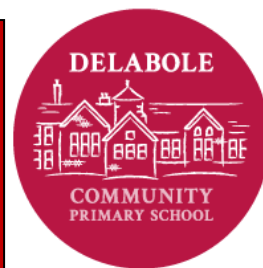


# Delabole Community Primary School Newsletter

September 2019

See this newsletter and more on our school website [www.delaboleschool.org](http://www.delaboleschool.org)



Dear parents and carers,

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Firstly, we would like to wish you a very warm welcome back after the summer break, especially to those parents and children who have joined the school for the first time. We have had a lovely start to the new term with pupils and coming back refreshed from their rest.

This will be a year of exciting curriculum innovation at Delabole School as I invite the whole school community to work alongside me to refine our vision for our children's learning. As we move forward and share our aspirations for the future, we will strengthen the bonds between both schools, share our skills and broaden opportunities whilst making a strong commitment to protecting the uniqueness of each school within its local community.

So now our work begins again...

## What does it mean to truly belong?

As we start a new autumn term here at Delabole Primary School, the staff and pupils have begun to explore the theme of 'Belonging'. What does it mean to truly belong, and how can we work together to shape a new vision for our school? Our shared INSET Day was spent considering the true meaning of childhood, and our responsibilities in making sure our children thrive and reach their best potential, as we prepare them for life in a future we can hardly imagine, such is the rate of technological change. We shared our aspirations for their future and began to communicate ideas which will take the school forward and offer the entire school community fantastic opportunities for learning. It goes without saying that at the heart of this vision is partnership with our families. We sincerely invite you to work alongside us at every step of the way. To kick start our year, we are undertaking a whole school exploration of our locality of Delabole, centring on the Quarry. If you have any information or artefacts that would enrich this, please talk to your child's teacher.

And we have agreed that every day, all our diverse achievements should be celebrated and respected.

Whatever dreams and talents your child brings to our school, we hope we can nurture them to their fullest potential.



## Class Organisation from September 2019

We still await the return of some of our staff from maternity leave. 2018-2019 was definitely the year of babies!

Whilst Mrs Dickinson will be rejoining us in December, we welcome back Mrs Stanley in Early Years for the next few weeks. Rest assured though, Mrs Dickinson is already working with the team behind the scenes. We are also delighted to have Mrs Ubly and Mrs Campbell sharing the joys of Class 1. Mrs Campbell will also support Early Years on Fridays.

### **School Crossing Patrol**

Great news for Delabole School; thanks to the kind support of the Parish Council, we have now secured some additional funding to help us maintain Pam Wren's role as School Crossing Patrol for the next two years. As you will be aware, with funding cuts in education, we are not able to sustain this really important safeguarding provision without external support. I am therefore so grateful that we can continue to ensure children enter and leave school on our busy road safe in the hands of Pam Wren...and I am sure you will agree that the Parish Council have done us proud.

### **Improvements To The School Environment**

The relentless drive to improve our school environments has kept up its momentum over the summer break.

In Delabole, the windows to the back of the school have now been completely refurbished and new doors have been fitted. They are less visible to visitors, but to the staff and children, they will make a tremendous difference in terms of ventilation and warmth in such an old building. Crucially, the classrooms are looking brighter. What a long way we have come in four years of planned refurbishment which has truly transformed our lovely school!

### **Important information about drop off and pick up.**

In our absolute commitment to the highest standards of safeguarding, could we please remind parents that we are unable to hand children over to adults at the end of the day, unless they are named on the contact sheet or we have had a message directly from a parent giving permission for a last minute change. Children will always be handed to an adult when eye contact is made. It helps us if parents can stand back a little so we can see who is who. Clubs are released from the front of the school.



### **Morning Protocols.**

We are now training children to line up alphabetically so that they are ready for any emergency and fire drills. Please could you say a swift goodbye to them in the playground so that they can focus on their class line and lead in confidently. It really helps us.

We are also trying to manage traffic in the corridors and classrooms so from Monday, we are asking all children apart from Early Years to remain in the playground with their bags and coats, and only enter the school with their class line on the bell. This is so that if there were a fire, we would know exactly where all children are, and no-one would be alone somewhere in school. This also helps if a child is in school distressed or an early morning intervention is taking place. Of course, come and talk to us in the playground if you need to convey an important message.



### **Meet and Greet's**

The staff have a strong commitment to working in partnership with parents and we absolutely know that this dialogue around each child helps us to personalise provision and therefore shape a more positive school experience for them. For that reason, we would like to welcome you into your child's classroom environment at this early stage of the year so that each teacher can share routines, key messages and give you a flavour of expectations. You will also have the opportunity to ask general questions so we can clarify any concerns you may have from the outset. No concern is too small. A sequence of early Meet and Greet sessions will be

held the week beginning 16<sup>th</sup> September at the end of the day before pick-up and a letter will be sent home detailing these next week.

### **School Uniform**

The children look fantastic in their smart new uniform this week. Thank you. To help us keep control of lost property, please name everything. We will check for named clothing next week. A particular thank you to all those parents who have ensured their children have the correct PE kit.



### **Water Bottles**

We really encourage all children to have access to a school water bottle. The links between good hydration and better learning have been confirmed for many years now. Only clear, school water bottles are allowed in the classrooms. These are available from the school office for £1.75. It is imperative that staff can monitor what and how much is being drunk in class. The posh metal containers are unsuitable for this and also are a hazard if they fall off surfaces. Any questions about this, please just contact the office to talk to Mrs Cox. We appreciate your support for this policy.

### **Homework and Clubs**

Homework is a vital opportunity to nurture independent learning, gives you regular insights into what your child is learning and enables children to approach learning in their preferred learning style. We aim to balance creativity with the more formal overlearning and practising of skills. This will all be clarified at the Meet and Greets. Some parents have expressed concerns that homework can become a burden at home. If you are experiencing difficulties with homework just contact your child's class teacher. Together we can sort it out.

Our club list is hot off the press and should have come home with the newsletter. I am delighted with the range and breadth of opportunities on offer for such a small school team. It really does reflect the commitment of the staff to enriching every child's experience in school. If your child signs up to a club, please do ensure they commit to it, as places are wasted if they do not attend when other children could benefit from them.

### **Diary Dates**

An overview of term dates is available on our website. We will publish a list of dates till Christmas in the next newsletter. Please be aware that KS2 SATs dates for 2020 are the week commencing 11<sup>th</sup> May. It is vital that all Year 6 children are in school for these end of Key Stage assessments.

Best wishes

Sue Cox and the Team

6<sup>th</sup> September 2019

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