

**Friday 14th January 2022**

***Black Torrington Newsletter***

**Dear Parents/Carers**

Happy New Year and welcome to the Spring Term!

The children have settled back into school well and I am enjoying visiting classes to talk to them about their learning. The teachers have been working hard to plan ambitious lessons from our Trust base curriculum which has very high expectations. Accompanying the newsletter is an overview of the Spring Term for each class, you can find further information in the curriculum pages of the website which has been redesigned and updated.

**It’s Not OK Campaign**

The children and young people in all the schools in Dartmoor Multi Academy Trust are learning about the “It’s Not OK” campaign which we have launched this week.

At the start of 2021, a website called “Everyone’s Invited” asked children and young people to log incidents they had experienced at school/college. The incidents were when children and young people had been upset or hurt by other children or young people. More than 16000 incidents were reported across 3000 schools and colleges.

This week the children have thought about how they are safe in school and discussed how they can be good friends to each other, what kinds of behaviour, words and actions are not OK and who they can turn to for help when they need it. The NSPCC produce excellent resources to support safeguarding which you can view at [Talk PANTS & Join Pantosaurus - The Underwear Rule I NSPCC](https://www.nspcc.org.uk/keeping-children-safe/support-for-parents/pants-underwear-rule/)

**Parent Questionnaire**

Before Christmas I gave out a link for a parent questionnaire. Thank you for the responses we have already had. If you have not completed it yet it only takes a few minutes, and it helps us reflect and improve on all that we do. You can follow this link [Parent Questionnaire](https://forms.office.com/pages/responsepage.aspx?id=kG0HO7J4vUqeBcIPJiicRnRaaa75RTJItAOfm4gNgURUMTQ0R0JTT1FWNlkwTlJMN1FMRFMxMVhPMC4u) to complete the questionnaire. Many thanks

**Attendance**

We have recently updated our attendance procedures across Dartmoor Multi-Academy Trust. The link between a child’s attendance at school and improved outcomes and life chances is well documented. We want to help all children and young people to fulfil their potential and get the most out of their education.

In line with our policy and government expectations all schools have the following procedures:

· If a child’s attendance starts to drop the school will speak to the child/parent and discuss the reason for absence and any support needed.

· After 10 sessions of absence, you will receive a first attendance letter (there are 2 sessions in the school day, one in the morning and one in the afternoon).

· After 15 sessions of absence, you will receive a second attendance letter and you will be invited to have a meeting to discuss how we can best support your child to attend school more often. You will also be offered an Early Help meeting.

· If your child’s attendance does not improve you will receive a third attendance letter and the Education Welfare Officer (EWO) will be informed.

Of course, there will be unavoidable absences for illness or medical appointments, but we want to minimise these where possible. Pupils and families will not be penalised for legitimate non-attendance due to Covid 19.

No term time holidays will be authorised unless there are exceptional circumstances. Every day in school counts, even a small drop in attendance can lead to a child missing a significant part of their education.

Please do not hesitate to get in touch with school at any time if you have any queries around attendance expectations and procedures.

**Covid Update**

Every time I need to update the risk assessment the latest version is published on the website (Covid latest news section). This week’s change to government guidance is as follows:

**Temporary suspension of confirmatory PCR tests in education and childcare settings**

"Confirmatory PCR testing following a positive result on a lateral flow device (LFD) will be temporarily suspended from Tuesday 11 January. This means that for all education and childcare settings, staff and students who have tested (either at home or through ATS) and reported a positive LFD result will no longer be advised to get a confirmatory PCR test.”

This change is informed by public health advice. With high COVID-19 rates, the risk of a positive LFD result being false is very small. We therefore don’t need to ask people to do a confirmatory PCR unless they:

· have symptoms (in which case they need to follow the stay at home guidance, self-isolate and order a PCR test)

· wish to claim the Test and Trace Support Payment · have been advised to take a PCR test because they are in a clinically vulnerable group

· have been advised to do so as part of a research or surveillance programme

Best wishes for a lovely weekend

Miss Paton

**Parents – Your school needs YOU!**

There is a vacancy for one Parent governor to join the Local Stakeholder Board with the Ruby schools.

Local governors are a vital part of the Dartmoor Multi Academy Trust’s connection with schools and community, and Parents are an important voice within the governance structure.

To qualify as a Parent governor, you must have at least one child on the roll at any school within the Ruby hub, and must be eligible under the national governing body rules.

Nominations are now open, until close of business on Friday 27th January 2022.

All nominations will then be put forward to a parent vote, which will take place electronically.

The nomination form must be completed in full, and can be obtained by emailing the Clerk to Governors: [j.hooper@dmatschools.org.uk](file:///C%3A%5CUsers%5CSueManners%5COneDrive%20-%20Black%20Torrington%20CE%20Primary%20School%5CDocuments%5CNewsletters%5C2021-2022%5C2021-2022%20Newsletters%5Cj.hooper%40dmatschools.org.uk)

For an informal chat about the role of parent governor and the responsibilities of the local stakeholder board, please contact the Clerk to Governors: [j.hooper@dmatschools.org.uk](file:///C%3A%5CUsers%5CSueManners%5COneDrive%20-%20Black%20Torrington%20CE%20Primary%20School%5CDocuments%5CNewsletters%5C2021-2022%5C2021-2022%20Newsletters%5Cj.hooper%40dmatschools.org.uk)

Thank you for your interest, and we look forward to receiving your applications.

Miss Paton

**Update from Class 2**

Class Two have had a great week. In English, we have entered the mythical and magical of world of unicorns. Letting our imaginations fly, we created descriptions of unicorns using compound adjectives, similes and relative clauses. In addition, we've written a poem to show how unicorns can be a magical companion. Multiplication has been our focus in Maths and we've been exploring different methods to calculate multiplications, including using a place value chart and the formal method. Sound is our topic in Science so we're expecting a noisy half term! This week we learned about how sound travels in waves and how we can block sound. Ancient China is our destination in our History topic as we are exploring the Shang Dynasty. This week we have learned when and where this Bronze Age civilisation started.

Mrs Drew-Hill

**Update from Class 1**

Many thanks to Mrs Allin for teaching Class 1, due to Miss Wenmouth’s absence this week. The children have settled with Mrs Allin very well. Key concepts this week included listening to sounds and then writing the sounds represented as a stanza poem. In Science, we have been learning about our five senses and how we use them. For Maths we have been learning how to add and subtract using the ‘ones and tens’ method. We have also been learning about the geography and history of the city of London.

Mrs Allin

Have a good weekend, everyone

***Diary* *Dates***

21st to 25th February 2022 - Half Term Break