 for the M and M Theatre Production: A Little Princess.

The PTFA would like to thank you all for all your help in raising money to help purchase resources and experiences for all the children at the school. Our next big fundraiser is the School Summer Fayre on Friday, 6th July 3.30pm - 6pm. We hope that you have all received your raffle tickets to sell. If not, please speak to your class teacher or the school office. We have lots of amazing prizes to win so please sell as many as you can and we hope to see you all at the Fayre! A volunteer rota will be going up outside school soon for you to sign up and help at the Fayre - thank you in advance. We will also require cake donations on the day!

Many Thanks!

Diary Dates

Date	Event
27 th June	Early Parents Evening 4 -6.00 pm Foundation Class
28 th June	Late Parents Evening 6 - 8.00 pm Foundation Class
6 th July	PTFA Summer Fayre 3.30 - 6.00pm
9 th July	Foundation & KS1 afternoon performance
10 th July	Foundation & KS2 evening performance
11 th July	Sports Day
12 th July	Brunel Class performance (one performance in the evening)
13 th July	Transition Morning - <i>all classes will be spending the morning meeting their new teacher for the next academic year</i>
11 th July	Sports Day on the school field - a
19 th July	<i>M and M Productions: A Little Princess</i>
24 th July	<i>Reserve Sports Day</i>
25 th July	Leavers' (Yr6 only) assembly 9.30 am
26 th July	Last day of the Summer Term

TERM DATES for 2018/19

AUTUMN Term Commences on 5th September 2018 and Finishes on 20th December
 Non-pupil Day Friday 19th October
 Half Term 22nd - 26th October

SPRING Term Commences on 7th January 2019 and Finishes on 5th April 2019
 Half Term 18th - 22nd February

SUMMER Term Commences on 24th April 2019 and Finishes on 24th July 2019
 Non-Pupil Day Monday 3rd June 2019 Half Term 27th May - 31st May 2019

THE DUCHY SCHOOL UNIFORM

Please ensure that your child or children wear the correct uniform.

BOYS	COLOUR	GIRLS	COLOUR
Sweatshirt	Purple - available from the school	Sweatshirt	Purple - available from the school
Polo shirt or shirt	White	Polo shirt or blouse	White
Trousers	Grey	Trousers	Grey
Socks	Grey	Socks (or tights)	Grey or white
Shorts	Grey	Skirt or pinafore	Grey
Shoes/Sandals NB no trainers	Black Black	Shoes (not boots) Summer sandals NB no trainers	Black Blue, white or black
		Summer dress	Purple and white
PE Tee shirt (Yr 1 onwards)	Purple - available from the school	PE Tee shirt (Y1 onwards)	Purple - available from the school
PE Shorts (Yr 1 onwards)	Black	PE Shorts (Y1 onwards)	Black
PE socks	White	PE socks	White
Trainers	White or Black	Trainers	White or Black
PE Hoodie (optional) To order from school	Black	PE Hoodie (optional)	Black

Parent Forum

8th June 2018



"Mighty oaks from little acorns grow"

The purpose of the group is to:

- ✚ Enable the school and parents to work together on improving the experiences of pupils in the school;
- ✚ Provide a further channel of communication for parents.

Attendees: Mrs Bourne, Nicky Hutchinson, Leonie Fisher, Justine Reed, Donna Kennedy

Apologies: Emma Rawden, Donna Kennedy, Emily Pike

DISCUSSION POINTS

SCHOOL MEALS

- **The parent representatives reported that the dinner board hadn't been changed to reflect different puddings being served to what had been on the menu.**
Mrs Bourne responded by saying that the kitchen manager had been away on the days mentioned and that she would ask the kitchen assistant to do this in future.
- **The parent representatives reported that the lunchtime menu included chips in different forms on many days.**
Mr Stevens, Ventrus Executive Chef, responded by saying that the school menu requirements stated that a potato product must be served daily. This is served as wedges, roasted chip potatoes, baby jackets as well as chips. All products are dry roasted; no fat or oil is used.
- **The parent representatives reported that the hall floor is often sticky.**
Mr Stevens responded by saying that he would ensure the floor was swept and cleaned as appropriate after lunch each day.

Mr Stevens is available on Mondays and Fridays if you would like to discuss any aspects of school meals with him.

SPORTS CLUBS

- **The parent representatives reported that some parents had asked why there was no KS2 Sports Club this term?**
Mrs Bourne responded by saying that teaching staff run clubs in their own time and different staff have different strengths and interests. The Parent Forum then had a robust discussion about the organisation of clubs in school. They were interested to know if parents/people from the community could run a club so that there were a variety of clubs offered. Mrs Bourne responded by saying that people running clubs would need to have a DBS check which would incur a cost to the school. The Parent Forum suggested that clubs could be run for a four-week block, thus ensuring that a wider variety could be offered. Mrs Bourne said that she would take the suggestion back to the staff for discussion.

PLAYGROUND GAMES

- **The parent representatives reported that some children had found it unfair that the game of "IT" had been banned for a period of time.**

Mrs Bourne responded by saying that there had been some children who had caused issues in the playground whilst playing the game, so it had been banned. That ban has now been lifted and children are able to play the game sensibly and fairly.

COMMUNICATION

- **The parent representatives reported that there had been some confusion over the Music Festival.**

Mrs Bourne responded by saying that the Music Festival had been on the Diary Dates section of the school newsletter. If parents are uncertain about arrangements for events or do not have the appropriate paperwork, please can they contact Mrs Stanbury in the office for clarification.

MUSIC LESSONS

- **The parent representatives asked if music lessons in school could be advertised?**

Mrs Bourne responded by saying that she would include this information in newsletters.

PLAYGROUND GAMES

- **The parent representatives reported that there seemed to be a lot of equipment in the music cupboard in the hall and was this used effectively?**

Mrs Bourne responded by saying that the musical instruments were used by the children in school. Some of the more technical equipment may not be used and Mrs Bourne is going to seek advice from someone experienced with this type of equipment so that the school can use it to enhance children's experiences.

ATTENDANCE CERTIFICATES

- **The parent representatives reported that some parents feel uncomfortable with these being given out for 100% attendance because illness cannot be helped.**

Mrs Bourne responded by saying that these certificates are given out sensitively with the message that we are all ill at some point and this is accepted by school. However, these certificates encourage children to see that attendance is important for their education and that it is valued by the school.

WEBSITE

- **The parent representatives reported that some areas of the website were not up to date.**

Mrs Bourne responded by saying that she was aware of this and that the school was currently advertising for more admin hours. This post will be responsible for updating the website regularly.

ARRIVAL AT SCHOOL IN THE MORNINGS

could wait before school in the morning now that the green gates are closed.

Mrs Bourne responded by saying that the playground is supervised by staff from 8.40am. Children are not allowed onto the playground until that time. The green gates are opened at 8.40 am by the member of staff on duty. Children should not be waiting by the main gates for safety reasons. Staff always endeavour to open the green gates on time but there are occasions when they are delayed for good reason.

MATHS/SCIENCE

- **The parent representatives reported that some parents had asked if the day for these events could be changed as they are working.**

Mrs Bourne acknowledged that this is tricky for some families. However, Fridays are the best day for the children's learning to hold these events on.

CLASS NAMES

- **The parent representatives reported that all the classes are named after males not females with links to Devon.**

Mrs Bourne responded by saying that the class names were chosen some years ago. She said that having investigated this that Acland class had been named after Eleanor Acland. The Parent Forum asked if other classes could have a female name. Mrs Bourne said she would discuss this with staff.

CLYST HYDON

- **The parent representatives reported that a few parents wanted to know if The Duchy School would be "stretched" with Mrs Bourne being headteacher of Clyst Hydon too.**

Mrs Bourne responded by saying that this would not be the case and that additional staff hours had been given to The Duchy so that this would not be the case.

TEACHING ASSISTANT HOURS

- **The parent representatives reported that some parents were unsure if teaching assistant hours were being replaced.**

Mrs Bourne responded by saying that all teaching assistant hours had been replaced where staff had moved on.

GDPR

- **The parent representatives reported that some parents had asked what Ventrus had done in response to the new GDPR.**

Please see the information relating to GDPR in our Notice Board section of this newsletter.

Mrs Bourne thanked the members of the Parent Forum for their hard work in representing the views of our families.