



DILTON MARSH CE PRIMARY SCHOOL

Newsletter 3 Term 6 - Friday 23rd June 2023

Dear parents

This week we have truly seen our school values lived out by the children as they tackled the Wiltshire Outdoor Learning Trust activities. There were so many who started off thinking 'I can't' who very quickly realised they could with a little perseverance and hope. They so obviously enjoyed their sessions although they were all a little tired at the end of it. I know they are all keen to have another go and are hoping we can do it all again next year.

You should have all received a letter with details of your children's classes for next year. You may have noticed that Mrs Incledon from Cherry Class and Mrs Chamberlain from Lime are not on the teacher lists. Mrs Incledon was employed for maternity leave for Mrs Lazar who is returning next week to school. We are pleased to announce that she has secured a permanent post at a school in Frome. Mrs Chamberlain has decided to step back from teaching for a while and focus on the family. We wish them both all the best.

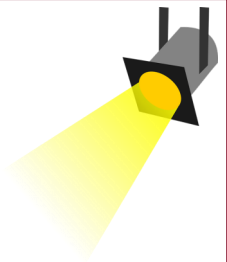
This weeks spotlight - Reading at Dilton Marsh school

Reading is always high on our agenda and over the past two years we have invested heavily, both in time and money, into ensuring that all our children become fluent readers. We begin by teaching reading through *Little Wandle Letters and Sounds Revised*. This is a systematic synthetic phonics programme. We teach phonics in Reception and Year 1 and as additional phonics support from Year 2 up to ensure our readers become fluent. We teach children how to sound talk and blend unfamiliar words, over time children then build up a bank of words they can then read automatically. Some words are not easily decodable and can often be called 'Tricky Words' such as, 'was' and 'they'. We teach these words so that the children learn and can identify the part of the word which is 'tricky'.

We teach our phonics and reading in a structured way to ensure that children are not cognitively overloaded. Children know the routines for their phonics lessons and are exposed to a maximum of four new sounds (phonemes) a week. The thing that makes the most difference to the children, regardless of age, is practice. Through regular practice, new learning is embedded and new neural pathways are created.

This message was the subject of the conference which Miss Tout and I attended on Tuesday. The speakers were all influential in developing good practice in all schools. These included the author of the Reading Framework, a HMI inspector and Michael Morpurgo. All the speakers were encouraging schools to develop reading for pleasure as research shows that children who read for pleasure do better in life; they are happier and healthier and more creative.

We were enthralled as Michael Morpurgo read one of his own poems and described how his love for reading and then writing developed. He talked with great fondness about the special times he can remember when his mother read to him and his brother at the end of the day. He described his own love of reading to his children, grandchildren and now great grandchildren! He then shared information about his latest campaign supporting dads reading to their children. He explained how many boys are turned off of reading at an early age and how they don't have the role models to share that love. A four-week challenge has been launched where you can make a pledge to devote a few minutes each day to reading. More information can be found on www.dadsmakestoriesmagic.co.uk



WOLT Activity Days



KS1 Dance Festival



Dates for your diary

Monday 26th June 2023	Rags2Riches collection
Tuesday 27th - Wednesday 28th June 2023	Year 6 transition days to Matravers
Wednesday 28th June 2023	Ash class trip to the STEAM Museum, Swindon
Monday 3rd July 2023	Year 6 transition day to Kingdown
Tuesday 4th July 2023	Year 6 transition day to Kingdown
	Year 5 Taster Day at Matravers
Tuesday 11th July 2023	Year 6 Production 2pm and 6pm
Friday 14th July 2023	Lime Class trip to Cholderton Farm
Monday 17th / Tuesday 18th July	Oak Class Sailing (details to follow)
Wednesday 19th July 2023	Sports Day (Parents invited from 1pm—3pm for races)
Friday 21st July 2023	10am Year 6 Leaver's Service
	11am Year 6 Cream tea followed by 'Colour Run'
	End of Term 6 (12pm finish)