

7th February 2020

Dear Parents and Carers,

It has been a busy week at school this week as we approach the halfway point of the academic year. On Monday our Year 6 children had their first ‘Earth Heart’ workshop developing a musical for schools based around a child's guide to looking after our world. They have two more sessions coming after half term. Also on Monday, Year 3 went swimming and some Key Stage 1 children took part in a sports coordination event at Honiton Leisure Centre. Year 3 enjoyed outdoor classroom on Tuesday. Yesterday, we were pleased to welcome newly qualified teachers from around Devon to visit our school to see teaching and learning. They were very impressed with our school and especially the children. Also yesterday, Year 5 had their outdoor classroom walk to Roundball Woods where they held a team building excercise. The children had to build a den and it was then judged as to whether they would be able to survive in it. Today class 2AL have had their outdoor classroom session.

It has also been a busy week of sport. A huge well done to all the Year 3 and Year 4 children who represented Littletown at this week's Honiton Learning Community Swimming Gala. I was delighted to hear that the children finished 1st place overall and even more delighted to hear that the children were brilliantly behaved and showed great sportsmanship throughout. Well done also to the children who represented our school at the Honiton Learning Community TAG rugby tournament at Honiton Primary School yesterday who also behaved very well throughout. See report below from the children.

On Tuesday evening parents attended a Year 5/6 Curriculum Information evening focusing on Maths. My thanks once again to the teachers for facilitating this event. Those of you who have attended our parent Curriculum Information evenings this academic year won't be surprised by what I'm about to write. Attendances have been very low with some evenings taking place with only two parents in attendance.'I'm sure you can appreciate how this does not make it a worthwhile use of teachers professional directed time and therefore, we will not be holding these evenings in the same way next academic year. I will discuss other potential ways forward at a parent forum meeting later this year and all suggestions will be welcome.

This week the children have also been taking part in children's Mental Health Week. Children have been decorating a musical note with facets of their personality to make our whole school symphony display outside the school hall. Make sure you come and see it when you are next in school.

Next week, on Monday, Year 4 have outdoor classroom and Year 3 will be going swimming. On Tuesday we mark Safer Internet day where the children will be doing activities reminding them how to keep safe and behave appropriately online using resources from the saferinternet.org advice centre. There are many things on this website which parents may find interesting and useful. Resources can be found by following this link: <https://www.saferinternet.org.uk/advice-centre> . If you ever have any concerns about your child using devices or wellbeing online please do contact us so we can offer you appropriate support. Wednesday sees some of our children represent the school at the next Stockland Cross Country. On Thursday, Nursery have outdoor classroom and Year 2 parents are invited to a Cornerstones Curriculum Express event at 2:30 p.m which will involve some castle construction! Year 5 then hold their Express Event for their ‘Portal’ topic on Friday at 2:30 p.m

Next week also sees our second round of Parent Consultations for the year. Please help us to ensure these are successful by keeping to the 10-minute appointment slot allocated. Running behind has a significant impact on parents whose appointments are later in the evening or have multiple teachers to see. Please also ensure that children who accompany you to the appointments are well behaved when in and around the school.

Today you should have received a letter explaining about school attendance. I have decided to send out this information as clearly as possible as we approach half way through the year as a result of the increasing number of conversations school staff are having with parents regarding uncertainty about attendance and lateness. Please, please do let us know if your child is not going to be in school. It takes my admin staff 2 minutes to listen to answerphone messages, but about half an hour to make all the chasing phone calls. Please do catch me before or after school or during Parent Consultation evenings if you wish to discuss anything mentioned.

Finally, we have always benefited through your generous help in spreading the word about our Nursery and specifically, our annual Nursery open morning. Please find a separate email with this year’s poster for the open morning on Saturday 7th March 10am - 12noon. Please share this as widely as you can for us via social media, word of mouth and even display it in your window if you feel so inclined! Many thanks for your support with this.

The teachers and I look forward to seeing you all at Parent Consultations next week.

Yours faithfully,

David Perkins 

Principal

**News from the children**

**Nursery**

We had our parents come in to play with our tea set.

For the food in the kitchen, we used mud.

**Reception**

We have been making the Big Bad Wolf.

We have made speech bubbles for the Big Bad Wolf and wanted posters.

**Year 1**

We are learning about Bob and the Aliens.

We have a new book called The Man on the Moon.

**Year 2**

We have made paper bridges.

We have learnt about being brave.

**Year 3**

We have been coding on chromebooks.

We have been making Bee Bot maps.

**Year 4**

We have been learning colours in french.

We have been doing Area in maths.

**Year 5**

We have been making torch circuits.

We have coloured in musical notes for Mental Health week

**Year 6**

We have been looking at the effect of exercise on our pulse rate.

We are at the beginning of our Algebra journey in Power maths.

**Messages**

**Parent Forum update**

A huge thank you to the parents who have come forward to be a part of our Parent Forum. These 12 parents have responded to a questionnaire about how we should operate, the first meeting will be on Thursday 12th March at 6p.m in the Community Room and all parents who wish to attend are welcome to come along. Each meeting will consist of two topics followed by a period of time to discuss things which parents wish to bring up. The first meeting will be a discussion about behaviour and homework. A week before the meeting there will be a parent forum box in Reception where parents can put ideas comments and suggestions if they are unable to or don't wish to attend the actual meeting these will be collected and shared via the parent forum members

**Peripatetic music lesson spaces**

Our violin/ukulele teacher Emily Miller, has some spaces available for the tuition of children from Years 2 - 6. If you would like further details, please email Emily at emilymillermusic@yahoo.co.uk

**Dogs**

Thank you to dog owners who are leaving their dogs by the railings between the two gates on the front playground. This arrangement was suggested so that children who are scared of dogs can leave by either gate whichever way they are walking without having to walk past a dog. On Wednesday morning I had to clear up some dogs mess which was in the middle of the nursery gate at the start of school. Unfortunately by the time I got to the mess many children and parents had already stepped in it. Please ensure any dog mess is cleared up outside the school especially if it is near the school gates. Thank you for your cooperation.

**Recycling inhalers**

We are becoming a ‘Complete the Cycle scheme’ centre to help ensure more asthma inhalers are recycled. If you have an old or expired inhaler you can drop them off at school. These will then be collected and deposited to the nearest participating pharmacy.

**Attendance**

Please make sure you have read the attendance explanatory letter sent to all parents today and get in touch if you have any questions.

**Week beginning 10th February 2020 :**

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| --- | --- | --- | --- | --- |
| **Monday** | **Tuesday** | **Wednesday** | **Thursday** | **Friday** |
| Y4 Outdoor classroom  Y3 swimming | Year 1 Outdoor classroom  Y5/6 Science workshop HCC  Parent Consultations | Parent Consultations | Parent Consultations  Nursery Outdoor classroom  Year 2 Express Event 2:30pm | Y5 Express Event 2:30pm |