



Devonshire Infant School

NEWSLETTER



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Dear Parents and Carers

A belated welcome back to all of you, for what promises to be another busy term!

This newsletter is a mix of last term, this term and future events.

Dates

Mon-Fri	22-26	January	Circus skills week
Friday	2	February	Badgers visit central library
Friday	9	February	Foxes visit central library
Mon-Fri	12-16	February	Half term
Monday	19	February	School closed for staff training
Tuesday	20	February	Back to school
Friday	23	February	Squirrels/Hedgehogs visit central library
Friday	1	March	Squirrels/Hedgehogs visit central library
Friday	1	March	Music festival – some children going to Southsea Infant School
Monday	4	March	Spelling Bee – Y2 (details to follow)
Tuesday	5	March	Spelling Bee – Y1 (details to follow)
Thursday	7	March	World Book Day (details to follow)
Friday	8	March	Fieldmice visit central library
Monday	11	March	School closed for staff training
Tuesday	12	March	Easter raffle tickets on sale
Friday	15	March	Walk a mile fundraising event (details to follow)
Friday	15	March	Reports given to parents
Monday	18	March	Foxes' parent meetings (details to follow)
Monday	18	March	Owls' parent meetings (details to follow)
Tuesday	19	March	Badgers' parent meetings (details to follow)
Wednesday	20	March	Hedgehogs' parent meetings (details to follow)
Thursday	21	March	Squirrels' parent meetings (details to follow)
Friday	22	March	Rabbits visit central library
Monday	25	March	Rabbits' parent meetings (details to follow)
Tuesday	26	March	Fieldmice parent meetings
Wednesday	27	March	Easter raffle (details to follow)
Thursday	28	March	End of term school achievement assembly for invited parents
Friday	29	March	Easter holiday begins
Monday	15	April	Back to school



School Closed

Please note in your diaries that our final staff training day will be on Friday 5 July.

Christmas Celebrations

I hope that you were able to come and watch one of our performances of 'Humph the Camel' and were impressed with the children's singing and performing skills. It was really lovely to see so many of you there and I have no doubt that you thoroughly enjoyed it. I would like to thank all the staff, especially Mrs Harris, for all their tremendous hard work.

Once again our Devonshire Christmas Market was a great success, with many of the children buying a lot of presents for their families! I do hope that you were happy with your gifts.

The children had a great time at their parties, playing games and having fun and I hope that the children all enjoyed the book that they also received from us for Christmas.

Circus Skills Workshops

Next week, once again we will be having the Shooting Stars Circus Skills instructor in for the whole week, working with all the children (and adults!) and teaching a wide variety of skills, including feather balancing, plate spinning, tightrope walking and diablo throwing! It is always a great deal of fun and I am sure that the children will thoroughly enjoy the week's activities.

As a fun end to the week, we would like the children to come to school in circus fancy dress on Friday 26 January.



Thank a School Superhero Campaign.

Teach Portsmouth have launched a campaign to thank a school superhero. Anyone can say thank you to a teacher, TA, member of the office team, the Headteacher or anyone that works at Devonshire. The easiest way to do this is by using the online form www.teachportsmouth.co.uk/thankyou. Alternatively you can write your message on one of the postcards situated opposite the library. When you have completed your thankyou message please put it in the suggestions box in the entrance. The postcards will then be sent to the Teach Portsmouth team to be collated and put into a printed format for us to display.

Attendance, Unauthorised Absence & Lateness



The Governors and I are very worried about the high number of children whose attendance is causing concern, particularly those children who have lots of odd days off or unexplained absences. Parents **MUST** email or telephone the school office on every occasion that their child is absent from school, otherwise this absence will be recorded as unauthorised and may lead to a fixed penalty fine.

Please also ensure that you arrive on time. The doors open at 8:40am and **school starts at 8:45am.**

When your child arrives late, it not only means that they are missing important learning time, but they are also disrupting the rest of the class and it is distressing for them too. Please also note that if you arrive after the register closes, this results in that morning session being marked as an unauthorised absence for your child.

Listening to Your Child Read

Please can I ask that you spend 5-10 minutes each day listening to your child read their school reading book. Practising regularly not only helps them to develop their enjoyment and confidence with reading, but also improves their decoding, fluency, understanding and expression. If you would like any help with this, please speak to your child's class teacher.

Contact Details

Please can I ask parents/carers to ensure that you keep us up to date with any changes to addresses or telephone numbers. This is particularly important in the case of an emergency or should your child become unwell.



As we are now sending more information via email, please ensure that we are also made aware of any changes to your email addresses.

Website

Please don't forget to regularly check our school website www.devonshire.portsmouth.sch.uk which contains lots of useful information, including ideas of how you can support your child, all letters that have been emailed out and photographs of what your child has been doing at school. You can also find a copy of any school letters that have been sent.

Thank you for taking the time to read this newsletter. If there is anything that you wish to discuss further or are unsure of, please don't hesitate to ask me.

Best wishes

Jackie Collins
Headteacher