

### WELCOME BACK

In a flash, the first week back at school has already gone by! I hope everyone has had a lovely Christmas and New Years, and are feeling refreshed and ready for a busy term! It has been a fantastic first week back here, the Y6 children have enjoyed a visit from the School Beat Officer, and Oak and Cherry classes have begun their swimming lessons. The swimming instructors commented on how fantastically behaved they have been at the pool, so well done to them! The children in Sequoia and Magnolia have been enjoying time with their new class teachers, and I have already received lots of positive feedback from the children.

Sadly, Mrs Holford-Wright remains unwell, so I will continue as Acting Head teacher in her absence. To support with the reduced Leadership capacity, we will be welcoming Miss Jen Thomas (Acting Headteacher at Coaley Primary) who will join us regularly during the school week, and we will be welcoming weekly visits from our new Regional Improvement Lead, Mr Richard Lucas. Mr Lucas was previously the Headteacher at Coaley Primary and St Matts in Stroud. I am sure you will see them both out and about, so please do introduce yourselves, I have already shared what a supportive community you are, and they are very excited to get to know everyone. I am very grateful for the increased support; it is one of the many positives of being part of a Multi Academy Trust. This support will allow me to continue increase visibility across the school, and continue to deliver and develop our vision of, 'Together we shine brightly because together we make a difference'.

Mrs Gregory

### VISION & VALUES

The New Year offers us time of reflection and refocusing, and with this in mind, I thought this week's newsletter would be a good opportunity to share with every one of our school Vision and Values. These were developed and updated in the Summer of 2023, with a belief that at Dursley C of E Primary Academy, we are passionate about valuing and nurturing every individual. We aim to provide an inclusive, aspirational and inspiring curriculum, which enables the entire school community to flourish.

### CENSUS DAY

Did you know that the funding we receive is directly affected by the number of children in the infants who have school dinners on census day? This year it is taking place on 18th January, and we are urging you to place a school dinner order. The difference between a high and low take up on census day can make a difference of thousands of pounds, so we would really appreciate it if you child could have a school lunch rather than a packed lunch on the 18th January -even if it is just for that one day!

The menu will be:

Cottage Pie  
Or  
Vegan Burger with Potato Wedges  
Or  
Jacket Potato with either tuna or cheese  
All served with seasonal vegetables  
\*\*\*\*  
Peach Crumble with Custard

### WINTER WEATHER

As the weather turns colder, can we remind you to label coats, hats, gloves and jumpers with your child's name and to be mindful of icy conditions as you make your way to and from the academy.

### Holidays During Term Time

Whilst we realise absence through illness is unavoidable, we do have concerns about children missing school through holidays and the impact this makes on their learning. Children also need to be present for important assessments throughout the year – **there are particularly important tests for Year Six and Year Two in May and Year One in June. We cannot, therefore, authorise any requests for family holidays except in exceptional circumstances.** If you do need to take your child out of school for a long absence, please contact the school office for an absence request form.

**Kindness, Respect, Responsibility, Thankfulness, Forgiveness and Perseverance in Action**

### **Cross Country**

Our cross-country team have their final race of the season on Saturday 13<sup>th</sup> January. This event is for those children who have already raced this season. We hope they have a good time and we are super-proud of them all!

### **PARENT MEETINGS**

Meet the class teacher sessions for Magnolia and Sequoia's parents will take place on the following days. The purpose of the sessions will be for the class teachers to introduce themselves, outline their expectations and share dates etc. Details to follow.

**Magnolia Tuesday 23<sup>rd</sup> January**  
**Sequoia Friday 26<sup>th</sup> January**



### **Clubs**

After the success of last terms clubs, which have now finished, we are pleased to confirm that the following clubs will be running this term:

#### **Lego - Tuesday lunch 1245-110pm - Mr Tyne - KS2**

Lego Club- a time to develop fine motor and social skills, in a calm, quiet environment. A time to use imagination to build exciting projects over the term.

#### **Gymnastics - Wednesday lunch 1245-110pm- Mrs Woods- y5/6 (20 spaces )**

Gymnastics is an opportunity for our Upper Key Stage 2 children to practice different Gymnastic skills and create different routines in a fun, safe and informal atmosphere.

#### **Construction club- Wednesday after school 315-4pm- Mr Lord - y3/4 (15 spaces)**

Construction club is an exciting opportunity for our future engineers and builders. Each week they will be given different materials to explore and build different tasks.

#### **Pet Club - Tuesday after school 315-4pm - Mrs Webb and Mrs Watts - 1/2 (20spaces)**

Pet Club is a themed club, where the children will learn about how to look after and different types of pets, explore the role of a Vets and the people that work there, perhaps even meet some small pets.

#### **Art club- Wednesday Lunch 1215-1245pm - Mrs Dobbs- y1/2 (20 spaces).**

Art Club- this lunch time club, will be an opportunity to learn new skills and try different mediums. Each week will have a different theme. Look out for the different projects they will be bringing home!

As you can see these will be run at either lunchtime or after school, and are open to certain year groups.

Please follow the link [here](#) or scan the QR to complete a form for your child to join the clubs. The clubs work on a first to reply basis and **we will notify you if your child has a space in a club.**

### **NEW WEBSITE**

Have you visited our [new website](#)? It is now fully up-to-date, and includes current policies, our vision for the curriculum as well as lots of other bits of important information. Thank you to our Chair of Governors, Anne-Marie Thurgood, who has given me lots of support with organising this. Please do have a look, we really appreciate your feedback and if there is anything you feel we need to include or update further please do let us know!

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**NHS Health and Wellbeing Team**

On the 21st February at 9am, we will be hosting a Coffee and Chat with some special guests... The NHS Health and Wellbeing Team! This team run hubs and support groups focusing on issues such as bedwetting, behaviour and anxiety, sleep difficulties and healthy lifestyles. Perhaps you have some trouble getting your child to sleep of an evening, or are struggling to get them to eat anything healthy- this team will be able to offer you some specific advice, and share some resources with you. Following this session, they may then be able to offer follow on support and some small group sessions at the school or children's centre.

 **Value Leaves Awarded** 

Kindness	Responsibility	Perseverance
Sophie S Tillie E	Emilia Z Chloe I Ada C Gwen B	Taylor-Rose P Mollie K Anabelle M Darcy S
Thankfulness	Forgiveness	Respect
		Hector N Bessie H Seb B Finn R Caitlyn L

	Dates for your diaries
<b>Friday 19<sup>th</sup> January</b>	School Association – School Disco
<b>Tuesday 23<sup>rd</sup> January</b>	Magnolia meet the teacher session (details to follow)
<b>Friday 26<sup>th</sup> January</b>	Sequoia meet the teacher session (details to follow)
<b>Friday 9<sup>th</sup> February</b>	School Association Cake Sale – donations from Sequoia class
<b>Monday 12<sup>th</sup> to Friday 16<sup>th</sup> February</b>	Half Term Holiday
<b>Monday 19<sup>th</sup> February</b>	Inset Day – School closed to all pupils
<b>Wednesday 21<sup>st</sup> February</b>	Coffee and Chat with the NHS Health and Wellbeing team 9am School Hall
<b>Sunday 25<sup>th</sup> February</b>	School Association Pub Quiz at The Old Spot.
<b>Friday 15<sup>th</sup> March</b>	School Association Cake Sale – donations from Larch class
<b>Friday 19<sup>th</sup> April</b>	School Association Cake Sale – donations from Maple and Cedar classes
<b>Coming Soon</b>	More dates coming soon!

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## School Association



### School Disco

Standby for the return of DJ Rossy (and his banging tunes!) at the School Association 'neon disco' on Friday 19th January 2024.

Held in the school hall, there will be two separate sessions – the first for infants (5-6pm) and the second for juniors (6.15-7.15pm).

Entrance is £3 on the door, to include unlimited water/squash and neon face paints in the queue! There will be crisps and party items available to buy from 50p.

Please note this is a strictly 'no adults' event, so please drop off children and collect them again at the end of the session. Teachers will be present on the night.

No mobile phones or glow sticks will be allowed inside the hall, but feel free to wear neon clothing for a bright and fun night!

### Cake Sale

Thank you to everyone who was able to support our cake sale today. It was very busy and we raised a

fantastic **£91.65** for the school. A **BIG** thank you to our Reception Classes families who provided the cakes for this sale. Please collect cake tins from school office.

The next sale will be 9<sup>th</sup> February where we ask for donations from Sequoia Class.

We hope you have a lovely weekend!  
From Dursley C of E Primary Academy.

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