St Dunstan's School
GLASTONBURY

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Dear Parents/Carers,

Launch of Arbor & Parent App

In January we sent a letter to update and inform you about important changes to our management information system or MIS.

Over the past few months, we have been working on our planned rollout of Arbor, which is due to start on Tuesday 1 April 2025. This is the system that we use to manage all of the childrens' data, including attendance, communications and assessments. It will eventually bring together all of the functions of ParentPay and Talaxy into one place and accessed through a Parent App.

In the next few weeks, we will be finalising the transfer from our current system and training staff to use the software in preparation for the switchover. Our intended switchover will take place over the weekend commencing Friday 28 March. During the following week we will gradually work towards moving over to Arbor to record and monitor attendance and behaviour. When we have finalised the date for this, we will inform all parents/carers. Until this point, we will continue to use Talaxy.

Please be advised that any updates regarding your child's contact details or information, should be provided to the school by Friday 21 March at the latest. Any updates after this date will be added to the system in April following the transfer to Arbor.

Once we move over to Arbor, we will be using the Parent App as a tool to communicate moving forwards. Talaxy will no longer be used from this point. Parents/carers will be expected to use the Arbor Parent App to access all information regarding their child/children.

What is the Parent App?
The Parent App is the mobile version of our Parent Portal, for use on mobile devices such as smartphones and tablets. When we have switched on the Parent Portal, you can download the App and begin using it straight away.

On the app you will be able to:
● See your child's attendance data and easily report any absences

● Be notified of email communications, and reply directly to school
● Receive in-app messages about your child (in place of current texts - head bumps, late arrival from trips etc.) or about the school (e.g. closures due to snow, reminder of upcoming events etc.)
● Book appointments for upcoming Parent Evenings

We will write shortly to update you on our progress and provide you with all the information you will need to know about Arbor and the Parent App.

Thankyou for your continued support.

Yours faithfully

Mr P Balkwill
Headteacher