

Autumn Term Week 15 – 9th January 2026

Dear Parent/Carers,

Welcome back to a new school term – we hope you all had a restful and enjoyable break.

As we begin the term, please remember to check your emails for the updated class information letter which includes key details and contact information for your child's class teacher.

We would also like to remind you that Parents' Evening will take place on 3rd and 4th March this term. Don't forget though that we are always happy to provide updates or meet at other times if you would like to discuss your child's progress. Please do not hesitate to get in touch with your child's class teacher using the email address provided in the class information letter.

Education Southwest Eleven by Eleven

Education Southwest's **11 by 11 initiative** is designed to give every pupil in the primary phase eleven powerful and enriching experiences by the age of eleven. This means that, alongside their regular lessons, children will have opportunities to take part in a wide range of activities that inspire curiosity, creativity, and confidence. These experiences might include performing on stage, visiting a museum, learning a musical instrument, exploring nature, taking part in community projects, or meeting people from different walks of life. For pupils, the 11 by 11 initiative ensures that school is not just about academic learning, but also about building memories, discovering new talents, and developing important life skills that will help them grow into confident, well-rounded young people.

Mrs J Tierney and the Primary Phase team

Dates for the diary

February 2026

9th – Y6 Mock SATs

23rd – Class 4/5 Dartmoor Zoo Trip

March 2026

3rd & 4th – Parents' Evening

16th – School closed, staff training day

April 2026

3rd – Easter Holidays

20th – Back to school

Celebrations

Attendance Matters

This year's attendance by Year Group:

Year 1 – 95%

Year 2 – 96%

Year 3 – 95.5%

Year 4 – 94.8%

Year 5 – 94.2%

Year 6 – 93.9%

Year 7 – 92.5%

Year 8 – 93%

Year 9 – 90.6%

Year 10 – 92.1%

Year 11 – 92.4%

School attendance for the year so far is currently

92.9%

Thank you for supporting our target of 96%

Primary celebrations

'Stars in our eyes'

Husna J – Nursery

Arthur O – Reception/Y1

Harper H – Class 1/2

Lilly C – Class 2/3

Buzz T – Class 4/5

Zoe T – Class 6



EXCELLENCE



Our future successes are built on the work we do today.

What have we been up to:

On Friday 21st November, Dartmouth Academy hosted a Primary Netball Tournament for primary schools in the local area. It was a sunny but chilly afternoon and all five primary schools played some excellent netball. It was fantastic to see pupils displaying great teamwork and having fun! Charleston came away with the win with Thurlestone taking second place. Our PE Ambassadors did a great job of umpiring the games and a big thank you to the School Games for helping organise the tournament and providing medals and certificates. We look forward to hosting other primary tournaments here in the future.



On Friday 5th December, Class 4/5 and 6 had a live assembly from Antarctica with 2041 Schools and met the famous explorer Rob Swan! We couldn't believe that he was actually there talking to us and we met his lucky teddy! We were surprised to learn that it was -40 degrees and that the sun never sets!

Some comments from the pupils below....

Mia-Rose - it was so cold!!

Ava - they only use renewable energy to fuel and charge their journey

Harper - that teddy is 47 years old and has been on every adventure!



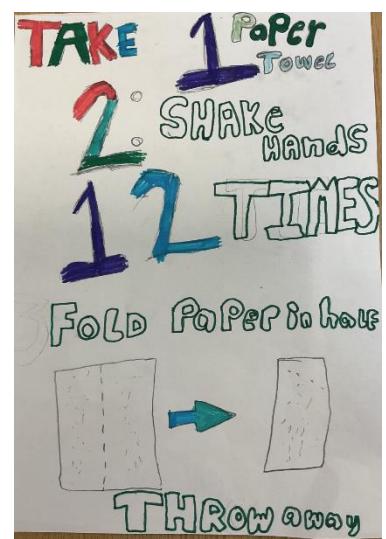
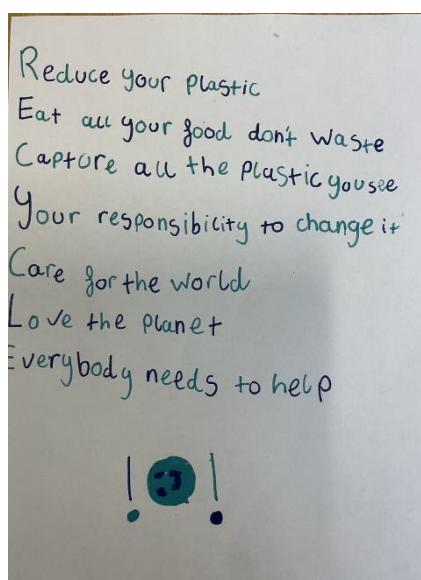
Our future successes are built on the work we do today.

In Year 6, the children have come back with fire in their bellies and rhythm in their shoes. They started their new PE cycle, which is dance! All of the children loved getting used to counting to 8 on repeat and showed a tremendous amount of energy with lots of different types of kicks! Many of them were surprised that it was actually fun and not too scary to throw a shape or two! Our song is Sax by Fleur East if any of them would like to practice at home!

Reduce, Reuse and Recycle with the Primary Phase

Last week, a group of enthusiastic KS2 pupils took part in an exciting Waste Action Day aimed at improving recycling across the school. Working alongside Alex and Izzy from Resources Futures, the children reviewed the results of a recent recycling audit and discussed what had been found and what actions were needed. They then got busy creating eye-catching bin labels and posters using scrap and best paper, helping to clearly show where recycling should go and which materials belong in each bin. The pupils also worked together to write an assembly script, learned a fun recycling song, and played a game to deepen their understanding of why reducing, reusing and recycling matters.

In the afternoon, pupils practised what they had prepared before confidently presenting an assembly to the whole primary school. They shared what they had learned, explained how everyone can recycle better, and highlighted where recycling bins are located and how to use them correctly. The day not only helped improve recycling systems within the school but also empowered pupils to become eco-champions, spreading an important message to others and encouraging the whole school community to take better care of the environment. A special shout-out goes to Mia-Rose M who is our Year 6 Environment Leader and will be leading a team of pupils to ensure the action ideas are followed up in school.



Our future successes are built on the work we do today.

Carpark Safety Reminder

To help keep all members of our school community safe, we kindly remind families to take extra care when using the school carpark and surrounding streets.

Please drive slowly and remain alert for children, especially during drop-off and pick-up times as pupils can be walking behind cars. Parents who are walking children to school are asked not to double park or block other vehicles, as this creates safety risks and congestion.

By parking considerately and following traffic rules, we can work together to ensure a safe and smooth arrival and departure for everyone.

Thank you for your cooperation and support in keeping our children safe.



BBC
CHILDREN
IN NEED

THANK YOU

DARTMOUTH ACADEMY

for raising a fantastic

£291.00

**TO HELP MAKE LIFE LIGHTER FOR CHILDREN
AND YOUNG PEOPLE FACING A VARIETY
OF CHALLENGES IN COMMUNITIES ACROSS THE UK.**

SCAN THE QR CODE WITH
YOUR PHONE FOR AN
EXTRA SPECIAL THANK YOU
FROM PUDSEY AS YOU'VE
NEVER SEEN HIM BEFORE!



pudseythanks.bbcchildreninneed.co.uk

BBC Children in Need has not verified the above fundraising. This is not a receipt.
© BBC 2022 Reg. charity England & Wales no. 802052 and Scotland no. SC039557.

Our future successes are built on the work we do today.

Christmas
Jumper
Day

FABULOUS FUNDRAISING

Thank you to

Dartmouth Academy

£248.50

for taking part in Christmas Jumper Day
and raising money for Save the Children.

THANK YOU!

Shaun the Sheep™

Save the Children



Our future successes are built on the work we do today.

Online ORAL HEALTH IMPROVEMENT TRAINING: SUPPORTING CHILDREN

Free online training aimed at anyone who supports CHILDREN in Devon (excluding Torbay and Plymouth)

DATES OF TRAINING IN 2026

- Wednesday 14th January 2026 at 10am - 11:30am
- Tuesday 24th March 2026 at 6:30pm - 8:00pm

[BOOK NOW](#)

<https://forms.office.com/e/SNCW7Szqqi>



[Contact Us](#)

01392 405705

rduh.oralhealtheducation@nhs.net

www.royaldevon.nhs.uk/dental



100% of attendees would recommend this course to others



Our future successes are built on the work we do today.



Family Hub Advice & Guidance Line, 0800 5385458

Mon-Fri 10am—4pm

'Connecting Moments'- Digital SEND Support for Families

Are you a parent or carer of a child with **Special Educational Needs and Disabilities (SEND)**?

Join us for **Connecting Moments** – a friendly online space designed just for you.

What's it all about?

- Connect with other families in a small, welcoming group
- Share experiences and ideas
- Build a peer support network

Please join us on the **27th January at 12noon**, for a **1 hour session**—to book a space please fill in the form using the QR code below, places are limited and the session will be run via Teams.



The Ambassador Volunteer Programme
Supporting Families with SEND

DiAS
Devon Information
Advice and Support
for Special Educational Needs and Disability



**BEST
START
IN LIFE**

Our future successes are built on the work we do today.



Our future successes are built on the work we do today.