

**DILTON MARSH CHURCH OF ENGLAND (Voluntary Controlled)
PRIMARY SCHOOL**

The Acorn Education Trust

High Street, Dilton Marsh,
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email admin@diltonmarsh.wilts.sch.uk

Dear Parents

This is the first step towards the right choice for your child!

What can we offer you?

- ❖ A happy child
- ❖ A confident child
- ❖ A Well-adjusted child
- ❖ An accomplished child

How do we do this?

- ❖ Treating all children as individuals
- ❖ Showing constant love, understanding and respect
- ❖ Providing a quality environment
- ❖ Giving opportunities for learning of all kinds
- ❖ Sharing experiences and achievements
- ❖ Being part of a supportive and inclusive community
- ❖ Believing everyone` is special and able to succeed
- ❖ Celebrating our skills, abilities and efforts
- ❖ Encouraging everyone to persevere and do their best

We educate the whole child, for life

We provide a stable environment in which to grow

We share ourselves with the children

We are a happy secure community

We welcome people into our school and our lives

Dilton Marsh Church of England Primary School



Our Motto

“Learning together, Growing together.”

Our Vision

Our vision at Dilton Marsh Church of England Primary School is to provide a safe, happy, caring, creative and nurturing learning environment where everyone is valued and encouraged to reach their full potential. We share a passion for learning and life together with respect for others and our environment. Within our Christian ethos of tolerance and respect we promote positive attitudes and understanding of different beliefs, races and cultures to create caring citizens. Children are encouraged to become independent and resilient learners, with the ability to learn from mistakes and accept challenges.

Our Mission

At Dilton Marsh Church of England Primary School we will;

ensure that all children are safe, secure, happy and healthy	through a framework of Christian values, help children to develop as responsible and caring citizens	teach a creative, exciting and innovative curriculum that sets high standards and recognises and respects our diverse backgrounds and needs
encourage children to become independent learners with lively, enquiring minds and a sense of their own identity	deliver quality first teaching collaborate with the wider community	promote a high standard of behaviour which demonstrates respect towards and tolerance of others
develop the ability to live and work both cooperatively and independently	provide a wide range of focused, effective and creative learning experiences that are fun and enjoyable	celebrate and share success and achievement

STAFF

Headteacher

Mrs Jill Hibbs (**Headteacher**)

Senior Leadership Team

Mr John Bullen – (Assistant Head) Beech Class Year 5, KS2 Leader

Mr Sharon Broad – (Assistant Head) Ash Class Year 2, KS1 Leader

Miss Laura Driscoll – Willow Class Year 3 (SENCo)

Teachers

Miss Bee Adie – Cherry Class Year 1

Mr Chris Foyle – Oak Class Year 6

Miss Caroline Tout – Chestnut Class Year 4

Miss Bethan Williamson – Lime Class Reception

Mrs Michelle Lawrence – Cover Teacher & Music Teacher

Mrs Annette Sturm (MFL)

Teacher Assistants

Miss Dani Bailey

Mrs Sarah Beveridge

Mrs Phoebe Brazier

Mrs Ros Cooper

Mrs Liz Elkins

Mrs Julia Miller

Mrs Lisa Morgan

Miss Ellen Roberts

Mrs Ann-Marie Withers

Mid-day Supervisors

Miss Dani Bailey

Mrs Sarah Beveridge

Mrs Phoebe Brazier

Mrs Vicki Hallam

Mrs Julia Miller

Mrs Lisa Morgan

Miss Ellen Roberts

Mrs Ann-Marie Withers

School Business Manager

Admin Clerk

Mrs Alison Hyde

Mrs Vicki Hallam

Caretaker

Kitchen Staff

Mr Jeff Hillman

Mrs Cara Till

Mrs Leanne Smith

Mrs Alicja Taylor

Breakfast Club Staff

Mrs Cara Till

Mrs Mary-Ann Glass

ACADEMY COUNCIL

Governor	Representative	Term of Office Ends
Keith Clover	Chairperson	August 2019
Jill Hibbs	Headteacher	ex Officio
Rev Caroline Husband	Foundation	ex Officio
Ian Cunningham	Foundation	October 2020
Jennifer Denton	Foundation	August 2021
John Bullen	Staff	January 2021
Joseph Durham	Academy	May 2022
Melinda Graves	Parent	January 2021
Deborah Roberts	Parent	January 2021
Dawn Wells	Parent	January 2019
Zoe Stockley	Clerk to the Governors	

Our School

Dilton Marsh Church of England Primary School stands at the heart of the village and next to Holy Trinity Church.

In the summer of 2014 our school became an academy within The Acorn Education Trust. This is an exciting opportunity for future development and secures the long term stability of an educational establishment in the village.

The school was built in 1988. It is a bright, modern building with good facilities. Our main central corridor is vibrant with displays of children s' work and also features information showing the full extent of our school links with the community and our inclusive and distinctive school ethos. There are seven classrooms, a hall used for productions, special events and our delicious home-cooked school meals.

Outside we have award winning grounds that include areas for reflection as well as areas for play and 'grow your own' food production.

Children attend from the village of Dilton Marsh, the town of Westbury and the surrounding countryside. They start in the September before their 5th birthday and leave in the July following their 11th birthday when they move on to secondary schools of their choice. Local schools are popular, but some children go further afield to Salisbury or Bath to continue their education.

The School Day

Breakfast Club Our breakfast club runs from 7.30 – 8.30 am, five days a week. Parents need to book this in advance with through the school office (there is a charge for this service).

School Hours The school is unlocked at 8.30 am. Parents and children should not arrive before this time.

Morning Session All years

8.45 am Registration
10.20 – 10.40 Mid-morning break
12.00 – 1.00 Lunch break (KS1 Classes)
12.15 – 1.00 Lunch break (KS2 Classes)

Afternoon Session 1.00 – 3.00 Whole school

After School Activities Usually run from 3.00pm to 4.00pm (please check the Weekly Newsletter for details, booking required)

Collective Worship Times Whole School – 10.00 am (Monday and Tuesday)
Whole School – 2.30 pm (Wednesday and Friday)
Class Worship - Thursday

Class Celebration Assembly Wednesdays 2.30 pm (see Weekly Newsletter for dates/classes) – Everyone welcome

Attendance and Absences

We know from years of experience that the link between good school attendance and high levels of attainment is well established. We are very concerned that students who are taken on holiday during school time are at risk of achieving less well than they should, and it is our responsibility to make you aware of the following information.

The Local Authority has issued new guidelines for Holidays in Term Time as follows:

Time off school for family holidays is not a right. From 1st September 2008 Wiltshire has amended its code of conduct to allow the issue of Penalty Notices to parents of pupils for periods of unauthorised holiday absence.

Schools may in special circumstances agree up to 5 days (10 sessions) “holiday leave” these are;

- when a family needs to spend time together to support each other during or after a crisis;
- for service personnel and other employees who are prevented from taking holidays outside term time *if* the holiday will have minimal disruption to the pupil’s education.

In general the Local Authority expects a school to consider the negative impact that any absence can have on a child’s academic progress, even if a child’s attendance is good, for example at 95% or above.

The Local Authority would not, however, expect a school to agree holiday leave if:

- the pupil already has poor attendance (below 90%) and the Education Welfare Service is involved or the pupil would miss public examinations such as National Curriculum Key Stage 2 SATS.

From 1st November 2008, holidays for the following reasons will not be authorised:

- availability of cheap holidays;
- availability of the desired accommodation;
- poor weather experienced in school holiday periods; and
- overlap with the beginning or end of term.

In all circumstances of holiday leave, a written application must be made, well in advance of the holiday, by the parent with whom the pupil normally resides.

If a pupil accumulates 10 or more sessions (5 days) of unauthorised holiday absence within a 6 month period of the current academic year, the school must notify the Local Authority and a Penalty Notice will be issued to each parent for each child where that applies. *A penalty will apply.*

Dates of terms and holidays are circulated frequently, are published on the school website and the school office has copies available on request. Occasionally the school will be closed for in-service teacher training. Parents will be notified in the Weekly Newsletter in good time. Any change in routine regarding school hours will also be notified to parents in reasonable time to ensure the safety of the children in our care.

It is law that the school keeps a record of authorised and unauthorised absences. If your child is absent please notify the school before 9.00 am each day of absence and on his/her return, please send a note, which can be addressed to the class teacher. If no phone call is received the school will make contact with the parent.

It is vital that we know where to reach you in an emergency. Please ensure your emergency contacts are up to date, as it can be very distressing for your child if contact cannot be made.

SCHOOL UNIFORM

We seek parents' co-operation in sending the children to school wearing appropriate clothing. Our school uniform consists of a white or grey polo shirt, maroon sweatshirt or cardigan (with school logo) and black or grey trousers/skirt. In the summer a red and white gingham check dress for the girls and black or grey shorts for the boys is acceptable. The school stocks polo shirts and sweatshirts and cardigans, we also have a second-hand uniform shop, which is run by the parents.

We do ask that all items of clothing are clearly named (and those name-tapes checked regularly). You will appreciate that lost unnamed items of school uniform are so similar that ownership can be untraceable.

Expensive items, such as watches, electronic games and jewellery, should not be brought to school. We cannot accept any responsibility for breakages and losses of such items. Stud earrings may be worn, but should be removed or taped over for timetabled physical activities.

P.E. clothing is a house colour t-shirt, black shorts and trainers/daps, which must be kept in school for the whole week. During the winter months a tracksuit can be worn for outdoor wear. A drawstring bag is the most suitable item in which to keep this equipment. Space on and around the children's pegs is very limited indeed. *All items again must be named.*

HOUSES

We are very proud of our House system and all children are allocated to a House when they join the School. The Houses are named after birds of prey and have their own colour:

Hawk - Yellow Merlin - Red Falcon - Green Kestrel - Blue

Each house has 2 House Captains from Year 6. Children can earn individual house points for their House. These are collated weekly. Each term, the House with the most points celebrate earns a donation of £25 for their chosen charity. Children compete for their Houses at events such as termly house challenges and Sports Day all staff are members of a House too.

Community Links

Holy Trinity Church

We have close links with our church. The clergy visit us to take collective worship, work with the children in their RE lessons and lead us for special Christian Festivals and services in the church itself. The Mother's Union have made our School Banner, which we use for special occasions like The Leavers Service at Salisbury Cathedral in the summer. Members of the church come to work with the children in school on special projects, such as preparing oranges for Christingle.

Pre-school

We believe wholeheartedly in building strong links with our local pre-school, which is on our school site. Our Early Years co-ordinator regularly liaises with the Pre-school Leader.

School Gardens

In 2002 the Local Amateur Gardening Club secured a Lottery Grant and transformed one side of our school field. The result..... 6 wonderful gardens, Lime, Cherry, Jubilee, Ash, Beech and Oak. We have added to these over the years and now have an allotment run by the children and a Year 1 flower, fruit and vegetable garden. We have a weekly school Gardening Club. In 2010 we added a Memorial Garden to our grounds to the extent that in 2014 we won the 'Environmental Youth Award' for our extensive work in this area.

In 2014 we developed a WWI commemorative garden and a Year 6 'Wild Wood'.

Friends of Dilton Marsh School (FOD's)

We have a very active Parent link in the 'Friends of Dilton Marsh School' (FOD's). 'FOD's' make a substantial contribution to the social life of the School, school funds and extra curricular activities. This cannot just be measured in financial terms. As a body it is a very real link between School and Home, its members are on hand at the majority of school functions with refreshments and generous help. The 'FOD's' committee always value any offer of help and support, both physical and financial. We all have a vested interest in the

'FOD's', as their contributions to the School benefit all our children. New members are always welcome!!!

Committee

Chair Sarah Yeadon

Secretary Zoe Hills

Treasurer Lucy Budd

Parents/Helpers are always welcome in School

As a school we are committed to parental involvement and want you to find Dilton Marsh a place where staff, parents and governors work together for the children's benefit and where you are always welcome, dads, mums and grandparents.

If you have some spare time, there are many ways you can help us and also get an idea of the way your children are being educated. Many parents help teachers in the classroom with activities such as cooking, sewing, artwork, reading with the children, helping on visits – the list is endless. You may not want to help in the classroom but feel you have a skill you that may be useful to us, please let us know.

NB: All helpers will need to agree to a DBS check, as everyone working or helping in our school needs to have one.

Visitors

We offer an 'Open House Ethos' welcoming all visitors to our school. The children always show our visitors around the site and a visitor's book is kept. Four year 6 children cook a meal for a guest each week. Recent guests have included the Town Mayor and his wife, members of the LA and our Academy as well as representatives of our local secondary schools and Churches.

Weekly Newsletter

We believe in keeping parents and the local community closely informed of what happens in Dilton Marsh School and do this through our Weekly Newsletter, which is published on our website every Friday.

Lunchtimes and break-time snacks

We are very lucky to have our own school run kitchen on site providing nutritious and varied menus of local produce for the children. The menu for the following week is announced in the Weekly Newsletter. Special diets can be catered for – vegetarians, allergies or for religious requirements (*please speak to the office staff regarding this*). Meals must be paid for in advance and are £2.20 per day at present (*correct at time of printing*). If you receive Income Support you may be able to claim free school meals for your child. Forms are available from the office. N.B. All KS1 children are entitled to a free school meal under the government's new UIFSM scheme (*correct at time of printing*).

If your child brings a packed lunch, we suggest that it is well balanced, without sweets or fizzy drinks. Please supply drinks in a plastic, leak-proof container or carton; for safety reasons please do not send in hot drinks in Thermos flasks. If your child goes home to lunch or needs to be collected during the lunch break, please ensure the office is informed, as we cannot allow children to leave the premises without permission. Rigorous signing in and out procedures are operated by our office staff.

Free milk is available in the reception class for the rising 5's and parents are given the option of paying for milk for the rest of the school year once their child has turned 5 years old.

Should your child wish to have something to eat at morning play, please do not send them with crisps or chocolate bars please try to make sure the snack is a healthy one!

Free fruit is available for KS1 children at break time.

It is very important that you do not give your child nuts - as we do have children with severe nut allergies.

Health Matters

Medicines – It is very important that we have asthma inhalers in school at all times. We are unable to administer medicines. However, there are times when this is unavoidable. All such matters relating to medication **MUST** be discussed with the head teacher and confirmed in writing. At no time should children be in possession of any medication.

Infectious illnesses – Obviously we need to be informed of any infectious disease, which an absentee may have had, for example German measles.

Allergies – Please ensure that the office is informed of all food allergies so that we can pass the details on to the kitchen. We are a NUT FREE school.

First Aid – We have first aid provision at school. Staff are regularly trained in current first aid practices. Of course parents are contacted whenever it is felt that the situation calls for such action.

Head Lice – this is a nationwide problem. It is kept under control here by the diligence, patience and understanding of teachers and parents. Please examine your children's hair frequently and seek professional advice if you suspect infection.

Charging

We keep charging to an absolute minimum. We are also lucky that our FODS make contributions each year to our funds to allow us to enrich our curriculum with visits out and visitors in at the lowest cost to parents.

As a school, we run a great deal of events and activities for the benefit of the children, outside the scope of the basic curriculum. No matter how large our School Budget there will always be a shortfall between what the Government is able to provide, and what the School would like to offer. Because of this when we wish to make an extra curricular visit; invite outside performers or speakers into school; or organise a School Trip, we ask the parents of those children concerned to make a voluntary donation towards the cost of the event. Of course there is no compulsion to pay, and no child will ever be excluded because of his parents' inability to pay. However, should funds not be available, then the planned function would not be allowed to take place. The Headteacher could be approached for confidential advice on this matter.

CURRICULUM

We educate the whole child, for life, for the future.....

We are now teaching from a new national curriculum. The national curriculum provides pupils with an introduction to the essential knowledge and skills that they need to be educated citizens and helps engender an appreciation of human creativity and achievement.

The curriculum includes the following curriculum areas:

English, Mathematics, Science, Computing, Design and Technology, History, Geography, Music, Art, Physical Education, Religious Education, Foreign Language and a number of cross-curricular issues. These include subjects such as Personal and Social Education, as well as the social moral, spiritual and cultural aspects of learning.

Not all teaching can be done through topic work and so a careful balance of subjects, requiring basic skill development and progression, is also included. Teachers keep careful records which ensure that children have a progression through the school. There is regular contact with parents which enables everyone to share in the progress of each individual child.

For each subject, the essential characteristics for learning are as follows.

ENGLISH

Essential Characteristics of Writers

- The ability to write fluently and with interesting detail on a number of topics throughout the curriculum.
- A vivid imagination which makes readers engage with and enjoy their writing.
- A highly developed vocabulary and an excellent knowledge of writing techniques to extend details or description.
- Well-organised and structured writing, which includes a variety of sentence structures.
- Excellent transcription skills that ensure their writing is well presented and punctuated, spelt correctly and neat.

- A love of writing in all its forms.

Essential Characteristics of Readers

- Excellent phonic knowledge and skills.
- Fluency and accuracy in reading across a wide range of contexts throughout the curriculum.
- Knowledge of an extensive and rich vocabulary.
- An excellent comprehension of texts.
- The motivation to read for both study and for pleasure.
- To be well read.

Essential Characteristics of Excellent Communicators

- An exceptional talent for listening attentively so as to understand what is being said.
- A rich and varied vocabulary that gives clarity and interest to conversations.
- Clear speech that can be easily understood by a range of audiences.
- An excellent grasp of the rules used in English conversation, such as tenses and the grammatical structure of sentences.
- A highly developed ability to tell stories that capture the interest and imagination of the audience.
- A delight in initiating and joining in conversations.
- Respect for others when communicating, even when views differ.

Much emphasis is placed on communication skills. We encourage children to listen carefully, talk, discuss, debate, reason and report.

Phonics is taught systematically throughout the school as appropriate for each individual.

Independent writing is encouraged from the very beginning and a variety of situations will be used to develop different writing skills, i.e. creative, descriptive and factual writing.

Spelling, punctuation and general grammar are taught at the appropriate stages and handwriting receives regular practice.

Throughout the school we encourage a love of reading and we provide a wide range of books, both fiction and non-fiction. With your help, we want the children to use and read books confidently, both for pleasure and information. Children's reading ability is carefully monitored throughout the school.

MATHEMATICS

Essential Characteristics of Mathematicians

- An understanding of the important concepts and an ability to make connections within mathematics.
- A broad range of skills in using and applying mathematics.
- Fluent knowledge and recall of number facts and the number system.
- The ability to show initiative in solving problems in a wide range of contexts, including the new or unusual.
- The ability to think independently and to persevere when faced with challenges.
- The ability to embrace the value of learning from mistakes and false starts.
- The ability to reason, generalise and make sense of solutions.
- Fluency in performing written and mental calculations and mathematical techniques.
- A wide range of mathematical vocabulary.
- A commitment to and passion for the subject.

We use arrange of resources and materials to support the learning of mathematics. As mathematics is all around us, we try to use every day practical experiences and situations to encourage mathematical understanding. We are continually developing new activities and games to extend, develop and consolidate numerical concepts.

SCIENCE

Essential characteristics of Science

- The ability to think independently and raise questions about working scientifically and the knowledge and skills that it brings.
- Confidence and competence in the full range of practical skills, taking the initiative in, for example, planning and carrying out scientific investigations.
- Excellent scientific knowledge and understanding which is demonstrated in written and verbal explanations, solving challenging problems and reporting scientific findings.
- High levels of originality, imagination or innovation in the application of skills.
- The ability to undertake practical work in a variety of contexts, including fieldwork.
- A passion for science and its application in past, present and future technologies.

We aim to encourage the children's' natural enjoyment of exploration and develop their ability to observe, compare and classify. Children are given practice in undertaking their own experiments and they learn to record the findings in various ways. Science often complements the whole school topic and learning is extended and deepened through this cross curricular approach.

COMPUTING

Essential characteristics of Computing

- Competence in coding for a variety of practical and inventive purposes, including the application of ideas within other subjects.
- The ability to connect with others safely and respectfully, understanding the need to act within the law and with moral and ethical integrity.
- An understanding of the connected nature of devices.
- The ability to communicate ideas well by using applications and devices throughout the curriculum.
- The ability to collect, organise and manipulate data effectively.

The school has a computer suite where the children are taught specific computing skills and are encouraged to become as proficient as possible in computer usage. The computers in school are also used by the children to support the rest of the curriculum. We also have a set of 10 iPads for the children to use.

RELIGIOUS EDUCATION

Essential characteristics of Religious Education

- An outstanding level of religious understanding and knowledge.
- A thorough engagement with a range of ultimate questions about the meaning and significance of existence.
- The ability to ask significant and highly reflective questions about religion and demonstrate an excellent understanding of issues related to the nature, truth and value of religion.
- A strong understanding of how the beliefs, values, practices and ways of life within any religion cohere together.
- Exceptional independence; the ability to think for themselves and take the initiative in, for example, asking questions, carrying out investigations, evaluating ideas and working constructively with others.
- Significant levels of originality, imagination or creativity, which are shown in their responses to their learning in RE.
- The ability to link the study of religion and belief to personal reflections on meaning and purpose.

Religious Education is an integral part of the life within Dilton Marsh Primary School and our aim is to foster a Christian attitude as well as to present a basic understanding of Christianity. It is important that the children are aware of the richness and diversity of religious belief.

Each day we hold a short assembly and on a Wednesday we hold a celebration assembly featuring a particular class to which all parents, toddlers and friends are welcome. Occasionally Minister, from other local churches will lead assembly. Being a church school, Dilton Marsh is in an ideal position to

maintain close and regular contact with the church. School services are often in church such as Harvest festival, Christmas Carol service and Easter services.

Parents have a right to withdraw their child from R.E. but should consult the Headteacher to discuss any implications.

GEOGRAPHY

Essential characteristics of Geography:

- An excellent knowledge of where places are and what they are like.
- An excellent understanding of the ways in which places are interdependent and interconnected and how much human and physical environments are interrelated.
- An extensive base of geographical knowledge and vocabulary.
- Fluency in complex, geographical enquiry and the ability to apply questioning skills and use effective analytical and presentational techniques.
- The ability to reach clear conclusions and develop a reasoned argument to explain findings.
- Significant levels of originality, imagination or creativity as shown in interpretations and representations of the subject matter.
- Highly developed and frequently utilised fieldwork and other geographical skills and techniques.
- A passion for and commitment to the subject, and a real sense of curiosity to find out about the world and the people who live there.
- The ability to express well-balanced opinions, rooted in very good knowledge and understanding about current and contemporary issues in society and the environment.

Taught within a whole school topic, in a cross curricular manner with a focus on the necessary skills, knowledge and understanding required.

HISTORY

Essential characteristics of History:

- An excellent knowledge and understanding of people, events, and contexts from a range of historical periods and of historical concepts and processes.
- The ability to think critically about history and communicate ideas very confidently in styles appropriate to a range of audiences.
- The ability to consistently support, evaluate and challenge their own and others' views using detailed, appropriate and accurate historical evidence derived from a range of sources.
- The ability to think, reflect, debate, discuss and evaluate the past, formulating and refining questions and lines of enquiry.
- A passion for history and an enthusiastic engagement in learning, which develops their sense of curiosity about the past and their understanding of how and why people interpret the past in different ways.
- A respect for historical evidence and the ability to make robust and critical use of it to support their explanations and judgments.
- A desire to embrace challenging activities, including opportunities to undertake high-quality research across a range of history topics.

Taught within a whole school topic, in a cross curricular manner with a focus on the necessary skills, knowledge and understanding required.

PHYSICAL EDUCATION

Essential Characteristics of Physical Education:

- The ability to acquire new knowledge and skills exceptionally well and develop an in-depth understanding of PE.
- The willingness to practise skills in a wide range of different activities and situations, alone, in small groups and in teams and to apply these skills in chosen activities to achieve exceptionally high levels of performance.
- High levels of physical fitness.
- A healthy lifestyle, achieved by eating sensibly, avoiding smoking, drugs and alcohol and exercising regularly.

- The ability to remain physically active for sustained periods of time and an understanding of the importance of this in promoting long-term health and well-being.
- The ability to take the initiative and become excellent young leaders, organising and officiating, and evaluating what needs to be done to improve, and motivating and instilling excellent sporting attitudes in others.
- Exceptional levels of originality, imagination and creativity in their techniques, tactics and choreography, knowledge of how to improve their own and others' performance and the ability to work independently for extended periods of time without the need of guidance or support.
- A keen interest in PE. A willingness to participate eagerly in every lesson, highly positive attitudes and the ability to make informed choices about engaging fully in extra-curricular sport.
- The ability to swim at least 25 metres before the end of Year 6 and knowledge of how to remain safe in and around water.

Part of P.E. learning involves Health Education, Personal and Social Education and deals with a wide variety of matters including relationships with others, taking care of ourselves and Sex Education in its broadest sense.

P.E. lessons are held regularly in the hall and, weather permitting on the school playground and field. The children require a pair of daps, shorts, a T shirt to change into.

Swimming lessons take place on a Friday in a heated pool at Westbury Swimming Pool with life savers in attendance and all children in Key Stage 2 have an opportunity to swim during the year. As the school has to fund the cost of the coach, we are grateful for a contribution from each child.

We employ Specialised Sport coaches who teach across the school for one and a half days a week.

DESIGN AND TECHNOLOGY

Essential Characteristics of Design and Technology:

- Significant levels of originality and the willingness to take creative risks to produce innovative ideas and prototypes.
- An excellent attitude to learning and independent working.
- The ability to use time efficiently and work constructively and productively with others.
- The ability to carry out thorough research, show initiative and ask questions to develop an exceptionally detailed knowledge of users' needs.
- The ability to act as responsible designers and makers, working ethically, using finite materials carefully and working safely.
- A thorough knowledge of which tools, equipment and materials to use to make their products.
- The ability to apply mathematical knowledge.
- The ability to manage risks exceptionally well to manufacture products safely and hygienically.
- A passion for the subject and knowledge of, up-to-date technological innovations in materials, products and systems.

We are very aware of living in a technological age and therefore aim to present the children, from a very early age, with problem-solving activities. Taught within a whole school topic, in a cross curricular manner with a focus on the necessary skills, knowledge and understanding required.

ART AND DESIGN

Essential Characteristics of Art and Design:

- The ability to use visual language skilfully and convincingly (for example, line, shape, pattern, colour, texture, form) to express emotions, interpret observations, convey insights and accentuate their individuality.
- The ability to communicate fluently in visual and tactile form.
- The ability to draw confidently and adventurously from observation, memory and imagination.

- The ability to explore and invent marks, develop and deconstruct ideas and communicate perceptively and powerfully through purposeful drawing in 2D, 3D or digital media.
- An impressive knowledge and understanding of other artists, craft makers and designers.
- The ability to think and act like creative practitioners by using their knowledge and understanding to inform, inspire and interpret ideas, observations and feelings.
- Independence, initiative and originality which they can use to develop their creativity.
- The ability to select and use materials, processes and techniques skilfully and inventively to realise intentions and capitalise on the unexpected.
- The ability to reflect on, analyse and critically evaluate their own work and that of others.
- A passion for and a commitment to the subject.

Taught within a whole school topic, in a cross curricular manner with a focus on the necessary skills, knowledge and understanding required.

MUSIC

Essential Characteristics of Music:

- A rapidly widening repertoire which they use to create original, imaginative, fluent and distinctive composing and performance work.
- A musical understanding underpinned by high levels of aural perception, internalisation and knowledge of music, including high or rapidly developing levels of technical expertise.
- Very good awareness and appreciation of different musical traditions and genres.
- An excellent understanding of how musical provenance - the historical, social and cultural origins of music - contributes to the diversity of musical styles.
- The ability to give precise written and verbal explanations, using musical terminology effectively, accurately and appropriately.

- A passion for and commitment to a diverse range of musical activities.

Music plays an important part of the life of our school. Activities include singing, percussion and elementary music reading. All the children learn to play the flute in years 5 and 6. Instrumental tuition i.e. flute, violin, piano, guitar, and clarinet is available but parents have to bear the costs.

HOMEWORK

Homework is given on a three weekly cycle,

Week one: Formal Numeracy/ Literacy

Week two: Creative homework

Week three: No homework.

Children are also given reading books, spellings and timetables to learn at home regularly.

ENVIRONMENTAL EDUCATION

We are committed to developing in children an understanding and appreciation of the natural and constructed world locally, nationally and internationally. We encourage them to develop a sense of responsibility for looking after, and improving, the environment around them. The school has extensive environmental facilities around the school site which are integrated within our curriculum, this led to us being awarded the prestigious Environmental Youth Award 2014 by HRH Duchess of Cornwall.

PERSONAL AND SOCIAL EDUCATION

In all aspects of school life, we aim to promote the personal and social development of children. We aim to develop an understanding of how to look after ourselves, basic life skills and interpersonal skills. We help children to understand, and come to terms with, growing up. "Sex Education" is taught in school as an aspect of Personal and Social Education and is taught in a way appropriate to the age of the children.

FOREIGN LANGUAGES

Essential characteristics of Languages

- The confidence to speak with good intonation and pronunciation.
- Fluency in reading.
- Fluency and imagination in writing.
- A strong awareness of the culture of the countries where the language is spoken.
- A passion for languages and a commitment to the subject.
- The ability to use language creatively and spontaneously.
- An independence in their studies and the ability to draw upon a wide range of resources.

French is taught in all classes across the school.

SPECIAL EDUCATION

Many children experience some difficulty in learning during their school career. Some problems are easily identified and dealt with by the class teacher. Sometimes it may be necessary to give a child particular help through a specific learning programme.

For further information and details please see our SEN&D Offer.

Pupils with Additional Educational Needs

We believe that all children are 'Special' and we actively promote an equal opportunities policy and anyone attending our school will be made equally welcome.

- We have a recently designed, modern, single-storey building.
- Easy access to all parts of the school.
- A separate disabled toilet.

Some children have special needs, which are medical, others experience learning or behaviour difficulties. They are helped by our well-trained Teaching Assistants who work with the children either individually or within groups under the direction of the class teacher.

Parents whose children are being helped in this way will be closely involved and informed of progress at every stage.

If we find a child requires more help than the school is able to provide, we will involve outside agencies to help assess the child's needs.

The school has a comprehensive special needs policy which details how we cater for our children with special needs; this may be viewed in school at any time. We also have a special needs co-ordinator who works with the teachers and teaching assistants to make sure the children's needs are fully met and they have full access to the curriculum.

Information about the Special Educational Needs and Disability provision which is available at Dilton Marsh Primary School

Frequently asked questions

How does the school know if my child needs extra support?

- The staff regularly check children's work and understanding
- Regular assessment points in the year will show how individual children are progressing
- Should there be a concern about a child's progress then initially the class teacher will make contact with the child's parents
- Should any concerns grow, then the schools SENCo would become involved in any discussions

How will Dilton Marsh School support my child?

- By communicating fully with you as parents about our concerns and listening to your concerns
- By identifying any SEN related issues and taking appropriate actions by working with you and your child to achieve the best possible outcome for your child
- By engaging the best people and resources available to help your child

How will the curriculum be matched to my child?

- By providing a creative curriculum for all children
- Teachers are trained to adapt the class activities to meet a variety of needs
- Your child's learning will be directed by their "Education and Health care plan"
- If appropriate an individual curriculum will be created for your child

How accessible is the school site?

Our school site is on one level with a few small steps into the building

SEND Staff at Dilton Marsh

- Special Needs Coordinator Laura Driscoll
- Qualified teaching assistants
- Class teachers who are trained in a variety of SEN areas as well as Restorative justice and Assertive Discipline

Specialist Services

Although we try to draw on our own expert staff, Dilton Marsh School also has access to the following specialist services:

- Educational Psychologists
- Speech and language therapists
- Wiltshire's physical impairment service
- Learning support services
- Wiltshire's behaviour support team
- CAMHS (Children's mental health support team)
- Autism and Asperger's outreach team

Support for parents and careers

- We can signpost individuals to appropriate services and parental support

Transition

- We have good contacts with our neighbouring Secondary Schools
- We are able to organise extended transition programmes for individual pupils
- We have good working relationships with SENCOs from other schools who often visit our setting

Inclusion

We make every effort to ensure that all children with a Special Educational need or Disability are fully included in every aspect of the school's curriculum and daily social life. Where this is not possible, reasonable adjustments are made to ensure participation.

General Information

- Class sizes are approximately 30 children per class, and never more than 30.
- Special diets can be accommodated. Please contact the school office on 01373 822902 or by email office@diltonmarsh.wilts.sch.uk

Further contact

The Head teacher and SENCo can be contacted on 01373 822902 or by email admin@diltonmarsh.wilts.sch.uk

Complaints

We did not receive any complaints last year regarding SEND

Reporting Progress

We encourage parents to take a real interest in their child's life at school. Staff are pleased to discuss progress at any reasonable time, or by appointment. Parents evenings are held in the Autumn and Spring terms. A written end of year School Report of Achievement is issued at the end of the Summer Term.

Extra-Curricular Activities

In addition to the wide range of curricular experience that the school provides, a variety of extra-curricular activities are available to children. Members of the school staff run these clubs on a voluntary basis. Outside agencies can also be involved in running out-of-school activities. Clubs run for set periods and sometimes there may be a small charge, e.g. as in the drama club run for periods throughout the year, by professional actors. Other clubs, which have recently been offered include – Football, Kwik-cricket, Maths, Gardening, Homework, Choir, Art, Gymnastics, Science and Netball.

Educational Visits

We believe that children learn best from their experiences and visits are an ideal way of achieving this. They make the classroom work more meaningful. Many visits are local and within walking (visit to the church, exploring the village) others are further afield and require coach travel. We always use coaches with seat belts.

Past visits have included – @Bristol, SS Great Britain, Devizes Canal Museum, Devizes Museum, Houses of Parliament, Kew Gardens, Westonbirt Arboretum, Sevington Victorian School, Old Sarum, Stonehenge, Avebury, Bath Spa Museum, Stourhead, We the Curious and London.

Complaints Procedures

Should you have a particular query or complaint regarding a matter of Curriculum or Religious Education, it is very important that a member of Staff is approached as soon as possible and practical.

If you have any other complaint, please contact your child's class teacher first of all; most problems can be resolved by doing this. If they are unable to resolve your complaint, please do not hesitate to approach the Assistant Heads or Headteacher for their help.

If you are still not satisfied that your complaint has been resolved by the Headteacher, you should talk directly to the Chair of Academy Council who may be contacted through the School Office. We have a Complaints Policy which is on our school website and also a paper copy is available from the office.