



Autumn Term Newsletter No.6



Harvest Festival

On Monday we will be celebrating harvest and some of our Rights Respecting Councillors will be leading the assembly. Please can you help us make this a successful celebration by sending in some food that we can distribute to people in our local community who are in need. We are saddened to hear that Anode is closing as we know they were always grateful for any surplus food we had after our harvest festival. There is another collection point, called Torquay Community Larder, that we will send the food to if we have any left after we have distributed the food to the families you have nominated. All tinned and packaged must be in date for us to be able to distribute it so please do check this before sending any food in to school. Thank you.

We want to say Thank You to the PTA who work incredibly hard to help organise fund raising events for the children. Did you know that there are just a handful of parents who make up the PTA? It is amazing that they manage to plan and organise so many events for the children over the year when they are so few in number. It would be fantastic to get more families actively involved in the PTA. The AGM is being held today at 2pm and we hope it is well supported. The PTA have raised money which has been spent on equipment such as tablets for the classroom (LearnPads), playground equipment, subsidising the Cooking Club we run after school, etc. It would be a shame if the PTA is unable to continue due to lack of support as the children love the different events that they organise.

There are about 100 children in Y1 to Y6 whose parents have not made an appointment to discuss their progress at the meetings in the week after half term. Please call the office if you are having problems connecting to eschools. We are happy to help!



We are very proud of this week's Star Pupils!



Beech — Ruby R. has pushed her learning and challenged herself with some super maths this week!
Pine — Jaya has been making a great effort and really enjoying her writing. We are proud of you.
Apple — Natalia has become a great team member and fitted in brilliantly into Apple Class this week.
Oak — Harry has shown great aspiration and confidence when applying reading skills in maths this week!
Birch — Billy has been focused, motivated and has taken responsibility for his own learning this week.
Rowan — Ellen has perfect listening skills which leads to fantastic learning.
Cherry — James B always applies new learning to his independent work and uses his time wisely.
Maple — Karla perseveres with her maths no matter how hard the challenge is! Well done!
Holly — Summer has made a brilliant effort with her writing all term. She always follows advice.
Willow — Ashton has made a huge improvement in the way he contributes to discussions.
Hawthorn — Leon has a great growth mindset and tackles new challenges with a positive attitude.
Hazel — Caitlin has an incredible aspirational attitude, shown in her home learning—really going the extra mile!

Diary Date Reminders:

Monday—Cherry Class swimming
Thursday 19th October—Parent Drop In 3:05 to 3:30pm. A chance to share your child's work in their classroom.
Y1 to Y6 Parents Evenings— Tuesday 31st October to Thursday 2nd November. Please book an appointment through eschools.
Thursday 30th November—Y1 and Y2 Nativity at the Princess Theatre from 2pm.
Tuesday 12th December— KS2 Christmas Service at Upton Vale Baptist Church at 6pm.



Attendance Award

Congratulations to Oak and Willow Class for winning the School Attendance Award with 98.6% attendance.

Special Congratulations to Oak for being our first class to win a non-uniform day on Monday for three winning weeks!

The whole school achieved 96.3% attendance.

Attendance

Our recent Ofsted inspection set the school a target to ensure that:

"the attendance of groups of pupils is checked regularly and swift action is taken to ensure that all pupils receive their full entitlement to school "

We employ an Attendance Officer who monitors children's attendance and works with families to support them in making sure their child attends school regularly. The expectation is that children will be in school 100% of the time. However, we know there may be unplanned absences when your child is ill and there may be planned absences which can only be authorised in exceptional circumstances. The Government sets thresholds: 90% attendance is classed as **Persistent Absence**. This level of absence means your child has missed 4 weeks of their education in that year. Children find it really difficult to catch up and can easily fall behind their peers.

If a child misses	that equals...	which is...	and over 13 years of school that's...
1 day per fortnight (90% attendance)	19 days per year	≈ 4 weeks per year	Nearly 1½ years
1 day per week (80% attendance)	38 days per year	≈ 8 weeks per year	Over 2½ years
2 days per week (60% attendance)	76 days per year	≈ 16 weeks per year	Over 5 years
3 days per week (40% attendance)	days per year	≈ 24 weeks per year	Nearly 8 years

You are able to see your child's attendance on the eSchools app so you can monitor this yourself. We will send letters out warning you that your child's attendance is dropping and letters to invite you in to meet our Attendance Officer if their attendance continues to drop. We aim to support you in getting your child to school but ultimately it is a parent's responsibility to ensure their child attends school. Failure to do so can result in parenting contracts and fines—we would really like to ensure this does not happen to any of our families. If you are struggling with your child's attendance please come in and talk to us.

Unauthorised Absences are monitored by the Local Authority and they consider each case independently and decide if a fine (a penalty notice) should be issued. Recent changes in current practice mean that only one penalty notice will be issued to a parent of a particular child within a two year period. Any further unauthorised absence recorded within that time will normally mean the parent will be summonsed to appear at a Magistrates Court, which could result in a fine of up to £2,500.

Holidays in term time are not an exceptional circumstance. Please be aware of our term times when booking family holidays. The dates are on our website and on the website/eschools calendar.

Learning today to achieve our tomorrows.