

Decoy Community Primary School

"Treat other people as you would like them to treat you"



12th September 2023



Welcome back for the new school year. We hope that your children have settled well into their new classes.

We welcome several new members of staff to the school team. Mrs Strong is our new Special Educational Needs Coordinator and is busy spending time in the classes, getting to know the children. If you would like to make an appointment with Mrs Strong to discuss your child's needs, please email her at sstrong@decoyschool.co.uk.

Mr McCaffley is the new class teacher in Year 6 (Falcons).

Congratulations to Miss Brooks, who got married during the summer holidays and is now called Mrs Cooke. She is teaching Chaffinches this year.

Meet The Teacher Open Evening

Wednesday 20th September
3.45 - 4.10pm
4.15 - 4.40pm
4.45 - 5.10pm

If you would like to know what your child will be learning about this year, what the expectations are for homework or just have an opportunity to meet your child's teacher, then teachers will be available in their classrooms at the times above. Each session lasts 25 minutes and includes a short presentation, followed by a Q&A opportunity. The sessions are repeated so that parents can visit different class teachers during the open evening. We hope you will be able to join us.



School Dinners

To reflect increasing costs, we have made the difficult decision to increase the cost of school dinners from £2.44 to £2.50 per meal.

School Attendance

The impact upon children's education through lost learning is huge, so it is vital that we make every school minute count. We urge you to ensure that your child is in school and on time every day to prevent them from falling behind with their learning.

Government departments track school attendance figures. It is considered that attendance of 90% or below is persistent absence which will trigger further action by school. Failing to improve on this 90% can lead to prosecution, which we want to help families avoid. Good attendance is considered to be at or above 94%.

What YOU must do:

- Telephone the school (01626 353282) or email admin@decoyschool.co.uk before 8.30am each day of your child's absence. We ask that you are specific about the reason for the absence e.g. rather than saying that your child is ill, tell us that they have been sick/have a high temperature/have a bad cold etc.
- Tell the school in advance, of any medical appointments and bring in appointment cards/letters if possible.
- If you are not sure whether your child is well enough to attend school, send them in anyway as they often perk up on arrival.
- Have a backup plan for if your child misses transport or if you are unwell, call on a family member, neighbour or friend.
- If you and your child are experiencing difficulties with school attendance, then talk to us as a first step so we can help!
- Talk to your child about the importance of them being in school and let them know how important you feel it is.
- Ensure that your child arrives at school on time (if they arrive after the register has closed (9:00am), your child is marked as absent for the morning session).

What WE will do:

- Check your child's attendance every day.
- Phone home to discuss your child's attendance with you.
- Invite you into school for attendance meetings if we are concerned.
- If we cannot establish a reason for absence, then we may make a welfare home visit.

Holidays and Other Requests for Absence

Schools are only allowed by law, to authorise non-medical absences if requested in advance by a parent with whom the pupil normally resides. A school can only authorise such a request if they are satisfied that there are "exceptional circumstances" which apply. However, even if there are exceptional circumstances, schools can still consider any other relevant factors such as previous attendance rates; the ability of the pupil to catch-up on missed work; the wider impact of missing the specified period of time.

Devon County Council's advice is that schools must be extremely cautious about approving such requests if the pupil's education is likely to be significantly impacted upon.

Parents should ensure that they know whether the absence will be authorised or not before they go away as an unauthorised absence will likely result in a penalty notice or court summons being issued to each parent for each pupil affected. It is therefore recommended that this completed form is sent into the school at least three school weeks before the intended absence.

Attendance in school is measured on a rolling twelve-month basis, not on a single academic year. Periods of unauthorised absence are cumulative over this 12-month period. Ten or more

unauthorised sessions (equivalent to 5 days), could result in a penalty notice being issued by the local authority.

Absence Request forms can be collected from the main office. The form is also available on the school's website. [Click here.](#)

EVERY SCHOOL DAY COUNTS

Don't miss out on the education you deserve.



Clubs and Extra-Curricular Opportunities

We are delighted to be able to offer a significantly increased number of clubs this year, for children of all ages. A separate letter will be sent out detailing the clubs on offer this term. Clubs run between the dates set out below. This allows time for letters to be sent out at the start of each term and events such as shows and parents evenings to happen at the end of terms. You will be asked to sign up termly. Some clubs will run every term, whilst others may only run for one term.

Autumn Term: Monday 25th September – Friday 1st December

Spring Term: Monday 22nd January – Friday 15th March

Summer Term: Monday 29th April – Friday 12th July



PTA

We need your help! School life without discos, fetes, coffee mornings, cake stalls and Decoy Fest would be a travesty - but these things are at risk. The PTA is a vitally important part of the school and runs thanks to the hard work, dedication and determination of a small group of parents. We need new members to step forward and offer their time and support. Please join us in the school hall for the PTA AGM on Wednesday 27th September at 7pm.



Have you signed up to Class Dojo? This year Class Dojo is being used as our primary means of communicating with families. You will receive regular school and class updates and can also send private messages to your child's class teacher. Class Dojo enables us to have a one-stop platform for school letters, reminders, newsletters etc. If you need help getting signed up, please talk to your child's teacher.

Congratulations to Kestrels Class for having 100% sign up!

Class	% of children with at least one family member on Class Dojo	Class	% of children with at least one family member on Class Dojo
First Steps Nursery	96%	Swans	83%
Dragonflies	96%	Puffins	83%
Ladybirds	81%	Kingfishers	83%
Wrens	93%	Mallards	74%
Woodpeckers	93%	Owls	97%
Chaffinches	96%	Kestrels	100%
Partridges	88%	Eagles	94%
		Falcons	92%

Term Dates 2023 - 2024

Autumn Term

Wednesday 6th September 2023 - Friday 15th December 2023

Half term: 23rd - 27th October 2023

Spring Term

Thursday 4th January 2024 - Thursday 28th March 2024

Half term: 12th -16th February 2024

Summer Term

Monday 15th April 2024 - Wednesday 24th July 2024

Half term: 27th - 31st May 2024

Bank Holidays: May Day (6th May 2024)



Dates for the Diary

These dates are currently in the school diary. If we have to make changes to dates, we will endeavour to give you as much notice as possible.

September		October		November		December	
20 th	Meet the teacher open evening (3.45-5.10pm)	2 nd	Harvest Festival (led by Y3 – 2.30pm)	29 th	Y4 Roman Day	5 th	Parents Evening (3.30-6pm)
22 nd	Flu vaccinations	3 rd	Harvest Festival (led by Y3 – 9.15am)			6 th	Parents Evening (3.30-6pm)
25 th -29 th	Y6 Residential (Heatree)	6 th	Y6 Coffee Morning for Macmillan			6 th	Nursery Nativity (pm)
27 th	Reception Phonics Workshop for parents (2.15pm and 5.30pm)	12 th	Individual and family group school photos			7 th	Nursery Nativity (am)
27 th	PTA AGM (7pm)	30 th	Staff training Day (Non-pupil day)			7 th	Y1&Y2 Nativity (pm)
						8 th	Y1&Y2 Nativity (am and pm)
						12 th	Ladybirds and Dragonflies Carols Around the Tree (9.15am)
						13 th	Ladybirds and Dragonflies Carols Around the Tree (2.30pm)

January		February		March		April	
3 rd	Staff training Day (Non-pupil day)			19 th	Parents Evening		
				20 th	Parents Evening		
				26 th	Y4 Easter Show (2.30pm)		
				27 th	Y4 Easter Show (5.30pm)		

May		June		July		August	
13 th -16 th	Y6 SATs			2 nd	KS1 Sports Day (am) KS2 Sports Day (pm)		
				9 th	Reserve Sports Day (if weather cancels 2 nd)		
				12 th	School Reports		
				17 th	Y6 Show (2pm and 5.30pm)		
				18 th	Y6 Show (5.30pm)		
				23 rd	Y6 graduation and BBQ (1-5pm)		

We look forward to the exciting things ahead at Decoy Community Primary School and First Steps Nursery in 2023-2024