

# Dunchurch Infant School and Nursery



## Autumn Term Issue 1

11 January 2019

### Headteacher's Message

Welcome back to the new term, I hope you all enjoyed the Christmas break. Whilst the children did not start back until Tuesday, staff were in on Monday for a Training Day. There were a range of sessions in the afternoon but I thought I would tell you about the first half of the day. In the morning we linked up with the Junior School to hold a joint training session on our curriculum. The curriculum is at the heart of our school; it sets out what we think the children should learn and whilst it is influenced by the requirements of the National Curriculum (in Years 1 & 2) and the Early Years Curriculum (in Nursery & Reception), we still have a degree of autonomy in what we teach and how we teach it. As the two schools begin to work more closely together, it is a good time to review what we do. This process started before Christmas where parents shared their views through a Parents' Forum Meeting and in some cases by email and playground conversations.

I asked various questions, the first was whether parents thought it is best for children to be taught by one teacher, or have a range of teachers who have greater expertise in particular areas. Generally, the older the child, the more likely the parents are to support the idea of their son/daughter having more teachers. This is perhaps to be expected, although I was surprised there wasn't a greater difference between KS1 parents and those who have children in upper Key Stage 2. For the second question, I asked about how much time we spend teaching each subject. Parents thought English and Maths were the most important subjects, but to a smaller extent than their position afforded them in the current timetable. No one parent thought English or Maths should have more than a twenty per cent share of the curriculum, whereas currently they take up more time than that, particularly English. As children get older, parents were more likely to see English and Maths as important, but they still want roughly two thirds of the curriculum spent on other subjects. I will share more insights from parents in future newsletters as well as looking at the views of parents and staff.

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### WEEKLY EXTRA-CURRICULAR ACTIVITIES

|                  |  |
|------------------|--|
| <b>MONDAY</b>    | 12.40 - 1.10pm Monday French Club (Barn Owls)<br>3.15 - 4pm Martial Arts   |
| <b>TUESDAY</b>   | 12 - 1pm Singing Club<br>3.15 - 4.15pm Year 2 After School Sports Club   |
| <b>WEDNESDAY</b> | 3.15 - 4pm Spanish Club<br>3.15 - 4.45pm DM Football   |
| <b>THURSDAY</b>  | 3.15 - 4.45pm DM Football  |
| <b>FRIDAY</b>    | 12.10 - 1.10pm Friday French Club (Snowy Owls/Year 2)<br>1 - 3pm Violin/Cello Lessons<br>3.15 - 4.15pm Year 1 After School Sports Club |

### NEXT WEEK

### REMINDERS/CHANGES FOR 14 - 18 JANUARY 2019

|                           |  |
|---------------------------|--|
| <b>Monday<br/>14th</b>    |  |
| <b>Tuesday<br/>15th</b>   | <b>National Deadline for Year 3 &amp; Reception School Applications for September 2019</b> |
| <b>Wednesday<br/>16th</b> |  |
| <b>Thursday<br/>17th</b>  |  |
| <b>Friday<br/>18th</b>    |  |

## ATTENDANCE AWARD

### For the week ending 21 December 2018

|                        | Attendance % | No. of Late Arrivals | Overall Score | Trophy Awarded to   |
|------------------------|--------------|----------------------|---------------|---|
| <b>Little Owls</b>     | 90.3         | 1                    | 89.3          |  |
| <b>Elf Owls</b>        | 96.3         | 6                    | 90.3          |   |
| <b>Barn Owls</b>       | 89.6         | 0                    | 89.6          |   |
| <b>Snowy Owls</b>      | 96.8         | 5                    | 91.8          |   |
| <b>Spectacled Owls</b> | 98.7         | 6                    | 92.7          |   |
| <b>Tawny Owls</b>      | 97.7         | 1                    | 96.7          |   |

## WEEKLY GREEN AWARD

### Awarded to Snowy Owls

Well done to the children in Miss Clarke's class, for keeping their classroom and working environment the cleanest and tidiest throughout this week!

*Awarded by our caretaker, Mr Haggan, and his assistant, Mrs Turtle*

## LUNCHTIME GOOD BEHAVIOUR AWARDS

### Awarded by Mrs Burdett and her lunchtime staff

|                        |                  |
|------------------------|------------------|
| <b>Rainbow Room</b>    | <b>Matilda C</b> |
| <b>Blue Room</b>       | <b>Jacob W</b>   |
| <b>Red Room</b>        | <b>Rowan B</b>   |
| <b>Little Owls</b>     | <b>Sofia S</b>   |
| <b>Elf Owls</b>        | <b>Emma A</b>    |
| <b>Barn Owls</b>       | <b>Alberto C</b> |
| <b>Snowy Owls</b>      | <b>Caitlin M</b> |
| <b>Spectacled Owls</b> | <b>Harry D</b>   |
| <b>Tawny Owls</b>      | <b>Milo B</b>    |

# YEAR GROUP - CLASS INFORMATION

|   |   |  |
|---|---|--|
| <p><b>RAINBOW ROOM</b></p>  | <p><b>NURSERY</b></p> <p>We welcomed lots of new children to Rainbow Room this week. They all settled in brilliantly and have had a great time exploring our classroom. Our older children have been fantastic; making new friends and being very kind! They have loved making snowmen with paint and scourers, enjoying the textured results. They have also been testing their memory, having to shout their friend's names before passing a ball to each other during group time.</p>  |                             |
| <p><b>BLUE ROOM &amp; RED ROOM</b></p>  | <p>The children returned to nursery full of enthusiasm and stories about Christmas; it's been lovely to hear what they have been up to! They started learning about Antarctic animals in Red Room, following Winter interests, along with practising their pencil control. In Blue Room they are exploring simple science experiments, kicking off with shaving foam rain and skittles colour mixing! Please could the Blue Room children bring in a SMALL favourite present from Christmas for Show and Tell next week; thank you!</p>   |                             |
| <p><b>LITTLE OWLS</b></p>       | <p><b>RECEPTION</b></p> <p>This week, we thoroughly enjoyed listening to how your families have celebrated Christmas and seeing the increase in confidence in the children when speaking in front of the class, answering questions from their peers. After two weeks off, we have been so pleased with the Literacy work the children completed all about 'Owls Christmas' – even including some digraphs in their writing! In Maths we started our focus on numbers to 20 including counting, recognising and ordering. This is going to support our learning next week when we will be finding one more/one less than a given number.</p>  | <p><b>ELF OWLS</b></p>     |
| <p><b>BARN OWLS</b></p>        | <p><b>YEAR ONE</b></p> <p>In English this week the children have been learning to order and spell the days of the week, remembering to start with a capital letter. In Maths they have learned about 3D shapes including cubes, cuboids, cones, pyramids, spheres and cylinders. We have started to describe the properties using the language faces and edges. In phonics we have been learning the alternative spellings for the 'er' phoneme (er, ur, ir, ear, or) and in Topic we have looked at the 1960s discussing the similarities and differences between now and then.</p>  | <p><b>SNOWY OWLS</b></p>  |
| <p><b>SPECTACLED OWLS</b></p>  | <p><b>YEAR TWO</b></p> <p>This week we have learnt to add 3 1 digit numbers using a number line as well as number bond pairs. Also we have started to learn about arrays &amp; how to create one for a multiplication calculation. In Literacy the children had to guess &amp; infer what story we are covering from objects &amp; picture sequencing. They made lots of inference based on the book, thinking about how characters might feel &amp; what they really know. An exciting topic day today as Mark Wood, an explorer, visited us to talk about his explorations around the world focusing on his recent trip to Alaska as well as the Arctic &amp; Antarctica. From this, the children have learnt &amp; identified the 7 continents &amp; 5 oceans &amp; the difference between land &amp; sea. We would be very grateful if you could practise the features of a non-fiction text with your child at home as part of this week's homework.</p> | <p><b>TAWNY OWLS</b></p>  |

# NEWS, REQUESTS & REMINDERS

## CONGRATULATIONS

This week, our congratulations go to.....

**Laycie L** for receiving an 'All Star Dance & Fitness' award for her outstanding performance

**Daniel L** who received a medal for cycling around Draycote Water

**Catherine Y** for receiving a 'Rugby Gymnastics Club' Certificate of Participation

**Laycie L** for receiving two awards from 'Hotshots' for being their Shootout Champion

**Aurelia S** for being promoted to red belt in Martial Arts

**Well done everyone!**



## REMINDER FOR SCHOOL PARENTS

Can you please ensure that your child has their PE kit on the first day of each new term/half term, as PE lessons will start as soon as school starts back.

Can Year 1 parents please stand on the playground at the end of the day and not directly outside the classrooms, as you are obstructing the children coming out of class and also parents making their way out of school via the path to Done Cerce Close.

Many thanks for your co-operation.

Find 'Dunchurch Infant & Nursery School PTA' on Facebook or e-mail [dunchurchinfantpta@gmail.com](mailto:dunchurchinfantpta@gmail.com) if you would like to find out more

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Minutes of all PTA Meetings are now available on the school website [www.dunchurchinfants.co.uk](http://www.dunchurchinfants.co.uk) under 'Parent Zone'

## TERM DATES 2019

### Spring Term 2019

Half Term

Monday 18 – Friday 22 February

Term Ends

Friday 12 April

### Summer Term 2019

Term Starts

Monday 29 April

*Bank Holiday*

*Monday 6 May*

Half Term

Monday 27 – Friday 31 May

*Teacher Training Day*

*Friday 21 June*

Term Ends

Friday 19 July

*Teacher Training Day*

*Monday 22 July*

### Autumn Term 2019

*Teacher Training Day*

*Monday 2 September*

Term Starts

Tuesday 3 September

Half Term

Monday 28 October – Friday 1 November

*Teacher Training Day*

*Friday 22 November*

Term Ends

Friday 20 December

***FAMILY HOLIDAYS MUST ONLY BE BOOKED DURING THE SCHOOL HOLIDAY PERIOD***



## WOODY'S BLOG

Hello

Welcome back everyone! Happy New Year and I hope you all had a lovely Christmas break.

I've had a quiet week, this week, so I have spent lots of time catching up on my sleep and staying warm and cosy in my bed.

I went back to doggy training last night and I must admit I had forgotten a few commands but it was because I was so excited to see all my friends again.

It's going to be a cold weekend, so wrap up warm and have fun!

Woof, woof from  
Woody xx

## PARENTS' MEETINGS

Tuesday 12 February - 3:30 - 7pm  
Wednesday 13 February - 3:30 - 6pm

Parents of school children, from Reception to Year 2, will be able to book a slot with their child's teacher to discuss progress, to date.

### PLEASE NOTE:

**Each appointment is 10 minutes long.**

**Please be considerate to the appointments after you, by not over running your allocated time, as it has a knock-on overall affect on the evening; thank you.**

To book your time slot visit our online booking system:

[www.dunchurchinfants.parentseveningsystem.co.uk](http://www.dunchurchinfants.parentseveningsystem.co.uk)  
(hover over this link, then press control and click to open it)

This will be available, as follows:  
8pm on Tuesday 22 January - 8pm on Tuesday 5 February

\*\*\*\*\*

Parents of nursery children will be able to book their time slots via the notice board in their child's nursery cloakroom from Tuesday 22 January onwards.



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