

# Autumn 1 2027

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We are at the end of the first half of the Autumn term already and what a busy one it has been! The children have been working hard and great progress is being seen already. It is vital that the children's attendance, commitment and resilience is supported to see them right through to fulfilling their potential. Homework and reading is making a clear impact on children's sense of responsibility for their own learning. Thank you for your support with this.

## Dunbury's vision: *"Strength in difference: together we are one, together we fly high"*



*“for we are all one in Christ”, Galatians 3:28*

We have been living our value of courage this half term and realising that you don't have to be big, loud or tough to be strong. In celebration of the part of our vision 'strength in self', the children took huge inspiration from a visit from Lucy, a lead teacher at The Child of Hope School Uganda, and have delighted in exchanging letters with the children.




A new visitor, Rev'd Neil, came in to inspire us in worship in September, supported our children's passion for equality and inclusion by talking about his experiences of being part of the deaf community and how resilience and 'strength in self' is vital for staying positive and making a difference to the lives of others.

In our late summer Collective Worships, we focused on the part of our school vision, 'Be Aspirational' which encourages us to 'fly high'. Year 6 thought about their futures on **Careers Day** and had their minds and eyes opened to the vast array of careers and life pathways that are open to them. A huge thanks to the wonderful adults who came in to deliver a presentation on their career pathway. Every single one of the children was inspired.

Harvest was a special occasion, made very special by children's spiritual reflections about the lives of our Ugandan friends and how they feel connected with them. We teach the children to define spirituality as AWE  CONNECT  REFLECT. There were some beautiful reflections shared by Y6 children that showed curiosity about what Ugandan children might be grateful for and what we are grateful for. Thank you for your kind donations towards their nursery and also for your generous Blandford Food Bank donations.



## Kind volunteers



The beautiful blooms that Luna and her mum planted for the front of the school really gave it a much needed splash of colour and was a lovely surprise. Kindness like this brings us such joy at school.

A HUGE thank you to the local cub group who kindly volunteered to tidy up the school grounds towards one of their community badges. It made such a difference and you have all worked so hard! Thank you! We are also very lucky to have help from our neighbours at the village hall committee - your support is truly valued.

## Musical and enrichment opportunities

The air on Thursdays is filled with the beautiful melodies of the harp. What a wonderful opportunity. It's great to see children enjoying learning a musical instrument. We now have a varied and exciting clubs offer for the children. Please look out for information about these in the first week back.

## SEND

Thank you to all of the parents who made an appointment this half term with Mrs Stoker (SENDCo) to review your child's targets and provision. These meetings are so helpful to ensure we are meeting your child's needs, and to set actions and targets together to ensure that your children are thriving and making progress. We are delighted to invite parents of children with SEND to our first ***coffee morning*** on **Wednesday 4th November** from 9am-10am at the Dunbury Primary site as an opportunity to talk to staff, ask questions, receive support and connect with other families.

## ISing Pop

Year 4 were fantastic at the DSAT singing event in Salisbury Cathedral this week, where they joined Year 4 classes from the rest of DSAT, making a total of at least 750 powerful voices raising the roof! They enjoyed the experience and we were very proud of how well they represented the school and its values.







# Trees for Dorset



Oak and Cherry classes had a brilliant day each with Trees for Dorset. They searched for different kinds of seeds and then planted their own! They also created some impressive nature drawings in the afternoon.

# Pupils as leaders



We are pleased to announce our democratically elected and newly appointed School Council Leaders. These pupils will play an important role in representing the views of their classmates, helping to shape school improvements and developing their leadership, communication and teamwork skills. We look forward to working with them throughout the year.

We have also appointed our new Play Leaders. These pupils will help to organise games and activities at breaktimes, developing their leadership skills while creating rich, active and inclusive play opportunities for younger children. We look forward to seeing the positive impact they have across the school.

We are excited to launch our new Eco Group next term. The children will play an important role in leading sustainability initiatives, helping to develop our Sustainability Action Plan and encouraging environmentally responsible choices across the school community.

# Help us to help the planet



We need you!

Are you passionate about reducing our carbon footprint, reducing waste and tackling climate change? The government want schools to play a big part. Together we are being asked to create a sustainability action plan that aims to contribute to the improvement of our school's environmental impact. We will be including pupil voice as we develop this plan. We would also hugely value parents and carers or community members who could support us to make important changes and monitor their impact as part of our action plan. If this sounds like

something you could offer, please get in touch before Friday 6th November for an informal chat to find out more.

## Keeping children safe



Online safety is a shared responsibility between home and school. We encourage parents to monitor their child's online activity, use age-appropriate settings and discuss safe online behaviour regularly. Please remind children to speak to an adult immediately if they encounter anything online that makes them feel uncomfortable or unsafe. If you need any advice feel free to either contact Dunbury or visit websites such as, the NSPCC or Wake up Wednesday.

# Early Years



What an incredible half term we have had at Dunbury Early Years! The Reception children have made fantastic progress with phonics, writing and maths and we have had lots of fun learning through play. It is a huge step transitioning into Reception and all the children have shown resilience and grown in confidence. Thank you to all the parents and Carers who recently attended our 'coffee morning' stay and play session at pre-school to meet our new nursery practitioner Ms Watson. Dunbury Early Years currently has spaces in both Pre-school and Reception, so if you would like a tour of our setting or to know more, please contact the school office. We would love to welcome more families into our growing school community!



*1 - Pumpkin Potions!*



*2 - Autumn colour mixing!*



*3 - Forest School fun!*

## Governor's news

The Academy Standards and Ethos Committee (ASEC) would like to take this opportnity to thank Mrs Tracey Hughes very much for her service to the school as Chair of ASEC. Tracey has now completed her term and within those three years, she has given incredible time, care and support to the school, for which we are all truly grateful.

We are now delighted to announce that Mr Steve Gorson has been elected as Chair of ASEC.

If you are interested in the opportunity to join ASEC, please email the clerk to the governors, EEveritt@dsat.org.uk

We have waved goodbye this week to Mrs Suzanne Rose, who has been a loyal, caring and committed member of the Dunbury staff for 25 years! Mrs Rose has been a passenger assistant, a midday supervisor and cleaner over the years and is now taking some much deserved time for

herself and her family. From us all - we will miss you and thank you so much for your kindness and hard work over the years.

## FODA News



Please save the date for the Christmas Fayre - Friday 4th December.

## Key Dates

- Monday 2nd November - INSET Day
- Tuesday 3rd November - Children return to school (Flu vaccinations with permissions)
- Wednesday 4th November - SEND Coffee Morning at Dunbury Primary (9am-10am)
- Wednesday 11th November - Remembrance Day
- Monday 16th - Friday 20th November - Y6 - Mock SATS week
- Friday 20th November - Children in Need
- Tuesday 1st December - Open morning - read alongside your child
- Tuesday 15th December - Early Years Nativity (2pm, St Nicholas' Church), KS1 Nativity (4:30pm St Mary's Church)
- Wednesday 16th December - Carols by Candlelight (4:30pm)
- Friday 18th December - End of term
- Tuesday 5th January - Children return to school

Thank you for all your support and care. Wishing you a great half term,

***Mrs Richardson***

**Headteacher**