



Autumn Term Week 5 – 9<sup>th</sup> October 2025

Dear Parent/Carers,  
Thank you for your continued support in helping us keep the playground a safe and welcoming place for everyone in the mornings. We really appreciate you reminding your children not to use scooters or play ball games before school when the playground is busy. Your cooperation helps ensure that all children, parents, and staff can start the day safely and calmly.

We're also delighted to share that our school is taking part in the UK-Ukraine Reading for Pleasure Partnership, funded by the British Council. This exciting initiative connects schools in the UK and Ukraine to celebrate the joy of reading and to share ideas that inspire a love of books. Two weeks ago, Miss McKay attended the opening conference in Poland, where she met teachers from both countries and explored new ways to make reading even more engaging for our pupils.

We're also very fortunate that our pupils in Years 4–6 will be taking part in Drone Coding Workshops this Friday, funded by Hyett Education. These hands-on sessions will give pupils the opportunity to develop their coding and problem-solving skills while bringing the computing curriculum to life in a fun and interactive way. We can't wait to see the drones take flight and watch our young learners explore the exciting world of coding in action!

Finally, please remember to check this week's newsletter for important information regarding attendance — a real focus for our school this year. Your support in ensuring your child attends school every day makes a huge difference to their learning and progress.

Have a lovely weekend.

**Mrs J Tierney and the Primary Phase team**

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## Dates for the diary

### October

10<sup>th</sup> – Flu Vaccinations

15<sup>th</sup> – Y6 Junior Life Skills,  
Dartmouth Leisure Centre

17<sup>th</sup> – Class 4/5 Harvest Festival  
Assembly @ 9.00am Cube

22<sup>nd</sup> – Class 1/2 Slapton Trip

23<sup>rd</sup> – Food Festival

27<sup>th</sup> – Half Term

### November

12<sup>th</sup> – Primary Open Morning @  
9.30am

18<sup>th</sup> & 19<sup>th</sup> – Parents' Evening

19<sup>th</sup> – Reception class cinema  
trip

### December

1<sup>st</sup> – Non-pupil day

# Celebrations

## Attendance Matters

This year's attendance by Year Group:

**Year 1** – 95.3%

**Year 2** – 95.2%

**Year 3** – 96.7%

**Year 4** – 96.6%

**Year 5** – 93.7%

**Year 6** – 94.1%

**Year 7** – 96.2%

**Year 8** – 93.8%

**Year 9** – 92.4%

**Year 10** – 94.2%

**Year 11** – 93.9%

School attendance for the year so far is currently

**94.4 %**

**Thank you for supporting our target of 96%**

## Primary celebrations

### 'Stars in our eyes'

Husna J – Nursery

Alexia J – Reception/Y1

Daisy D – Class 1/2

Bilal I – Class 2/3

Esme M – Class 4/5

Jazmine O – Class 6



# What have we been up to:

On Thursday, 2<sup>nd</sup> October pupils at Dartmouth Academy were very fortunate to have a visit from Conrad Humphreys. Our primary pupils are reading a book all about a sailing adventure and so were inspired to see Conrad's boat Bounty. The children couldn't believe that he and his fellow sailing comrades undertook an unbelievable adventure across the South Pacific, following the footsteps of Captain Bligh in 1789. Our secondary pupils had an assembly from our visitor and were fascinated to listen about why people should step out of their comfort zones and go on incredible adventures, even when others are questioning why they would! Brilliant questions were asked and we are so grateful for Conrad for taking the time to come and speak to us.



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We're absolutely delighted to share the news that Class 1-2 at Dartmouth Academy have been partnered with a class of children in a school in Ukraine to share the joy of reading and create connections between communities in the UK and Ukraine.

The schools have been matched through the British Council's UK-Ukraine School Partnerships programme, which is funded by the Department for Education. This unique new initiative supports schools to build lasting international partnerships, and explore reading as a tool to expand horizons, build confidence and boost mental wellbeing. The programme connects 100 schools in the UK and Ukraine (50 schools in the UK with 50 in Ukraine). Class 1-2 will work on activities with a similarly aged class of children, our aim is to encourage reading for pleasure, whilst building an understanding of each other's cultures through a common love for reading.

I went to Krakow, Poland, to meet our partner teacher, Oksana, and plan the first stages of our working partnership. Oksana was an inspiration, she loved our approach to reading, the strategies we use to inspire a love of reading here at Dartmouth Academy, and shared some of their practice.

Class 1-2 will meet their partner class online just after half term. Watch this space!



## Parent/Carer Information

### Important Safeguarding Notice: Children's "Spy" Books

We want to make you aware of a recent issue affecting some popular children's books by Andrew Cope, including the *Spy Dogs*, *Spy Cats*, and *Spy Pups* series.

Some editions of these books include a printed web address at the back. This link used to go to the author's website, but the domain is no longer under his control. It has since been taken over by another party and now leads to inappropriate adult content.

The publisher, Puffin, has paused sales and distribution of the books and is working with schools, libraries, and retailers to remove copies from circulation. They have stressed that the website has no connection to the author or publisher.

### What this means for you:

- If your child has any *Spy Dog*, *Spy Cat* or *Spy Pups* books at home, please check the back for website links and make sure they do not try to visit the site.
- It is safe for children to continue reading the stories themselves — the concern is only with the outdated link.
- We recommend talking with your child about the importance of not following web addresses in books without checking with an adult first.

We will continue to share updates from the publisher as more information becomes available.

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## ✓ Primary Parent Scripts & Supportive Phrases for School Attendance

Going to school every day is important for **children's learning, confidence and future success**. Parents play a key role in setting the expectation that school attendance is vital, while also listening and supporting their child if things feel difficult.

### General Principles

- **Assume attendance:** Talk as if going to school is the normal, expected thing.
- **Show empathy:** Acknowledge feelings without reinforcing avoidance.
- **Offer problem-solving:** Ask gentle questions to understand barriers.
- **Reinforce positives:** Remind them of friends, activities, and progress.

### For Primary-Age Children

#### Supportive Phrases:

- "It's a school day today, let's get ready together."
- "Once you're there, I know you'll have fun with your friends."
- "You're brave, and I'm proud of you for going even when it feels tricky."
- "What part of today are you looking forward to? Story time? Playtime? Lunch with your friends?"
- "If something feels hard today, you can tell your teacher, and I'll listen after school too."
- "I know you don't feel like going, but school is important and I'll help you get through the tough bits."

#### If they say they don't want to go:

- "I hear that you're worried. Can you tell me one thing that feels hard right now?"
- "Let's think about what will help you when you get to school—would you like to see your teacher first or meet a friend?"

### Closing Daily Encouragements

- "I'm proud of you for going in today."
- "Look at what you managed, even when it felt tough."
- "Every day at school is a step forward."
- "I can see your effort, and that matters."

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**Dartmouth Academy**

'BE YOUR BEST SELF'



# House Cake Sale

**Where? The Cube**

**When? Thursday 16<sup>th</sup> October at 3.10**

**Why? To raise money for our house  
trips and other house events**

**Please bring any baked goods to  
reception on the morning  
(Thurs 16th October)**

**Don't forget to label your cakes  
with your house!**

***\*\*Please remember we are a nut-free school\*\****



## Farming and the Devon Local Nature Recovery Strategy: Thursday 16th October 6-7.30pm

Find out how farmers and land managers can use the Devon LNRS to understand the species and habitats in their area and the actions that could support their conservation and recovery. We'll run through the LNRS website and interactive map, followed by a Q&A session.

[Register for a free ticket: Farming and the Devon Local Nature Recovery Strategy webinar on Microsoft Teams](#)



• Talks • Activities • Child-Friendly • **Be Wild** • Free •

# wildweek @ COASTAL TRAIL

6 SOUTH EMBANKMENT DARTMOUTH TQ6 9BH

**27-31 Oct 2025, 2pm daily**

**BeWild** are returning to the **Coastal Trail Café**, Dartmouth for a **WildWeek** of daily inspirational talks, hands-on events and activities designed to connect our community with the incredible wildlife right on our doorstep. **Get involved!**

Plan your WildWeek



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Free casual swimming included

# SWIM HAPPY, SWIM WITH CONFIDENCE

Learn to swim with Fusion Lifestyle

- ✓ Preschool, junior & adult lessons available
- ✓ Kids swim for FREE\* in general swim sessions
- ✓ Track your child's progress online



Scan the QR code to find out more

**Swim School**

Following the **Swim England** | Learn to Swim Programme

**fusion**

[fusion-lifestyle.com/swimschool](https://fusion-lifestyle.com/swimschool)

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†Benefice of  
DARTMOUTH  
& DITTISHAM

**SUNDAYS**  
5:00 - 6:30pm



# Family Board Game

## Night

SOUP  
AND  
BREAD

Sign Up Now!

All ages are  
invited!



**St Clements Church,**  
**Church Road, Dartmouth**



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# Pumpkin Party

31.10.25

St Clement's Church, Dartmouth

games ~ crafts ~ sweet treats ~ fancy dress

4:00pm-5:30pm - ages 0-13 with parents



... with prizes for the best costumes !

info: [youth@dartmouthanddittisham-anglican.org](mailto:youth@dartmouthanddittisham-anglican.org)

parents must  
stay with their  
children

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**Available January 2026**

**2 x 1 bedroom almshouse flats**

**Victoria Road, Dartmouth**

Flat 1 - £505pcm

Council tax band A

EPC rating C

Flat 2 - £520pcm

Council tax band B

EPC rating E

Monthly charges include gas central heating & water rates.

Applications are invited from individuals/couples age 55+ looking for low cost almshouse accommodation.

Applicants must be residents of Dartmouth for the last two years or have strong local connections, be able to live independently and satisfy the Charity's criteria.

Council/Housing Association tenants need not apply.

Living room, fitted kitchen, 1 double bedroom and shower room. There are stairs at both properties and no lift. Sorry no pets.

**Application form and details from:**

**Dartmouth United Charities**

[info@dartmouthunitedcharities.org.uk](mailto:info@dartmouthunitedcharities.org.uk)

01803 835006

[www.dartmouthunitedcharities.org.uk](http://www.dartmouthunitedcharities.org.uk)

Application deadline: 27<sup>th</sup> October 2025, 12noon



KINGSBRIDGE GYM CLUB

# HOLIDAY CLUB

£25

ALL DAY 9AM - 3:30PM



MONDAY 27TH OCTOBER



TUESDAY 28TH OCTOBER



WEDNESDAY 29TH OCTOBER



THURSDAY 30TH OCTOBER



BOOK HERE

[HTTPS://PORTAL.ICLASSPRO.COM/KINGSBRIDGEGYMCLUB/BOOKING](https://portal.iclasspro.com/kingsbridgegymclub/booking)



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