



DEARHAM PRIMARY SCHOOL NEWSLETTER 10th FEBRUARY 2023

Children's mental Health Week 'Let's Connect'

We have had a range of activities going on this week for Children's Mental Health Week. Year 5 and 6 have made mindfulness calendars with the theme 'Let's Connect' this week and Year 3 and 4 have enjoyed some mindfulness sessions on Headspace. Year 1 and 2 have been looking at and sharing what makes them happy. The children in Early Years have made connections with older children in school, sharing activities and reading today.



Mrs Sewell set up a table of well-being activities which the children have been able to access themselves this week

The week has culminated in today's Dress to Express Yourself Day. In

our assembly this morning I stood in front of a range of characters from football to Sonic; Elsa to Spiderman and a couple of Harry Potter's. I even saw more than unicorn in the building!

We ended our assembly with a bit of dancing to lift our spirits even more!

It was absolutely lovely. Your children truly expressed themselves and what makes them happy.

When we talk about mental health we have to remember that it doesn't all have to be bad. Let's Connect is about making meaningful connections to promote well-being and positive mental health. Check out this website for some ideas:

[Families - Children's Mental Health Week \(childrensmentalhealthweek.org.uk\)](https://childrensmentalhealthweek.org.uk)



Marking and feedback.

One of the comments on the parental questionnaire and in parents evening was around feedback in books. Mrs Ivison and I thought it would be useful to share with you how we provide feedback to the children and what we do in terms of marking. Please see the below from Mrs Ivison

We are aware that some parents were concerned that there are not comments written in the children's exercise books any more. This is because we have moved to a new system of marking. We have done lots of research into marking, and found the system of whole class marking to be the most effective method. Teachers still look at every child's book after every lesson in every subject. They use a whole class sheet to make a note of any children who may need some extra support on the lesson objective, or who have exceeded the objective and need extended, and children are then given individual verbal feedback, or small group support in the following lesson by the teacher or teaching assistant. We find that this is a much more effective method of helping children with their work, as children (especially younger

ones) often find it difficult to read, understand and act upon written feedback in their books. Teachers will also make a note of anything the whole class, or most of the class, need some extra work on, and plan for this in following lessons. So, although it may appear from looking at books that the children aren't receiving feedback from their teachers, they are actually getting much more effective feedback than they were before, to allow them to progress in their work. If you would like any more information about this, feel free to email me on ivisone@changinglives.education

Lost for words

I felt it wouldn't be right to deny you seeing this amazing piece of art work from Amelia Grace Robertson today. All of the children do lots of amazing work, but this piece of art has taken my breath away. Amelia did this just in her own time in class today. I think it is wonderful.



World Book Day

World Book Day is 2nd March this year and there are lots of ideas and resources for parents floating around.

This website has some lovely ideas on for children right from birth. Have a look and see what you think.

[Words for Life](#) | [National Literacy Trust](#) | [Words for Life](#)

Pupil Parliament

Our Pupil Parliament have met this week with the Head Pupils to talk about some activities they'd like to arrange. The first of these is a PJ for Play day on 17th February. The Parliament has asked for children and staff to come to school in their PJs and bring a donation if possible for the purchase of some new equipment for playtimes. Check out the calendar for their other ideas.

Parental Questionnaire

Thank you to those of you who responded to the questionnaire sent out two weeks ago. We have had the responses into school and are currently looking at what we need to do from your feedback and comments. I truly appreciate the honesty in these questionnaires and am of course grateful for the lovely comments made by some parents. A compliment is always appreciated.

There are of course issues to address which we will as a team, but I can also address a couple of them now.

The number of children in school and how many are from out of the village.

We sadly have the lowest role number here at Dearham that we have had for a number of years and it is falling as it is in all other schools. Falling roles impact on so many things including staffing and budget so we will try to maintain and increase numbers where we can. Unfortunately, there are not enough primary school children in the village or catchment to maintain our numbers so we do accept children from further afield. How nice is it to know that children want to travel to be pupils here because the school has such a good reputation.

We don't do anything 'fun'.

Ultimately it is the job of a school to educate children but we do lots of fun things to enhance that. Trips out, activities in class such as model making, non-uniform days, Red Nose, Children in Need, village run, colouring competitions, seasonal activities at Christmas and Easter to name a few of the things we do. As always I am open to any thoughts, ideas or suggestions of what else we could do to make learning fun for the children.

Attendance

Attendance figures for this week are:

Nursery	90.0%
Reception	99.2%
Year 1	92.94%
Year 2	96.3%
Year 3	96.55%
Year 4	96.93%
Year 5	99.28%
Year 6 Mrs Smith	98.83%
Year 6 Mrs Ivison	98.69%

Whole school attendance this week is 97.21%.

Well done and thank you everyone. Absolutely brilliant attendance this week!

Headteacher Awards for this week

<p>Nursery</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none">✓ Summer Renney✓ Poppy Smith <p>Reception</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none">✓ Romany Winder✓ Maggie Lawson✓ Evie-Christopherson-Tew✓ Sophie Copeland✓ Archie Gorley <p>Year One</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none">✓ Ember Scott – 2 awards✓ Abbie Penn <p>Year Two</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none">✓ Owen Wilkinson✓ Marlo Henderson✓ Oscar Hindmoor✓ Patrick Rigby <p>Year Three</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none">✓ Henry Smith✓ Alfie Williams✓ Daisy Sowerby <p>Year Four</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none">✓ Poppy Melton✓ Joshua Copeland✓ James Stuart✓ Maddox Blaylock	<p>Year Five</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none">✓ Caleb Scott✓ Belle Fidler✓ Elliott Leyland✓ Bobby Scholey✓ Noah Parker✓ Harry Fulton✓ Mr MacCreedy <p>Year Six</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none">✓ Ella Maguire – 2 awards✓ Billy Bethwaite✓ Josh Smith – 2 awards✓ Hannah Duggan✓ Indie Blaylock✓ Jay Corlett✓ Lexi Dent✓ Gemma Bowe✓ Ellie Cunningham✓ Phoebe Nixon✓ Jess Dark✓ Aidan Oultram✓ Archie Scholey✓ Abbie Brown
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Courtesy Cups

Noel Rooney

Brooklyn Robertson

Grace Parker

Keighana Relph

Dates for your diary

Dates for this term so far. New dates highlighted

- Wednesday 15th – Hearing checks for Reception
- Friday 17th February – Half term
- Friday 17th February – Mr MacCreedy's last day
- Friday 17th February – PJs for Play
- Tuesday 28th February – Greg from Team Evie is coming to talk about our Reading Challenge
- Thursday 2nd March – World Book Day. Dress up as your favourite book character
- Friday 17th March – Comic Relief Red Nose day. A day of activities for the children and wear something red.
- Thursday 23rd March – Commando Joe day.
- 27th March – Autism Awareness week – details to follow

I will add to this list as dates come into the diary so you can free up your calendars where possible.

Recommended Reads

- ❖ I Send You A Hug - Anne Booth
- ❖ What Do You See When You Look At A Tree. – Emma Carlisle
- ❖ Tyger – SF Said