



## **Learning, Laughter and Friendship**

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29<sup>th</sup> September 23

### **Newsletter**

Dear Parents and Carers,

Another action-packed week at The Dingle, with a couple of late nights and early mornings in the middle. I am of course referring to the visit of 3 of His Majesty's Inspectors to The Dingle on Wednesday and Thursday. The judgements have not been finalised and therefore cannot be shared until the report is published, probably at the end of October. What I can say is that we are expecting a positive report.

As always, the children were great and didn't let anyone down- as we would expect. Many of them clearly enjoyed the extra attention and chance to be ambassadors of their school. In all, about 150 pupils were spoken to, in different groups from across the school and across abilities, to gauge what they thought of their school and how much they had learnt and retained. All the children were observed in lessons and at playtime, lunchtime and after school. It goes without saying we were very proud of them.

We heard a number of anecdotes through the days and my favourite was the reply when asked how cows are taken off the mountains in the Alps for winter- 'on skis'. Another child then gave him a hard stare and explained 'they are herded down through the pastures.' Phew! And when asked about bullying, 'we simply don't tolerate it here!'

As well as showing my appreciation to all the staff and Governors at the school for their efforts, may I also thank all those parents and carers who completed the questionnaire for OFSTED, and also those who spoke to one of the Inspectors on Thursday morning. I also need to mention a big thank you to the parent who brought us in snacks on Tuesday night – they obviously knew we would be in for a long evening preparing for the inspection!

### **In other news**

Year 6 had a fantastic trip last week to Safety Central. The children were full of stories of how to keep themselves safe. The most talked about piece of information received was that leaving a laptop on your bed is a very dangerous fire risk as the battery can quickly heat up! Good to share!

Our Year 4s have begun their wind instrument music lessons, which we have been enjoying hearing in the office. We all very much encourage plenty of practice at home to overcome the initial mis-squeaks that always accompanies this time of year. Very shortly Mrs Hayes is expecting the delivery of ukuleles to start a George Formby Club. Something we are all looking forward to! It is worth

noting that a number of children who started playing instruments at The Dingle have gone on to play at University, in The Albert Hall and even as Young Musician of The Year! It all starts here.

I also very much enjoyed catching up with some older children in coding club with Miss Hancock recently. The children were very focused on programming their microbits. This seems so popular that we are hoping to acquire another set to use in computing lessons.

Finally, it was great to see Reception class today walking round school with big pairs of colourful ears strapped to their heads, being trained in the important skill of listening carefully.

And of course, we managed to fit in normal lessons too.

Plenty of Learning, Laughter and Friendship on show. A busy week and the end of a busy first month back in school.

## **PTA**

**The PTA** met last Monday and we have dates in the diary for various events and activities similar to other years. If you could or would like to help with the running of events or support on the day, please contact the school office and we will put you in touch with the right people. A big thank you to those who have offered already.

## **Do you have a child starting Reception in September 24?**

We will be holding an Open Evening for parents of children considering starting at The Dingle in September 2024, on the 10<sup>th</sup> October. This will be in school starting at 6pm. If you know anyone locally who may be interested in attending please make them aware and ask them to get in touch. More details of the meeting will follow.

The **admissions process** for applying for a school place for September 24 is now open and you must apply through Cheshire East, not the school. Please do not assume that if you have a child already at the school that a place will be held for a sibling. They will get in, but only if you apply by the deadline date of the 15<sup>th</sup> January. Applications can be made via <https://www.cheshireeast.gov.uk/schools/admissions/start-school-september.aspx>

## **Applications for High School.**

This must be done **by 31<sup>st</sup> October** and again through Cheshire East:

<https://www.cheshireeast.gov.uk/schools/admissions/start-school-september.aspx>.

I encourage all parents to visit high schools so you can make an informed choice. Almost all our children move on to Sandbach School (boys) and Sandbach High ( girls). We are a designated feeder for these schools, and as long as you apply before the deadline, then you are very likely to be offered one of these schools. If you wish to consider a mixed girls and boys school, then pupils have applied and gone to Alsager, Congleton, Holmes Chapel or Sir William Stanier. We are not in their catchment areas and therefore places are more difficult to obtain, so please talk to the schools before making your application.

## **Dates for the Diary**

### **October**

- 10<sup>th</sup> Open Evening for prospective parents Reception 2024
- 11<sup>th</sup> Year 5 Residential information evening 6pm – Zoom link to follow
- 16<sup>th</sup> Early Years to visit a farm.
- 17<sup>th</sup> Year 4 Roman visit to Chester.
- 17<sup>th</sup> Parents' Evening 5:30pm to 8 pm in school
- 18<sup>th</sup> Parents' Evening 3:30pm to 6 pm in school
- 20<sup>th</sup> School closes for half term
- 30<sup>th</sup> School reopens

### **November**

- 14<sup>th</sup> Y1 to 6 trip to Chester Zoo; Early Years Zoo2U in school.
- 17<sup>th</sup> Children in Need
- 21<sup>st</sup> Mrs Leese's Y2 to Nantwich Museum- Great Fire of Nantwich
- 23<sup>rd</sup> Mrs Austin's Year 2 to Nantwich Museum- Great Fire of Nantwich
- 28<sup>th</sup> SATS information evening for Year 6 parents on Zoom

### **December**

- 12<sup>th</sup> and 13<sup>th</sup> Infant Nativity performances
- 19<sup>th</sup> KS1 Christmas Dinner
- 20<sup>th</sup> KS2 Christmas Dinner
- 22<sup>th</sup> School Closes for Christmas

### **January**

- 8<sup>th</sup> Return to school

Yours sincerely,

Mr B Cox  
Head Teacher