

Spring Term Newsletter No.8 (8.3.19)

It has been another busy and exciting few days at school with lots happening. Thanks to Miss Palfrey we kick started the week with World Book Day on Monday. See below to find out more information about the day.

On Wednesday we had some new arrivals in Apple Class when we welcomed eggs and incubator. The chicks are hatching and causing much interest as well as generating real and engaging learning opportunities. Thank you to Mrs Turner for organising this.

You may have noticed that we have a screen in the school foyer now. As we get used to using it, you will be able to see all sorts of school photos for events that have been happening. Some of the *Stay and Read* photos and pictures of the new chicks are already on there. Thank you to our wonderful IT guys for getting this running.

On Wednesday evening the Full Governing Board met to look at school priorities and to plan how best they can support and challenge the school to make further improvements. It was a very useful meeting and there are a variety of exciting and interesting projects in the pipeline. We are very grateful to the governors. It is a volunteer role and a big commitment of their time and expertise to help ensure the school continues to be successful.

I would like to take this opportunity to say a special big thank you to Beryl McPhail who retired from the governing board last night after serving through four Headteachers. Beryl remembers when the school was half the size it is now and had an aspiration to grow to accommodate 300 pupils. Now we have 420 pupils and Beryl has helped this growth and success for over 20 years. We all wish Beryl much success in the next stage of her life's great adventure.

Year 6 children have enjoyed a break from normal routines this week. Some were on residential at Skern Lodge with Miss Wooldridge, Mr Robinson and Mrs Bindon while others have been enjoying daily adventures with Mrs Chivers and Mrs Broom. See further down for more information and some pictures. A huge thanks to all these adults for taking the time and effort to provide such rewarding experiences.

Thanks to Mr Rogers and Mrs Rice, teachers have also been busy in staff training this week as we learnt how to make best use of images and equipment to help teach Maths. Teaching Assistants have been working with our lead Teaching Assistant, Mrs Broom, to look at best practice with behaviour techniques.

Enjoy the weekend.

Parents' Evenings - next week, beginning Monday 11th March

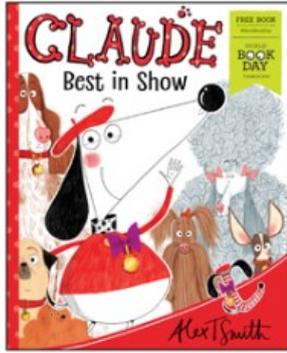
If you haven't yet done so, appointments are still available for booking for next week through your E-schools login. Consultations will take place in your child's class and you will have an opportunity to look at their books. To help you understand national expectations to see how your child compares and where they need to go next, please have a look in the school hall where you will find examples of work and test papers. Teachers will also give you a parent questionnaire which will help us to gather your views to see what we are doing well and to help us plan where to go next. If you can find some time to complete these it will be much appreciated. Please post them in the red post box which will be in the school foyer area. Thank you.

* Monday 11th: Ash (YR), Elm (YR), Beech (Y1), Oak (Y2), Apple (Y2), Birch (Y3), Rowan (Y3) and Holly (Y5)

* Tuesday 12th: Ash (YR), Elm (YR), Beech (Y1), Pine (Y1), Oak (Y2), Apple (Y2), Birch (Y3), Rowan (Y3) and Holly (Y5)

* Wednesday 13th: Cherry (Y4), Maple (Y4), Willow (Y5), Hazel (Y6) and Hawthorn (Y6)

* Friday 15th: Pine (Y1)



**Miss Palfrey
and the
Reading
Ambassadors
Book Picks
of the Week**



Remember to use your £1 book token. All you need to do is to take it to your local bookseller and swap it for any of the World Book Day books. These two are the books Miss Palfrey and the Reading Ambassadors will be swapping their token for. (You can also use the token at our Book Fair to get £1 off any of the books.)

Weekly Attendance Award

Congratulations to **Oak Class** for winning the School Attendance Award with **100%** attendance. School target: 96% The whole school achieved **96.8% this week**



This Week's Star Pupils!



Ash — Noah - is such a delight to have in our class. He is always showing kindness and he is a very responsible member of our class. What a superstar!

Finley - Super learner in our maths learning this week. Finley explored if the numbers to 10 could be shared equally and he showed such excitement when sharing his findings.

Elm — Livia - For making super progress in her reading and writing and working hard to achieve...a real Try-a-tops!

Ludo - For being a brilliant number detective, applying his problem solving skills to find out if the numbers to 10 could be shared equally.

Beech — Anton - for amazing improvements in his handwriting and always putting so much effort into everything he does!

Pine — Lewis- for his dedication towards his maths. Trying hard all the time at home and in school.

Oak — Stephanie- for fantastic improvements in her handwriting and for always showing the 3 core values. Well done Stephanie!

Apple— Ellie H - positive attitude to learning and showing all of the 3 core values.

Birch — Kayla - For being extremely focused and aspirational with your learning this week and taking pride in your work.

Rowan — Frankie - for determination to learn all of his spellings and scoring 100% in his test!

Cherry — Daniel for his excellent participation in computing at Cuthbert Mayne

Maple — Lucy- for making super progress with her home learning; especially aspiring to read more.

Holly — Nathan - for always having such a wonderful attitude in class: he always works hard and tries his best. Well done!

Willow — Syeef for being a fantastic role model and enthusiastic member of the team

Joint Year 6 — Rhianna - For displaying a fantastic attitude to facing new challenges in activities week.

Eco-Brick - collecting until Easter - see Mrs Turner and Dylan for more info

If anyone would like to join us we will be collecting all of the filled plastic bottles by the Easter holidays. We request that the bottles are plastic and that they are clean and filled with clean shredded plastic. The final criteria is that they have to weigh 333g so they are solid and will not bend easily. It is a great way to help people less fortunate than us, create wonderful sculptures and help clean the ocean and save the animals.



Early Help - Supporting families

Mrs Pike met with Lucy Watson from Early Help this week. The meeting clarified the role of Early Help which is designed to support families when they first ask for help, in order to minimise adverse experiences for children and families in Torbay. The Early Help process helps families and professionals to identify and access the right help to meet a need. This may be a need around a child's health, additional needs, behaviour, school attendance or may be a need around adult health and wellbeing, the home or financial situation. If you would like to find out more about Torbay's Early Help support, they have a useful website (<https://www.torbay.gov.uk/children-and-families/services-and-support/early-help/>) or do feel free to speak to Mrs Pike.



CAP Workshop

Devon CAP (Child Assault Prevention) are in school 18-29th March! Please come along to a parent workshop to find out what Devon CAP do and to get advice, information and resources. The parent workshop will be on Thursday 14th March 2pm-3pm. Please can you let the office know if you are attending so we can book out a suitably sized room. Sorry, but the workshop is not suitable for children. Mrs Pike and the CAP team look forward to seeing you next Thursday, 14th March.

BEST IN THE BAY! Y4 Tag Rugby Competition - Mr Mayling reports...

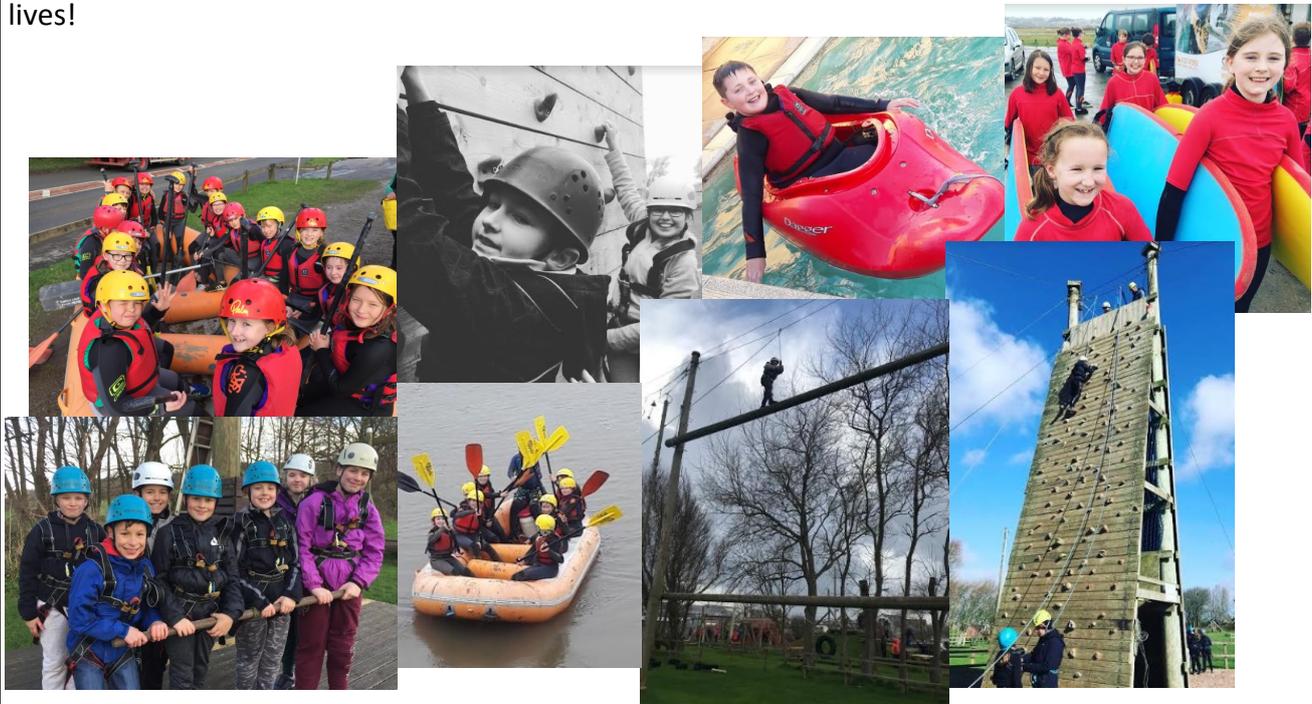
As part of our partnership with St Cuthbert Mayne Family Cluster we took part in a Tag Rugby competition at St Cuthbert Mayne on 7th February and played some great Tag Rugby. There were teams from Lady of the Angels, St Marychurch, Homelands and Priory – 8 teams altogether. After the group stage, the A team and the B team both finished at the top of their league. This meant both teams played in the final to decide the overall winner. After an exciting game, the A team won and came first and the B team finished second overall – what an achievement! All of the players were good ambassadors for the school demonstrating some of England Rugby's core values of teamwork, respect, discipline and sportsmanship. Because the A team came first, they qualified for the next round of the competition which was a Level 3 Torbay-wide round competition. They played at Paignton Community Sports Academy against the best teams in the bay. The team rotated around 9 different skills-based activities and were given a score for respect and teamwork. The team were rewarded the most points for demonstrating these values and came first out of 10 teams. This means they now qualify for the Devon finals, which will be played at Plymouth Albion at the Summer School Games. Finley in Year 4 comments, "The teams were strong and we played great! At the end we all felt proud".

Huge thanks to Mr Mayling for providing this amazing opportunity.



Y6 at Skern Lodge - Mr Robinson reports...

This week the school have sent 40 of our Y6 children to Skern Lodge in North Devon. Throughout the week the children have surfed, rafted, climbed and abseiled as well as completing all manor of team building and challenging activities! The children have helped each other through underground tunnels, sailed down fast flowing rivers and cheered each other on to jump from tall towers! It has been fantastic to see so many children facing their fears and challenging themselves! All of the children have been a credit to the school and have represented themselves and St Margaret's fantastically! It has been a fantastic trip and one that we are sure the children will remember for the rest of their lives!



Year 6 in the Bay - Mrs Chivers reports...

This week 20 Year 6 children have been enjoying activities week. We have faced some new challenges and learned new skills! On Tuesday, we went to the Boulder Bunker, where we improved our confidence and climbing skills. On Wednesday, we had a great day in the woods with Reach Outdoors. We used flint and steel to light fires, made shelters and tried our hand at archery. The best bit was toasting marshmallows over the fire - yummy! On Thursday we explored Kent's Cavern. We were amazed at the cave formations and loved finding precious stones in the sand boxes. In school we have also used the climbing equipment in the hall, the new mini trampolines, completed art activities and ended our week with pizza, ice-cream ad a quiz!



World Book Day - Miss Palfrey reports...

We all had a fantastic World Book Day on Monday! Throughout the day, the children took part in a workshop with an excellent storyteller and shared many books with other children all over the school. The children enjoyed being their favourite character for the day (a big thank you to parents for putting so much effort into costume making!). Also, we must say a big thank you to those children who took a #Shelfie - they were fantastic! Come and see some of the shelfies displayed in the library.



Stay and Read



Thank you to everyone who has attended the Stay and Read sessions so far. Come and join us in the library/ hall on Monday for reception/ KS1 and Thursday for KS2 for the rest



of this half term. It's a nice opportunity to choose a variety of books with your child and be a part of our school community. The PTA are kindly providing hot and cold drinks too.

Netball Tournament - Mrs Lewis reports...

On Monday, six pupils from Year 5 and Year 6 represented our school at the Torbay Netball Tournament. The dedicated players took part in an astonishing **eleven** matches throughout the day, playing teams from across the whole Bay. For the majority of the team, this was their first experience of a competition of this nature. All the players should be very proud of the way they played and conducted themselves during the day, demonstrating the skills they have learnt and outstanding sporting behaviour. Well done Netballers!

Many thanks to Mrs Lewis for providing this opportunity.

School Council Update - Mr Tullier reports...

No meeting this week due to Y6 being away but a group of us have been busy taking photos of Fairtrade products in packed lunches as part of Fairtrade Fortnight. Watch this space as we also have a competition coming shortly based around a healthy diet! We have also been collecting information from our respective classes about what 'responsibility' looks like inside the classroom and will collate this in our next meeting then feed this back to senior leadership. Our next job is to work on a healthy packed lunch policy and as part of our longer term plan, help research and introduce a new pastoral core value.



Our new furry friends -

Mrs Turner reports...



On Tuesday we had a very special delivery in Key Stage 1. All was quiet and no visitors appeared on Wednesday, however on Thursday morning we were greeted by 2 fluffy chicks! We were excited to watch a third chick hatch in class on Thursday. We are all very egg-cited and cannot wait to



Monday and Tuesday 11-12.3.19	The Scholastic Book Fair in the Hall
Week beginning Monday 11.3.19	Parents Evening Week - consultations will take place in classrooms and appointments are still available for booking via your eSchools login if you haven't yet done so.
Thur 14.3.19 2.00-3.00pm	CAP (Child Assault Prevention) UK team parent workshop. A very worth-while event to attend. More details to follow.
Friday 15.3.19	Red Nose Day This will be a non-uniform day when children and staff can wear something red for a donation to the cause.
Weeks beginning 18.3.19 and 25.3.19	CAP UK team will be in school delivering workshops to all the children. More details to follow.
Tuesday 26.3.19	PTA Film Night 3.10pm
Friday 5.4.19	Deadline for returning the 1 litre, 333g plastic bottles filled with clean shredded plastic. These will be used for home insulation in Africa and to create local benches in Torbay. See Mrs Turner for more details.