

Dunsford Community Academy Newsletter 27.06.25

Together We Flourish: Dunsford Show and The Oasis

🌱 Supporting The Oasis – Thank You from Dunsford Academy 🌱

We want to say a huge thank you to all the families who will support our vision for The Oasis at the Dunsford Show. Every penny raised brings us closer to making this project a reality - a dedicated wellbeing space at school designed to support **all** of our children.

The Oasis will be a calm, welcoming place for any child who needs a moment to reset, reflect, or feel supported. Whether it's emotional dysregulation, feeling overwhelmed, missing a loved one like a grandparent, struggling with a recent bereavement, even something as simple (but powerful) as having a tough morning, the Oasis will be there.

The space will include sensory tools, soothing environments, and quiet areas where children can feel safe, supported, and empowered to work through their emotions in a healthy way.

Your support means the world. Because the truth is that we never know which child might need a space like this, until the moment they do. By planning ahead, we're making sure Dunsford Academy remains a place where every child feels seen, heard, and safe.

Have an incredible Dunsford show, have fun and spread the Dunsford positivity and thank you for standing with us. ❤️

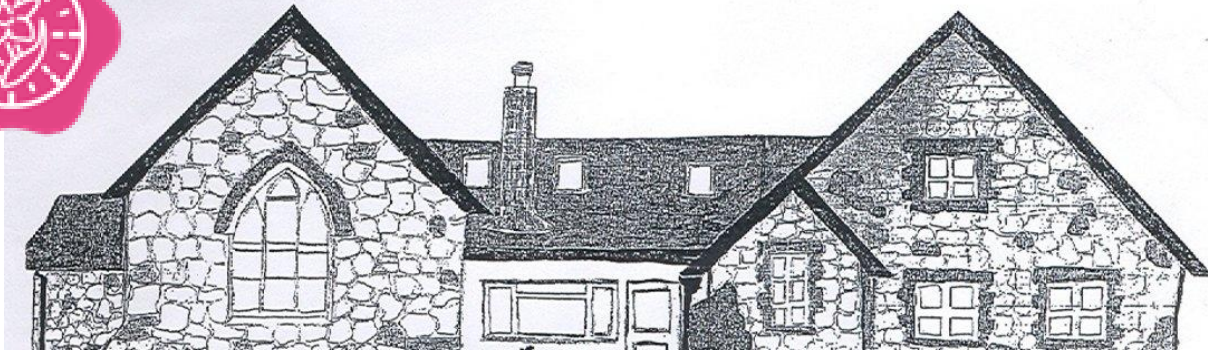
Stronger Together: Dunsford Show Programme Cover (Guest Author: Julia Matthews)

The standard of the artwork for the Dunsford Show Programme blew us away this year. They were all so good that we had 4 judges trying to make the decision, 2 of which were not parents at the school so that the judging could be done fairly. We loved how everyone produced something different, but they all spoke to us of Dunsford and the special village and school that it is! So a huge well done to everyone who took part.

In the end we narrowed it down to the 5 attached with the final choice for the cover being Clementine's picture.

We loved the bright colours and the simple but very effective combination of the circus tent and the bunting. However, in order to make it into a portrait picture to fit the programme template, I'll be working some magic and using some of the beautiful sky from the others picture as well, the party lights, balloons and lollipops were much loved by the judges and the pictures will work well together to make a lovely cover picture.





Congratulations, everybody and well done to every entrant!

Removing Barriers: Childcare for under-3s

Starting this September, eligible working families with children under 3 will see their funded childcare increase from 15 to 30 hours per week.

Families can apply for 30 hours of childcare from the term after their child turns 9 months old, continuing until they start school. Under this funding, children can begin attending our nursery from the day they turn two.

This expansion is designed to support your child's early education and help you better balance work and family life. It's the final phase of the childcare expansion, which could save families up to £7,500 per year.

Apply for your childcare code by 31 August to start using the support from September

[Homepage](#) | [Childcare Choices](#)



Sense of Belonging: Time Capsule

We're thrilled to announce that we are finally going to bury our time capsule! (Hopefully, on sports day... though that is not 100% yet). To make it a more recent and meaningful memory for the children, we'll be re-submitting items and creating new contributions. Pupils will be writing poems inspired by either Dunsford or the concept of time; some of which will be placed inside the capsule, while others will be displayed around the school.

We'll also be writing letters and creating artwork based on our local area or our iconic daffodil, with selected pieces going into the capsule and others brightening our school walls. This is a truly exciting project, and while most of the work will be done in school, we warmly welcome entries from home too. We're also collecting photos to include (we're aiming to fill it to the brim!), so if you have any old photos - past Year 6 classes, copies of school photos - please email them to the school admin with the subject line: Time Capsule. Thank you for your continued support in making this a memorable moment for our school community!



Removing Barriers: Forest School clothing

As the warmer months arrive, it's important to remain thoughtful and safe when spending time outdoors. Ticks are small parasites that can latch onto skin, particularly in grassy or wooded areas. To help prevent bites, we encourage children to wear long sleeves and trousers, use insect repellent, and check for ticks after outdoor activities. Prompt removal is essential, so if your child does get a tic, please seek appropriate guidance.



Outdoor adventures are at their best when children are safe and comfortable! For Forest School, please ensure that your child wears long sleeves and trousers to protect against scrapes, insect bites, and sun exposure. On warmer days, opt for loose-fitting clothing to keep them cool while maintaining essential coverage.

Removing Barriers: PE and Forest School

	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday
Barn Owls	Swimming	Forest School, Maypole		PE	
Magpies	Swimming		PE	Maypole	
Kingfishers	Swimming	Maypole	PE		
Robins	Swimming, PE	Forest School	PE		

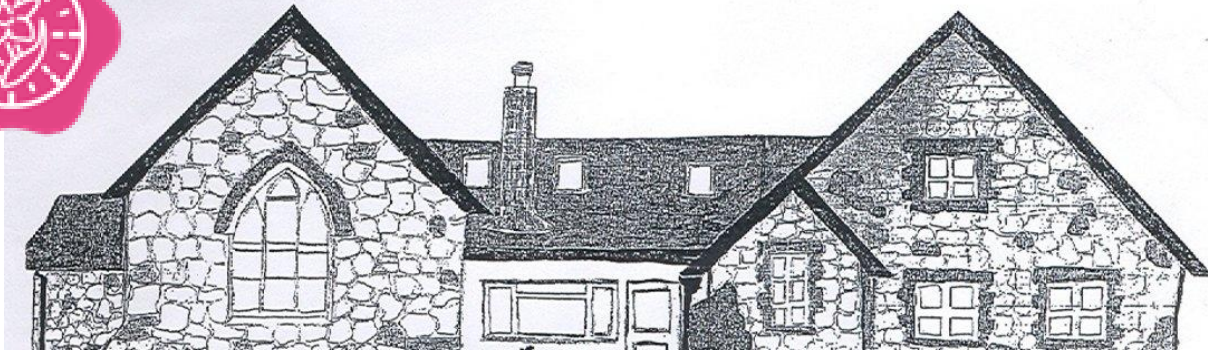
Sense of Belonging: Barn Owls

This week, the Barn Owls soared to new heights (literally and figuratively) on their unforgettable residential trip! With bravery, aspiration, and thoughtfulness at the heart of every activity, they tackled abseiling, Jacob's Ladder, canoeing, kayaking, paddleboarding, and even river walking. Each challenge brought out the best in them, showing incredible teamwork, resilience, and a spirit of adventure.

After a day packed with excitement, the group settled in for an overnight stay, even if sometimes sleep was in short supply with all the buzz and laughter! It was a truly incredible experience that created lasting memories and strengthened friendships. Well done, Barn Owls: you've made us all proud. Have a well-deserved, restful weekend!

Sense of Belonging: Magpies

In English, we've been exploring *The Whale* by Ethan Murog. With no words in the book, the children have been using their imaginations to tell the story themselves, developing their narrative skills and descriptive language. In Whole Class Reading, we've been reading and performing poetry, focusing on rhythm, expression, and performance techniques. Our Spelling lessons have centred around words ending in "ally," helping us understand spelling patterns and word formation. In Maths, we've been identifying different types of lines and triangles, as well as naming a variety of 2D and 3D shapes.



In History, we've continued our journey through Ancient Egypt, learning about the fascinating process of mummification and the beliefs surrounding the afterlife. PE has been all about preparing for Sports Day, with lots of practice in different events and building team spirit. In Computing, we've been using Photopea to edit photos, learning how to enhance and manipulate images. Our Art lessons have focused on drawing daffodils, inspired by our school logo. In DT, we've been designing and planning our own healthy snack bars, combining creativity with healthy choices.



Sense of Belonging: Kingfishers

The Kingfishers have had a creative and active week! In Art, they've been exploring printing techniques, experimenting with patterns and textures to create some fantastic pieces. In Reading, they've continued to enjoy poetry, building confidence in performance and expression as they explore rhythm and meaning in different poems. In Maths, the children have been learning to tell the time, focusing on quarter past, half past, and quarter to - developing their understanding of time in a fun and practical way.

With Sports Day just around the corner, the children have also been practising their throwing and jumping skills, showing great determination and team spirit. It's been a brilliant week of learning and fun!

Sense of Belonging: Robins

The Robins have had a roaring good time this week! In Maths, they've been practising their addition skills, working hard to add numbers together with growing confidence. In English, they've been enjoying books all about pizza, sparking lots of discussion (and a few cravings!) as they explored stories and characters.

The highlight of the week has been their dinosaur discovery adventure. The children have been learning what dinosaurs were, when they lived, and exploring pictures and models to bring these prehistoric creatures to life. Their imaginations have taken flight as they created immersive dinosaur games - complete with stomping, roaring, and plenty of excitement. ROAR!

Stronger Together: Office Communication Times

Mrs Sinton is in our admin office from Monday to Thursday to answer any questions. Our office communication times are detailed below:

Monday	08:30 – 1:30
Tuesday	08:30 – 1:30
Wednesday	08:30 – 1:30
Thursday	08:30 – 1:30



At all other times, we ask that you use the bells posted in the school reception, email or speak with the class teacher or school leader on the gate. There is a wealth of information for parents on our website too [Parents - Dunsford Community Academy](#)

If you have queries on Fridays, please do email dunsford@lapsw.org

To help find information in a quickly, we will be launching a 'Virtual Admin' system on our website after Easter. Please keep an eye out for updates on when this goes live on our brand-new websites!

Dates for your Diary

Families are welcome to highlighted dates.

April 2025

Friday 4th April - 2.30pm - Easter Service

Wednesday 23rd April – 3.30pm - Barn Owls Residential Meeting

Thursday 24th April – London Marathon

Monday 28th April - 3.30pm - Y6 SATs Parents Meeting

Tuesday 29th April – 3:30pm - Y1 Phonics Screening Check Parents Meeting

Tuesday 29th and 30th April – Barn Owls Parents Evenings

Wednesday 30th April – 3:30pm - Y4 Multiplication Check Parents Meeting

May 2025

May 2nd - Science Workshops

May 6th – Y4 Forest and Beach Residential Parents Meeting

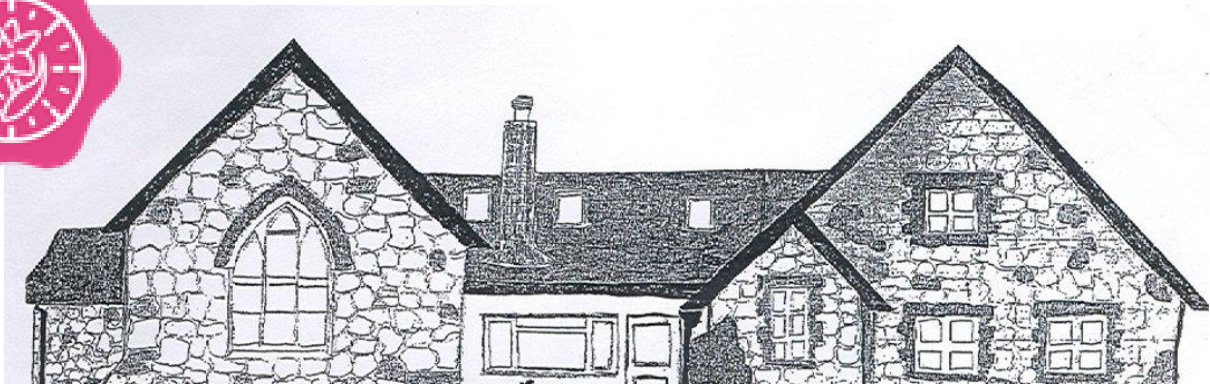
May 6th - 8th Bikeability

May 8th – Football Tournament (after school)

May 12th to 15th – KS2 SATs

May 15th – Census Day

May 20th – Football Home Match (in schooltime)



May 22nd – Football Tournament (after school)

May 22nd – Writing Showcase for Families at 3pm

June 2025

June 2nd - 3rd - Y4 Residential

June 3rd – Barn Owl Trust Visit

June 6th - Y3/4 Art Workshop

June 9th – Art Showcase for Families at 3pm

June 13th – Class Photos

June 18th – Summer Concert Featuring Performances by Children who Take Music Lessons with Jo Todd and

Alice Footitt (Village Hall at 2.30pm)

June 20th - MED Theatre Workshops

June 30th - July 2nd - Y5/6 Residential

June 26th - Transition Afternoon for Children

June 26th - New Reception Stay and Play

June 26th - Meet the Teacher Meetings at 3:15pm for Families

June 27th – Non-Uniform Bottle Day

July 2025

July 5th – Dunsford Summer Show

July 10th - Whiddon Autumn Festival Workshop (Y4 & 5)

July 14th - Sports Day: Families Welcome from 1:15pm

July 16th – Kingfishers visit to Drake's farm

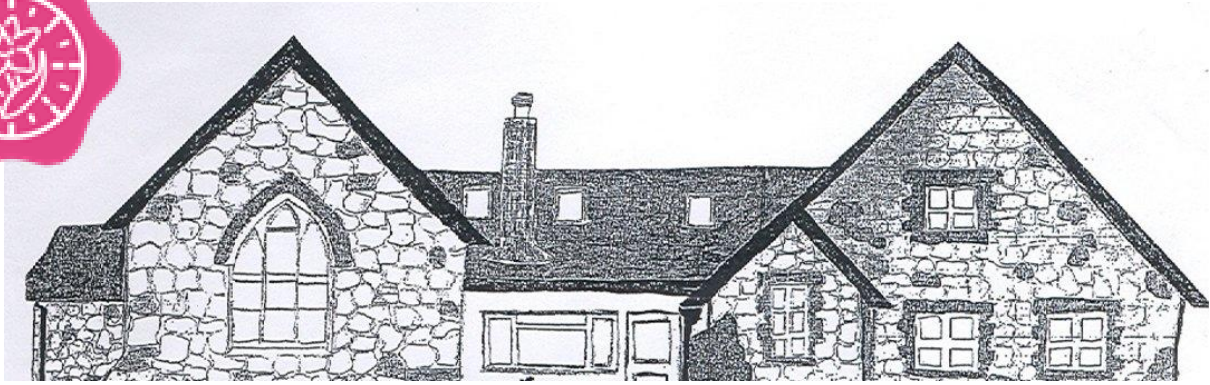
July 17th - Lego Workshop

July 18th – Y6 Performance

July 21st – Swimming Gala

July 23rd – Y6 Leavers Celebration

September 2025



Wednesday 3rd September – First Day of Term

Monday 15th September - Whiddon Autumn Festival Workshop (Y5 & 6)

Tuesday 16th September – Vision Screening (Reception Class only)

September 18th – All day Multi-School hosted by Moretonhampstead School with Informal Showcase

Concert for parents from 13:30

September 24th-26th – Book Fair