

THE DOUBLETREES DISPATCH

20 November 2026

IN THE KNOW...

Staffing updates:





This term, we are delighted to welcome two familiar members of the Doubletrees community into new roles within the school. **Kate Chanin** as our new School and Family Support Worker, with a key role in strengthening proactive engagement with families. Kate has been appointed from within Doubletrees, so already knows our school and community well, and is looking forward to getting to know all our families. Kate will lead the development of our parental engagement strategy, helping us to build even stronger partnerships between home and school so that families are well informed, listened to and supported as we work together to achieve the best outcomes for every child and young person.

We are also pleased to congratulate **Matthew Sambrook**, who, after many years as a Teaching Assistant at Doubletrees, has joined our HLTA (Higher Level Teaching Assistant) team. Matthew's extensive knowledge of our school and commitment to supporting our learners make him a valuable addition to the team.

We are thrilled to see both Kate and Matthew progress into their new positions and wish them every success in their new roles.

HEADTEACHER HIGHLIGHTS...



A Focus on Continued Improvement:

One of the things I am particularly keen that we share more regularly with families is how we are continuing to develop and improve Doubletrees, and most importantly, the difference this is making for our children and young people.

Our school improvement priorities for this year focus on the areas that we believe will have the greatest impact on pupils' experiences, progress and outcomes. This includes making sure that every pupil's individual needs are well understood, barriers to learning are identified and addressed, and teaching and support are consistently strong across the school. We are also continuing to strengthen how we develop pupils' independence and prepare our young people for adulthood, future destinations and their next steps.

A particularly important part of this work is ensuring that the support around each pupil is genuinely personalised. We are strengthening the way we identify and monitor pupils who may need additional support, reviewing our specialist interventions and therapeutic provision, and ensuring that information about individual needs is clear and useful to the staff working with each child.

We have already started to see progress. Our oversight of pupils who may need additional support has been strengthened, specialist intervention arrangements have been reviewed, and we have continued to develop individual healthcare planning. We have also updated our allergy procedures and staff training. Leaders are spending more time in classrooms alongside pupils and staff, giving us an even clearer picture of what is working well and where we need to focus our attention next.

Preparation for adulthood and greater independence remain really important to us. For our older pupils in particular, we want learning to prepare them meaningfully for life beyond Doubletrees, building the communication, confidence, independence and life skills they will need for their individual next steps.

For me, the most important measure of school improvement is not how many actions we have completed or whether something can simply be ticked off a plan. It is whether the work we are doing is making a genuine and lasting difference for our children and young people.

As the year progresses, we hope families will increasingly see the impact through greater consistency, strong communication, learning and support that are well matched to individual needs, and children and young people becoming increasingly engaged, confident and independent. We will continue to review our progress carefully and share more with you about what we are doing and the difference it is making.

Heidi Hoskin

LETS GET TO KNOW...

Jo Ellis. Cedar Class Teacher



Hi everyone, my name is Jo Ellis, and I have already begun my journey with Doubletrees this academic year.

In my previous role, I was a class teacher and have spent the last 6 years also working as a school SENDCO. I spent over 20 years in my previous school and look forward to settling in at Doubletrees for the next phase of my career.

I have lived locally since I was little and my family is still close by.

In my spare time I sew and make clothes for friends, family and make children's clothing for a couple of lovely local shops. I love spending time with family, watching tv with my children and being curled up in front of the log burner at home with our two labradors 😊

SPOTLIGHT ON...

School Council

'Listening to Our Learners'

Our first two Student Council meetings have focused on making sure our learners' voices are heard and their views help shape school life. Representatives gathered feedback from their classes about where they enjoy learning, what helps them feel calm, and which activities they would like more of throughout the school day. Class votes highlighted the importance of calm time, sensory activities, movement breaks and outdoor learning in helping learners feel regulated and ready to learn.

We are now reflecting on how these activities are making a difference through our 'You Say, We Did' approach, ensuring learners' ideas lead to meaningful changes.

This half-term, our focus will be 'Communication and Having My Voice Heard', exploring how we can support every learner to express themselves in ways that work for them.

SHOWCASING...

Science

This term, our science learning has focused on seasons and weather, providing learners with engaging opportunities to explore the world around them through their senses. Lower school pupils have been investigating different types of weather, experiencing hot, cold and wet conditions, listening to the sounds of rain and wind, and learning about suitable clothing for different seasons. Through hands-on, sensory-rich activities, learners are developing their understanding of seasonal changes, comparing temperatures and recognising how weather affects our daily lives. These experiences encourage curiosity, communication and exploration while helping pupils build a greater awareness of the natural world around them. It has been wonderful to see our learners actively engaging, making discoveries and developing their scientific understanding through meaningful, real-life experiences.

SPOTLIGHT ON... ON-LINE SAFETY. WhatsApp Focus!

WhatsApp is a popular messaging app that allows users to send messages, photos, videos and voice notes. The minimum age to use WhatsApp in the UK is 16 years old. What should parents know?

- Group chats: Anyone in a group can see messages, even if they are not saved in your child's contacts. Encourage your child to leave any group chat that makes them feel uncomfortable.
- Location sharing: WhatsApp allows users to share their live location. Talk to your child about only sharing their location with trusted people when necessary.
- Blocking and reporting: Make sure your child knows how to block and report users who are unkind or share inappropriate content.

****Top Tip**: Regularly check privacy settings and keep conversations open about your child's online experiences. **Click here** for safety advice from NSPCC on 'WhatsApp Safe for My Child'

STUDENT STORIES & STAR LEARNERS!

Each week we have a star learner assembly where we recognise all of our learners' achievements.
We select a star learner that corresponds with our core values below...

ACHIEVE Ben in Cherry class for having the happiest week we have seen him have; and for lifting both legs off the pool floor and kicking! Great achievement Ben!

BELONG Willow class learner was Lexi for saying the word 'yellow' and engaging well in her learning.

COMMUNICATE Logan in Hazel class received star of the week due to his effort and engagement in lessons.

DEVELOP Bella is Maple's star Learner this week because she has been making fantastic progress in developing her social and interaction skills. She is showing great improvements in how she approaches and communicates with others, learning to do so in a calm, appropriate and respectful manner.

ENJOY Arlo in Oak class for going swimming for the first time, enjoying the session and staying regulated throughout.

THANK YOU... 'BAILEY PARTNERSHIP'

We wish to extend a big Thank You to 'Bailey Partnership', a chartered architect company in Plymouth for donating a new LifeVac machine to our school. *'A LifeVac machine is a non-invasive suction device designed to clear airway obstructions in choking emergencies. It is intended to be used as a second line treatment after standard choking rescue protocols have been followed without success. The device is trusted by families, caregivers, and medical professionals worldwide and has helped save thousands of lives. LifeVac is registered as a medical device and is supported by numerous peer-reviewed medical studies. It is a compact and essential kit for any environment, where choking can occur'.* While we hope it is something that we never need to use, we are thankful to have this extra piece of equipment available to us.



EYFS...

Please click here to see what we have achieved this week...



ENGAGEMENT...

Please click here to see what we have achieved this week...



DISCOVERY...

Please click here to see what we have achieved this week...



EXPLORATION...

Please click here to see what we have achieved this week...



POST-14...

Please click here to see what we have achieved this week...



WHAT'S HAPPENING IN THE COMMUNITY...

Family Information Services (FIS)...

What is FIS (Family Information Service) and SEND Local Offer?

'Our Family Information Service (FIS) provides information, advice and guidance on childcare, activities and services for children, young people and their families as well as the SEND Local Offer. FIS supports:

- parents / carers
- parents to be, and
- children and young people from birth to 19, and up to 25 if they have a special educational need and / or disability (SEND)

Our SEND Local Offer is the provision that is available for children and young people with Special Educational Needs and Disabilities (SEND) and their families. It includes:

- health and social care
- education and training
- activities for children and young people with SEND'

Click here to see what supportive services FIS offer families in Cornwall.



PARENT PAY... Meal Bookings

A reminder to all parents about booking meals in Parent Pay. Please ensure that you book meals in advance and top up your account to ensure you have sufficient credit if you pay for meals. We will no longer be able to book meals on the day if you have omitted to order by the deadline. In the event that meals haven't been ordered and are required on the day, we will call parents to request that packed lunches are dropped in to school to cover that day's meal. Thank you for your support to keep our systems running efficiently.

HARLEQUIN PROFESSIONAL PHOTOS...

School photos are in the editing stage with Harlequin. Once they are ready to view, we will send home individual personalised cards with log in information/QR codes. These will be sent home in book bags of the learners who participated, with information of how to view and purchase on-line if you wish. If you have photos delivered to school by their specified deadline, there will not be a postage charge. Photos ordered to home, will have a delivery charge.

HARLEQUIN PHOTOGRAPHY

KEY EVENTS...

16.12.26 – Discovery Pathway church service ** Look out for class poster and home/school books for more information.
16.12.26 – Santa and Elves on custom motor bikes visit our learners & Christmas Jumper and Christmas dinner day in school.
18.12.26 – Last day of the Autumn term.
05.01.27 – Learners return to school for the start of the Spring term (04.01.27 is an INSET day)