



Datchet St Mary's Monthly Head Teacher's Newsletter

February 2018



Dear parents and carers,

We have another busy month ahead with lots of dates in the diary.

- Reception is travelling on the train into Windsor to learn how to make pizza, just like in Italy, to support their topic 'The World Around Us'.
- Two children in Year 2 wrote a piece on our visiting author to go in this month's Link magazine.
- We have World Book Day coming up on 1st March. The children are invited to come to school dressed as their favourite book characters.
- We have arranged for two famous authors to come in and talk to the children.
- Julia Jarman will be visiting the children in Reception and Key Stage 1 on Monday 26th February 2018.
- Helen Dennis will be visiting the children in Key Stage 2 on Thursday 1st March 2017.
- The RBWM Library Outreach Service will be delivering a Literacy Day across the school on Thursday 1st March 2018.
- The travelling book fair will also be at school from the 5th March until 9th March and will be open every day after school.

Watch this Space!

Forest School

The School Council, Mrs Gilchrist and I have been working on the idea of a Forest School for a while now and I am pleased to say that we have managed to find a piece of land that we can use.

For those of you who have not heard of Forest Schools before:

Forest Schools use the woods and forests as a means to build independence and self-esteem in children and young adults. Topics are cross-curricular (broad in subject) and include the natural environment, for example the role of trees in society, the complex ecosystem supported by a wilderness, and the recognition of specific plants and animals. However, personal skills are considered highly valuable too, such as teamwork and problem solving. The woodland environment will also be used to learn about more abstract concepts such as mathematics and communication as well as English, science and topic work

Benefits of Forest School:

- Improved confidence, social skills, communication, motivation, and concentration
- Improved physical stamina, fine and gross motor skills
- Positive identity formation for individuals and communities
- Environmentally sustainable behaviours and ecological literacy
- Increased knowledge of environment, increased frequency of visiting nature within families
- Healthy and safe risk-taking
- Improved creativity and resilience
- Improved academic achievement and self-regulation
- Reduced stress and increased patience, self-discipline, capacity for attention, and recovery from mental fatigue
- Improved higher level cognitive skills

The land is on the Churchmead site and needs your help to prepare and clear, ready for the children to use. We have planned two working mornings on the 3rd and 10th March and would like to see as many of you as possible there to help us!

We will send out more information nearer the time but please put the dates in your diary.

Governor News

We are actively recruiting new governors. It is a unique opportunity for people in Datchet, and beyond, to invest in the local community, using their vision and drive to contribute to the present and future of school children. The time and commitment is flexible within a fully supportive, enthusiastic and collaborative team. If you love this school and want to see it thriving, invest in it by becoming a governor. Why not come and have an informal look? Please contact the Chair of Governors, Revd Joseph Fernandes, via email jfernandes@datchetstmarysacademy.co.uk or the school directly for more information. We look forward to hearing from you.