

Delabole Community Primary School Newsletter

February 2019

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



Dear Parents and Carers

This has been a very busy term with some lovely learning from the children and some really enjoyable opportunities outside school. That said, we are all a little tired, and there has been a good deal of illness across both schools. We know the children need a well-earned rest so we wish you above all, a very peaceful half term



break, and a chance to recuperate and recharge batteries. We look forward to seeing everyone back after the break, ready to embark on more adventures in the classroom and beyond!

A round up of learning this term.



There have been some really exciting learning opportunities to keep us going through the dark January days. Our Class 4 children have been following Charles Darwin's expedition on The Beagle and as part of their exploration of his theories on evolution and natural selection, they visited Eden. Beneath the tropical canopies in the Rainforest Biome, they encountered some amazing plant and insect species, whilst thinking scientifically about how certain species have adapted to change and survived.

Class 3 have considered the difference between archaeological evidence and myth in their exploration of our local heritage site – The Island of Tintagel. We are so lucky to live so closely to such an extraordinary place which is steeped in history and ancient stories. It seems only fitting that they should celebrate their learning this term with an Arthurian Banquet on Wednesday 13th February. Next term they will be visiting the site to learn about modern day engineering as the new suspension bridge is lowered into place. No matter what our personal feelings are about the change that this will bring, it will certainly be an experience they will never forget.

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Our Class 2 enquiry into how there is more to Fairy Tales than meets the eye will culminate in a story telling opportunity in the Giant's Glade at Delabole. This hidden gem is one of the things which sets our school apart and there are plans to completely renovate and refurbish this area in the Spring. We are really looking forward to bringing this strange and wonderful part of our local community back to its former glory.



Children in Reception and Class 1 have been taking a look at life in the Stone Age and have made a series of extraordinary discoveries of bones and fossils using their archaeological skills. These, alongside some letters from the Natural History Museum, have sparked their imaginations and inspired them to write like scientists. We are delighted to be inviting parents to their exhibitions of learning on Monday 11th February in the school hall from 2.35 pm to 3.05 pm.



Next term our Value is Justice and, as always, our children will be embarking on some thought-provoking adventures in learning sparked by the Enquiry Question – Who holds the power? If you would like a weekly snapshot of learning in each class, just visit the class pages on our school website for a flavour of what it means to be a learner at Delabole School.

Some Staff Changes

I am sure that all our parents will join me in sending Mrs. Dickinson our best wishes as she starts her maternity leave from the end of this term. She has soldiered on right up until the last minute and has given her absolute all to make sure there is a smooth handover with the maternity cover teacher. We are really looking forward to seeing her with her new baby in a few weeks time. Despite ongoing issues with recruitment, we have now secured a teacher who will take over Reception class from 25th February until the end of the academic year.

Mrs Stanley is an experienced teacher who has worked in Nursery, Reception and Key Stage 1 for a number of years. In order to help her to get to know the class and all the excellent systems Mrs Dickinson and her team have in place, Mrs Stanley will be spending a few initial days with us over the coming week. In particular, if parents would like the opportunity to drop in and meet her informally, she will be attending the Exhibition of Learning on the afternoon of Monday 11th.

Children's Mental Health and Wellbeing



As many of you will be aware, this issue is high on the agenda for schools – and rightly so. Schools everywhere are seeing increasing evidence of low emotional resilience and more complex needs in children. This is something we have been working on for some time, and in response, we have our dedicated rooms for emotional literacy and a number of programmes focusing on pastoral support, as well as our PSHE and SRE (Sex and Relationships Education) curriculum. Alongside these, PE and our commitment to healthy, active lifestyles play a critical role. Beyond that, mental wellbeing is looked upon as a fundamental pre-requisite for learning. It lies at the core of everything we do. Children cannot access learning if they are run down,

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stressed or emotionally fragile. We are currently involved in several strands of training and curriculum design in this aspect of school provision, particularly championed by Mrs Dingle and Ms Sanderson who are fully trained Trauma Informed Schools programme practitioners, and Ms Thorpe who is a qualified yoga teacher and has a passion for mindfulness and wellbeing. If you are worried about your child's emotional resilience and would like to know more about what we can offer by way of support, please do come and talk to us.

Don't forget that we are hosting our first **Mindfulness Through Art and Nature Workshop** at Kudhva from 2:30 till 4:00pm on Thursday 14th February. We would love to see as many parents as possible in this uniquely beautiful environment so that we can share practical activities and ideas which will really make a difference.

E-Safety Message

You may have seen recent reports on social media regarding risks associated with children talking to strangers when playing Fortnite. Fortnite is 12+ rated game and therefore it is advised that children of primary age should not have access to it. However, if you do allow your child to play Fortnite, it is important that you understand the risks that they face and have the information needed to help your child stay safe. Go to <https://tinyurl.com/fortniteadvice> to read the Fortnite: all you need to know guide.

FODS Disco

It's that time again. We look forward to seeing those onesies and pyjamas at the Disco next Thursday – Foundation & KS1 6.00 pm to 6.45 pm. KS2 7.00 pm to 8.00 pm.

World Book Day Thursday 7th March – Something a little different!

We have decided to do something slightly different this year in order to celebrate our passion for stories and create a really unique and inspirational display in each school. There will be more details to follow just after half term, but in the interim, please do save any interesting glass jars that you may have at home. It is our intention to capture the spirit of a favourite book in a jar, and to hold a competition to identify the mystery story. Each child will be given a special book voucher to spend in a book shop of their choice.



A Date for Your Diaries

Parents Evenings will be held next term on Wednesday 20th March and Thursday 21st March. Details to follow nearer the time. Parents of children in Reception Class will already have had their meetings with Mrs Dickinson this term.

Best Wishes

A handwritten signature in black ink, which appears to read 'Sue Cox'.

Sue Cox and the team

Key Dates this Term

Monday 11 th February – 2.35 pm	Foundation & Class 1 Exhibition of Learning
Wednesday 13 th February	Class 3 Arthurian Banquet
Thursday 14 th February 2.30pm at Kudhva	Mindfulness Through Art and Nature Workshop
Thursday 14 th February	Last day of term 3
Monday 25 th February	First day of term 4
Thursday 14 th March	Class 3 visit to Tintagel Castle
Wednesday 20 th March	Parents Evening
Thursday 21 st March	Parents Evening
Friday 5 th April	Last day of term 4
Tuesday 23 rd April	First day of term 5
Monday 6 th May	Bank Holiday
Tuesday 21 st May – Friday 24 th May	Y6 London Residential
Friday 24 th May	Last day of term 5
Monday 3 rd June	First day of term 6
Friday 7 th June	Community Cohesion Day – School Closed
Monday 17 th – Wednesday 19 th June	Y4/5 Porthpean Residential
Thursday 24 th July	Last day of term 6