



NEWSLETTER

Dartmoor
Multi Academy
Trust

...everyone in our Trust.

**FRIDAY 14TH JUNE
2024**



Dear North Tawton Families,

Our final half term has started with a residential to Normandy, D Day commemorations and a competition winner! Pupils have been working hard in class starting new topics, completing phonics, maths and reading assessments and enjoying making the most of our outdoor areas. The staff are working hard planning Sports Day, preparing an exciting end of year production and writing reports. FONTS are making the final arrangements for our FontsFest. It's all go!

Here's a sneak look at the backdrop for the Year 5 and 6 production, can you guess the country it's set in and the book it's based on?



With many thanks to our talented staff for staying long after hours to make the scenery and props. We really do have a wonderful staff team!



Year Six pupils had a wonderful time in Normandy and made us very proud.
 Read more here: <https://dartmoormat.org.uk/.../trust-normandy-residential/>

On Monday 3rd June, Year 6 children made their way to Normandy



Dartmoor Multi Academy Trust

...everyone in our Trust.

Arriving in France on Tuesday 4th June, the children were fantastic and settled brilliantly overnight. They had a really smooth and uneventful crossing and arrived in Ouistreham to sunshine and blue skies.

The first visit took the children to Pegasus Bridge – the landing site of 5 horse gliders who flew in silently, a few minutes after midnight on 6th June 1944: D-Day. We learned about the importance of securing the bridge and how Maurice and Marlene Gondeau the owners of the cafe just beside it, fed information to allied forces through the French Resistance. The children visited the monuments indicating where the gliders landed and also the cafe, where Arlette Gondeau, now 84, still operates a thriving business in memory of the forces who secured the bridge. We were thrilled to see the bridge being raised to allow the royal yacht of the King of Norway pass along the canal!



In beautiful Bayeux, the children enjoyed a picnic lunch in the shade of the cathedral. Refreshed for the next visits, they explored the majesty of its interior just briefly before the cathedral closed to prepare for a D-Day service for the Royal British Legion. They took the opportunity to sit on the steps outside to sketch the front facade.

"We had so many lovely compliments from passers by about the wonderful behaviour of our children. A fellow teacher from America was even keen to set us up as partner school in Devonley HDB!"

A visit to the Bayeux Tapestry to see and hear about the Norman invasion in 1066 proved a firm favourite with the children!



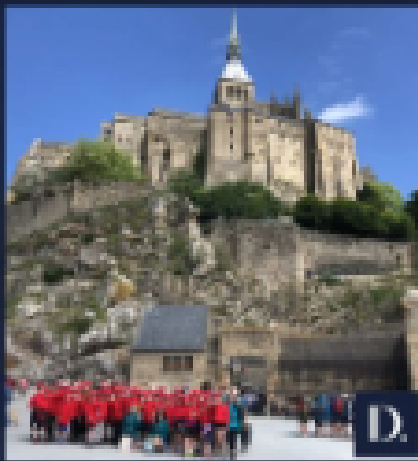
The final visit of the day was at the 3rd degree museum in Arromanches. Children made the following comments afterwards:

"It felt like you were there!"
 "It was extremely interesting!"
 "Eye dazzling!"



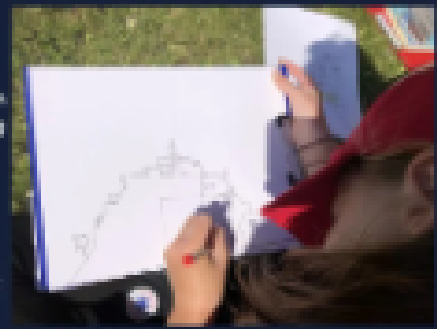
All arrived at the Chateau with many 'sofas' and 'couches'. Having had a full day of visits, the staff arranged some evening activities in the beautiful grounds before it returns to rooms for a shower and bed. Everyone enjoyed mixing with children from other schools.

Next stop- Le Mont St Michel. As they approached they could see the 'Disney-like' structure on the horizon. Everyone climbed the 500+ steps to the top of the fortress and learned about why Mont St Michel had been built under the orders of William the Conqueror after the Battle of Hastings in 1066 as a safe refuge from any potential attackers.

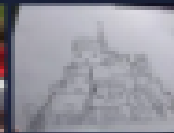


D.

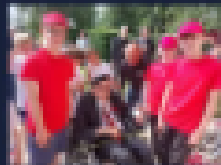
A glorious afternoon at the Circuit Factory opposite Le Mont St Michel where the children developed their sketching skills.



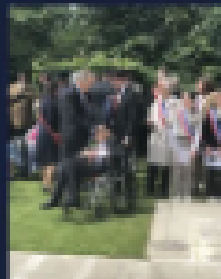
Everyone had the opportunity to use their pocket money to buy some biscuits and try out their French too.



D.



We knew that our DMAT children were great but today they raised the bar again! Responding to the issues created by the special events planned for the 80th anniversary of D-Day, we managed to secure a special permit from the mayor of Caen to be able to pass through the police roadblocks. The service here at the British Memorial in France was being attended by our King and Queen and world leaders from several countries, so such a permit was essential, including all the landing beaches.



We attempted twice to enter Caen but were turned away and we were fearful that our hopes to attend the service at the war memorial there would be dashed. Finally, we returned to Caen to enable the children to get off the coach and stretch their legs. Whilst the option to them that we could try again, but tonight be disappointed - the children unanimously encouraged us to try again. So after lunch we made our way back to the police officers who called their superiors ... to no avail. At this point hundreds of coaches being escorted by police escorts began to arrive.



With the sound of children cheering and released of the national anthem playing in our ears, we made haste to drive the short distance back to the town.

We were directed to a parking bay and marched into the town. Through the residential streets. All of a sudden we heard the sound of police sirens and then saw the familiar insignia arrive at both Bayes of the British Royal family. The vehicles slowed down and lower captain King Charles and Queen Camilla went by us to mark jubilation from children and adults.



Ultimately, we found our policeman from the marketplace close to walk one Cecil Newton, D-Day veteran and the service began, following a strongly service during which our year five school children read out the 101 names of 80 and 89 D-Day paratroopers during WW2.

The child from each of our schools joined the proceedings to try our DMAT wreath. Then our moment came to sing the national anthem our children sang with all their heart and soul incredibly moving!

We celebrated afterwards with ice cream as a thank you for outstanding spirit and behaviour. Just imagine how!

St Mary's Square was buzzing with activity due to the 80th anniversary of D-Day! The square was filled with stands, a big stage with bands and orchestra playing and the souvenir shops, filled with eager tourists. On arrival, a procession of American army vehicles was making its way through the town. Looking up at the church, situated centrally in the town, children learned about John Steele, an American paratrooper whose parachute became entangled in the spire as he floated down from the plane. He had to hang for 2 hours, performing to be denied to avoid being shot at by Germans in the square. A model of him hangs from the spire. "A distinct number of engines drew our attention to the blue skies and as the sound rapidly grew to roar, we marvelled at a display of WW2 planes flying low overhead".

Next, a superb visit to the Airborne Museum delivered a wide variety of activities and exhibits for the children to experience. Many said it was their favourite museum ever!



D.

It was an appropriate final visit for our Memorial to attend to see the British Memorial and its new installation, "The People's Tribute".

We gathered nearby, looking out over the British landing beach, Gold Beach, where 50 years ago British soldiers arrived in a fleet of landing craft to take uneasy footings onto the beach to make their way into the French countryside - the bridge.

We made our way to the center of the memorial, where majestic pillars are assembled in the image of the Union Flag. Gathering at its centre, we recited the poem read so beautifully by Cecil Newton yesterday in Caen:

They shall not grow old, as we that are left grow old,
Age shall not weary them, nor the years condemn.
At the going down of the sun and in the morning,
We will remember them.



D.

A final note for the Normandy residential 2024 (Trip1) - A huge thank you to all of the children who performed so brilliantly. It certainly was a momentous occasion and one which nobody will forget.

Everyone has been noticed throughout the week with our distinctive red caps and hoodies and for all the right reasons - they have truly represented our schools in style.

Thank you also to the incredible team of staff, without whom this week simply could not have happened. They have served with a smile, day and night, giving up time in evenings and with their own families, to provide such a great week for our DMAT children.

It has been a team effort and great fun along the way.

Finally, thank you to the parents for giving your children into our care for the week. The hope is that the responsibility, independence and new friendships they have gained will serve them well through the transition into secondary school.

Thank You

D.



D Day Commemorations

While most of our Year Six pupils were in Normandy taking part in D Day commemorations, Year 5 and 6 pupils were honoured to be part of our North Tawton flag blessing.



Congratulations to Myles whose flag design was chosen by the Town Council in the North Tawton flag design competition. Councillor Jen Palfrey presented him with this certificate in assembly.



Reporting an absence

Absences due to illness are unavoidable in most cases. There are also times when a child is ill in school and we have to ask you to pick them up early. The '48-hour rule' applies when pupils are physically sick or have an upset tummy.

A parent or carer must inform us of absence, office staff record this information and communicate it to the teachers.

For safeguarding reasons, it really is vital that you let us know **each day** why your child is absent from school. If we don't hear from parents, staff from our ICE team will ring to ensure that they are safe at home.

In some cases, if we're particularly worried or have not had a response from a phone call, we might conduct a home visit and then if necessary inform MASH (Multi Agency Safeguarding Hub) and the police. is something we don't want to have to do, but we have a duty of care to follow up on the absence if we're at all concerned.

Attendance records

There are several codes in use for recording attendance and absences. Two are recorded each day, for the morning and afternoon sessions. Here are the most common.

- Code M: appointment with a doctor or dentist, etc.
- Code I: genuine illness.
- Code G: unauthorised holiday.
- Code L: late before register closes.
- Code U: late after register closes. This counts as an **unauthorised** absence for the whole session.
- Code O: other unauthorised absence, or no reason given

Looking at this from a parent's perspective, it really is essential that you let us know the reason for absence, otherwise it has to be marked on the register as an 'O'.

Unauthorised absences (including code U for late arrivals after the register closes) are the reason that some parents have been fined or taken to court for their child's poor attendance.

Creedy	95%
Dart	95%
Okement	92%
Taw	92%

Some Important Dates for the weeks ahead

Tuesday 18th June - Year 6 transition project at Finch Foundry

Thursday 20th June - School Photos

Friday 28th June - INSET Day

Saturday 29th June - Fonts Fest

Tuesday 2nd July - Sports Day

Monday 8th July - Reports

Wednesday 10th July 6pm, Thursday 11th July 2pm Y5 & Y6 Performance

Tuesday 16th July - Year 6 BBQ after school

Friday 19th July - Last day of term

Year Six Farewell Celebration morning

Class News

To find out what we have been learning in each class, please click on the links to our latest class blogs:

[Sycamore Class](#)

[Hazel Class](#)

[Ash Class](#)

[Willow Class](#)

[Beech Class](#)

[Chestnut Class](#)

[Oak Class](#)

[Acorn Class](#)



**Follow the
school on
Facebook**

SATURDAY 29 JUNE



North Tawton PRIMARY SCHOOL

FEATURING

11AM - 5PM

CIRCUS WORKSHOP ★ FIREBLOCKERS
BIRDS OF PREY ★ BAR BY LONDON INN
ZUMBA SESSION WITH KATIE ★ FOOD STALLS
FREE GAMES CRAFTS ★ RAFFLE

TICKETS £15 GROUP 4 PEOPLE ★ £5 SINGLE

FOR MORE INFORMATION friendsofnorthtawton@gmail.com



Queen Victoria Jubilee Memorial & Lych Gate

Grand Opening 2024



10.45am on Saturday 22nd June 2024, The Square, North Tawton



Join us to celebrate the completion of the renovation works to The Queen Victoria Jubilee Memorial and the St. Peter's Church Lych Gate.

- 10.45am Meet in The Square -
The Bells of St. Peter's Church

- 11.00am Welcome -
Councillor Carol Burrow

- Address & Unveiling Plaque -
Mr Grahame Flynn
Fundraising Appeal Coordinator

- Jubilee Memorial Rededication -
The Revd. David Spence

- Press Photos -
Fundraising Committee & Donors

- Ariel Photo -
The residents of North Tawton
around the Jubilee Memorial

- FREE Cream Tea in The Town Hall -

- Prayer & Photos at the Lych Gate -
The Revd. David Spence

Preserving the Heart of North Tawton

GROUP SESSIONS

Okehampton & District Tennis Club



WHERE ?	<u>OKEHAMPTON TENNIS COURTS</u>	
WHEN?	<i>Saturday Mornings</i>	
TIME?	<i>9.00 - 10.00 am.</i>	<i>10.00 - 11.00 am</i>
WHAT AGE?	<i>6 - 10 Years old</i>	<i>11 - 15 Years old</i>
COST?	<i>£30 for 6 week course</i>	
TO BOOK AND PAY.	<i>Telephone 07973 287594 or Email lisavhutchins@gmail.com</i>	

*Course run by Okehampton & District Tennis Club
With Lisa Hutchins*
