

18th March 2022

Dear Parents/ carers,

We are now half way through the Spring term – the weather is improving at last and we can take more learning outdoors. This week the children have been thinking about the situation in Ukraine and showing empathy for others for Red Nose Day. They were so excited to come into school dressed up and it was great to talk to them about how we can stand up against poverty, violence and discrimination.



If you wish to donate to either Comic relief or the Ukraine appeal, please do so

online – [DEC Ukraine Humanitarian Appeal | Disasters Emergency Committee](#)

[Donate | Comic Relief](#)



SPORTING EVENTS

Year 5 children braved the rain and high wind to gain their **Bikeability** awards last week. They showed great resilience and determination across both days and were exhilarated when they returned to school. One pupil said: *'Thank you Margitta for helping us to ride our bikes safely.'*



Quiksticks Hockey at HCC was a huge success this week with children in KS2 doing us proud once again. The team were beautifully behaved and were proud to represent their school. Man of the match was Riley Bowden who deserves a special mention. Well done to all the children and thank you to parents who helped to transport them to the event.

Newsletter

TRUST news

Primary Teaching Taster Day | Tuesday 5th April, 9.30am at Okehampton Primary School

Dartmoor Multi Academy Trust is pleased to lead the Dartmoor Teacher Training Partnership. Our programmes are aimed at nurturing the teachers of tomorrow and the leaders of the future. Whether you are a new graduate or you are considering a career change, our teacher training will equip you with the skills, knowledge and knowhow to be an excellent teacher.

Please contact Sally Huxen to register your interest shuxen@dmatschools.org.uk

Attendance update

We have recently updated our attendance procedures across Dartmoor Multi Academy Trust. The link between a child's attendance at school and improved life chances is clear. We want to help all children to fulfil their potential and to get the most out of their education.

In line with our policy and government expectations, all schools in the Trust have the following procedures:

- If a child's attendance starts to drop the school will speak to parents and discuss the reason for absence and/ or support needed.
- After 10 sessions missed, you will receive a first attendance letter (there are 2 sessions in the school day – one in the morning and one in the afternoon)
- After 15 sessions of absence, you will receive a second absence letter and will be invited to have a meeting to discuss how we can best support your child to attend school more often. You will also be offered an Early Help meeting.
- If your child's attendance does not improve you will receive a third letter and the Educational Welfare Officer will be informed (EWO).

Of course there will be unavoidable absences for illness or medical appointments, but we want to minimise these where possible. Pupils and families will not be penalised for legitimate non-attendance due to having Covid 19.

No term time holidays will be authorised unless there are exceptional circumstances. Every day in school counts and even a small drop in attendance can make a difference to your child's progress.

Please do not hesitate to get in touch with the school at any time if you have any queries with our Trust attendance procedures.

THANK YOU

PTFA

During the half term break, members of the PTFA gave up their time to put the poly tunnel up in our school grounds. School gardening brings learning alive and growing food, plants and being involved in learning outdoors all contribute towards children's wellbeing, personal achievement and empowerment. We hope that the children at Highampton will find this a peaceful place to be and we are really looking forward to getting started with planting and learning in our new poly tunnel. Sincere thanks to the PTFA for the funds, effort and time you give to make this project happen!

Thank you also to **Kate Tailyour**, a member of our local community, who kindly donated a bag of fabulous fabric pieces.

Our **PTFA** have raised £64 from the Bags2School. Thank you all.



DMAT RECRUITMENT [Vacancies - Dartmoor Multi Academy Trust \(dartmoormat.org.uk\)](https://www.dartmoormat.org.uk)

Please check out our latest vacancies which include the positions of part-time Administrators for Bradford/Black Torrington and North Tawton.

REMINDERS

As the warmer weather finally arrives, please ensure that your child has a water bottle (no squash please), a sun hat and sun cream if necessary *applied at home before school*. Children also need a waterproof coat in school each day in case inclement weather arrives! Many thanks.

Have a wonderful weekend all!

Kindest wishes,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'J. Petersen'.

Safeguarding at Highampton Primary

We are committed to keeping children safe and happy at Highampton Primary School. Safeguarding is the responsibility of all staff and our safeguarding team are:

Designated Safeguarding Lead

Mrs D Petersen

Deputy Designated Safeguarding Lead

Mrs C Rees

Safeguarding Officer:

Miss I Floyd

If you have a safeguarding query, please contact one of our trained SG leads/ officers. You can also contact the MASH (Multi Agency Safeguarding Hub) on **0345 155 1071** or email mashsecure@devon.gov.uk

Train to Teach: Primary School Taster Session

**Primary Taster Session – Okehampton Primary School - Tuesday
5th April – 9.30am start**

Come and experience what a day in the life of a primary teacher entails, and how the Dartmoor Teacher Training Partnership could provide the launchpad for your own career.

*Please contact Sally Huxen to register your interest:
Shuxen@dmatschools.org.uk*

For 2022-23 we are offering 3 route into primary teaching:

- School Direct Distance PGCE 5-11
- School Direct Distance PGCE 3-7
- Post Graduate Apprenticeship

Dartmoor Teacher Training Partnership - *Inspiring the teachers of the future*
www.dartmoormat.org.uk

GALLERY



Quick Sticks Hockey team. They positively represented Highampton and obtained 4th and 5th place. Their teamwork and encouragement shone through.

Ruby Class, once again, have demonstrated strong learning behaviours and filled the class marble jar. On this occasion, the children voted for a team building experience.



White group, in English, are learning to write a set of detailed instructions. As part of this sequence, the pupils followed instructions from our model text, 'Incredible Edibles', to make 'White Chocolate Strawberry Eyeballs'.





Celebration Assembly



W/e 11TH March



Learner of the week: Olli H for maintaining great concentration and effort in phonics.



Tarka Class: Ellarose for consistent independent learning focus in writing and Fred fingers in spelling.



Ruby Class: Ruben for showing a mature attitude to learning and displaying fantastic focus in Maths.



Ruby Heart: Maisy for showing all members of our school community helpful behaviours

Dates for your Diary

Tuesdays:

Devon Wildlife Trust (don't forget wellies)

Wednesdays:

Wheelie Wednesdays

Thursdays:

PE

Fridays:

French

28th March

Budehaven Girls Football Event

30th March

Tag Rugby Tournament at South Zeal Recreation ground near South Tawton

8th April

Last day of Spring term

8th April

Easter egg hunt (PTFA) - at 3pm

Monday 11th - Friday 22nd April incl.

Easter Holiday

Monday 25th April

All pupils return

Monday 9th - Friday 13th May -

KS2 SATS week

Wednesday 15th June -

Devon Wildlife Trust 'Champions' day, Meeth quarry

Monday 20th June – Wed 22nd June Year 4/5 Residential Trip

Monday 18th July – Wed 20th July Year 6 Residential Trip

PTFA Dates for the diary

30th March

Easter bingo, we will be looking for donations for raffle prizes nearer the time as well as for our Easter Hamper

8th April

Easter egg Hunt