



Newsletter—Friday 12th September

Dear Parents and Carers,

Despite the rain, we have had a wonderful first full week back and the children have been brilliant! I have had a chance to visit all classes to see the work going on and have been so impressed by the positive learning behaviour in all year groups. Children are so well engaged in their learning and taking obvious pride in their work. Well done everyone on making the start of the new school year such a success.

## SHINE

Part of our school code is captured in the acronym SHINE. This week we have thought a lot about this and what it means to the way we what the school to be for all of us ...

- Show respect to everyone
- Have a polite and considerate attitude
- Insist on your best and challenge yourself
- Notice others; be a great friend
- Every day be ready to learn

## Class Four Big Event trip

I have had to write this week's letter a day early as Class Four have had their trip to the SS Great Britain today. It is an excellent way to begin our new project on the Industrial Revolution and changes in Britain during the Victorian age. The children will, I'm sure, take much from it and we'll report back next week. Class Three will be on their trip on Friday 3rd October.

## Calendar for the year

On the subject of dates, here is the initial list of what we know will be happening this year. Obviously we will be adding to it as we go along, and will keep you informed of any changes as soon as possible ...

## September

- Wed 17th: Church Club
- Thu 18th: Mr Polak (Director of Education) School Review
- Mon 22nd: Class 2 Big Event. Visit by Chris Johnson with his reptiles
- Mon 22nd: Class 4 Author visit for Book Week by John Townsend
- Wed 24th: Class 1 Phonics Stay & Play for parents & carers
- Wed 24th: Student teacher begins in Class 2
- Thu 25th: Class 1 Author visit for Book Week by Gareth Jones
- Fri 26th: Class 2 Author visit for Book Week by Layn Marlow
- Fri 26th: Class 3 Author visit for Book Week by Claire Barker

## Next week—W/C Monday 15th September 2025

Monday:	
Tuesday:	Class Three PE
Wednesday:	Class One Outdoor Learning (Please remember appropriate footwear) After School Church Club
Thursday:	<b>No Class Two PE—moved to Friday</b>
Friday:	Class Two PE Class Four PE 3.00 Celebration Collective Worship <b>No KS2 Sports Club</b>

## **October**

Friday 3rd: Class 3 Big Event. Trip to Roman Baths, Bath  
Wed 8th: Harvest Festival service in the church at 2:30pm  
Thu 9th: Houses of Parliament talk to KS2 children  
Fri 10th: Mental Health Day. Non-uniform - wear something yellow  
Wed 15th: Class 1 Maths Stay & Play for parents & carers  
Wed 15th: After School Church Club  
Thu 16th: 'Flu' vaccines  
Tue 21st: Class 4 trip to Exeter race course  
Wed 22nd: Book and a Biscuit from 3:30pm  
Fri 24th: Last day of the half term

## **November**

Mon 3rd: School restarts  
Mon 3rd: DT week begins  
Thu 13th: Class 4 Big Event. Trip to Tiverton Museum  
Wed 19th: After School Church Club  
Fri 21st: Children in Need Day - non-uniform

## **December**

Tue 9th: Book and a Biscuit from 3:30pm  
Wed 17th: School Christmas dinner  
Thu 18th: School Christmas production (TBC)  
Fri 19th: Carol Collective Worship in the church at 2:45pm  
Fri 19th: Last day of term

## **January 2026**

Tue 6th: School restarts

## **February**

Tue 3rd: London Residential (Y5) departs  
Fri 6th: London Residential returns  
Mon 9th: Book and a Biscuit from 3:30pm  
Fri 13th: Last day of the half term  
Mon 23rd: School restarts  
Mon 23rd: DT week begins

## **March**

Wed 11th: SGH Residential (Y3/4) departs  
Fri 13th: SGH Residential returns  
Fri 21st: Red Nose Day - non-uniform  
Tue 31st: Book and a Biscuit from 3:30pm

## **April**

Fri 2nd: Easter Service in the church at 2:30pm  
Fri 2nd: Last day of term  
Mon 24th: School restarts

## **May**

Mon 4th: Bank Holiday - no school  
Mon 11th: Y6 SPaG SAT  
Tue 12th: Y6 Reading SAT  
Wed 13th: Y6 Arithmetic and Maths 1 SAT  
Thu 14th: Y6 Maths 2 SAT  
Sun 17th: Bude Residential (Y6) departs

## June

Mon 1st: Non-Pupil Day

Tue 2nd: Multiplication Tables Check SAT

Thu 18th: Vision Day

## July

Wed 15th: Book and a Biscuit from 3:30pm

Mon 20th: School Sports Morning

Tue 21st: Leavers' Service at 2:00pm

Tue 21st: Last day of the school year

## Attendance

With this newsletter, you will be receiving a reminder letter from Mr Polak (Director of Education) about attendance and absence in line with Devon County Council's policy on this. Please do make sure that your child is in school for every day of the school year. Only if they are too poorly to leave the house, or if they have a medical appointment, should children be kept away from school. We know from our own experience that a day or two missed here and there can severely hamper a child's learning in most cases. Each school day is packed and it is not easy for a child to catch up on missed time. We have included the early attendance figures for each year group and a reminder about what missed time equates to below.

### Attendance Ladder



### Our Attendance this half term

Reception	100%
Year 1	94.4%
Year 2	99.4%
Year 3	100%
Year 4	97.4%
Year 5	97.9%
Year 6	97.2%

## PSHE - Jigsaw ... A message from Mrs Kennard

In the first week of each half term, we use one of our collective worships to launch our new Jigsaw (PSHE) theme. This half term, the theme is 'Being me in My World', and the Jigsaw launch assembly was all about welcoming others. The children had some brilliant ideas about how to make others feel welcome at school, including smiling, saying hello, talking to them and inviting them to play. This links to our continued work towards the Schools of Sanctuary award, and we are so proud of the way the children at our school welcome everyone - whether they are children moving up from a different year group, children moving from a different school or even a different country. It has been especially noticeable this week how the older children have been looking out for the younger children that have moved into their classes and making them feel so welcome. Well done everyone!

## Collective Worship

We have been thinking about the start of the school year and what are vision means in CW this week. The children are so well versed in how they can 'LetYour Light Shine' and, as I have intimated already' they have all hit the ground running in how they live this in school. They also know where the vision comes from ...

Matthew 5, verses 14-16: *"You are the light that gives light to the world. A city [or village] that is built on a hill cannot be hidden. And people don't hide a light under a bowl. They put the light on a lampstand. Then the light shines for all the people in the house. In the same way, you should be a light for other people. Live so that they will see the good things that you do. Live so that they will praise your Father in heaven."*

Have a lovely weekend,

Rob Norton  
Head of School

## Notices

### After School Church Club (YR-Y6)

Booking opens this evening - please see e-mail sent yesterday for further details. If you have not booked a place on Arbor, your child will not be able to attend.

### School Clubs

Drama club will be starting soon - please keep an eye out for more details. No KS2 Sports Club this week. Unfortunately we are not currently able to hold our choir club. We are hoping we can resume it after half term.

### School Lunches next week

The menu will be different from the published termly menu next week - please see below.

## Next Week's Menu—W/C Monday 15th September 2025

Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday
<b>Sausage roll</b> V – Quorn sausage roll Potato Wedges, Baked Beans and Sweetcorn  Peach melba	<b>Minced Beef Pie</b> V – Quorn mince pie Mashed Potatoes, Seasonal Veg  Fruit Jelly	<b>Chicken and veg Casserole</b> V – Vegetable casserole Crusty bread  Jam sponge and custard	<b>Roast Chicken</b> V - Veggie roast Roast potatoes, vegetables and stuffing.  Peaches and Ice Cream	<b>Hot Dog</b> V- Veggie hot dogs Fruit and salad selection, garlic potatoes  Ginger biscuit

## Home Activities and Homework Tasks

### **Class One:**

Please spend time reading with your child and practising their new phonetic sounds.



### **Class Two:**

Please aim to read with an adult for 15 minutes each day and **record in reading records**. Year Two spellings.

### **Class Three:**

X-Tables, spellings and reading log. (Please see letter explaining homework).

### **Class Four:**

Read for 60 minutes at least (Y6) and 45 minutes at least (Y5).  
No maths homework this week due to the trip.

## What happened at school this week?

These questions are about what has been happening in each class this week and are designed as 'conversation starters' for you to use with your child. We hope that they will provide a useful prompt to encourage conversations about school - talking for just three minutes each day about school has been shown to have a great impact on children's learning!

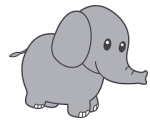


### Learning Lions (Class One)

Can you name a bear and remember a fact about them?

What is your special object?

How many ways can you make the number 3?



### Exploring elephants (Class Two)

Can you practise writing your numbers at home?

Can you draw a picture to show how the dinosaurs became extinct?

Can you write facts about a dinosaur?

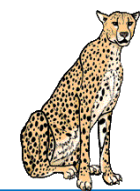


### Inventive Impalas (Class Three)

Can you represent the number 463.

What was special about the Roman armies.

Can you create your own sentence that has a preposition and some adjectives.



### Challenging Cheetahs (Class Four)

Can you explain the columns for place value to someone?

What words do you need to make a sentence? What is the shortest sentence you can write?

What was life like in England in 1760?

## Class One

This week in Class 1, we have been focusing on the story 'Where's my Teddy?'. We have completed lots of bear related activities including making bear masks, comparing our hands with bear paws and making fork painted bear faces. We have learnt a range of interesting facts about bears, including what they eat, their habitats and the names of different types of bears. In maths, we have also been working extremely hard on our counting and subitising of numbers. We have learnt that numbers can be represented in lots of different ways. We have practiced our counting by using buttons and counting them onto bears and have even built Duplo cities by rolling a dice and building a city with the corresponding number of blocks.

## Class Two

We have had an AMAZING first full week back in Class Two. The children have settled into the routines really well and we have been learning all about how to be respectful to each other and ourselves. We have learnt all about how we can work on improving ourselves all the time by 'Letting our Lights Shine!' We have set up our own candles in Class Two, where we can earn shiny gold stickers to help them glow. We have also found out how we can earn merits for great work and for our SHINE behaviour. We have also discovered that if we work as a class 'family' then we can earn marbles for our class jar which helps us to gain extra golden time. We have also settled into our learning for Maths and Literacy. Mrs Laurence's Ready, Steady, Write group have been exploring exciting objects and find out about nouns

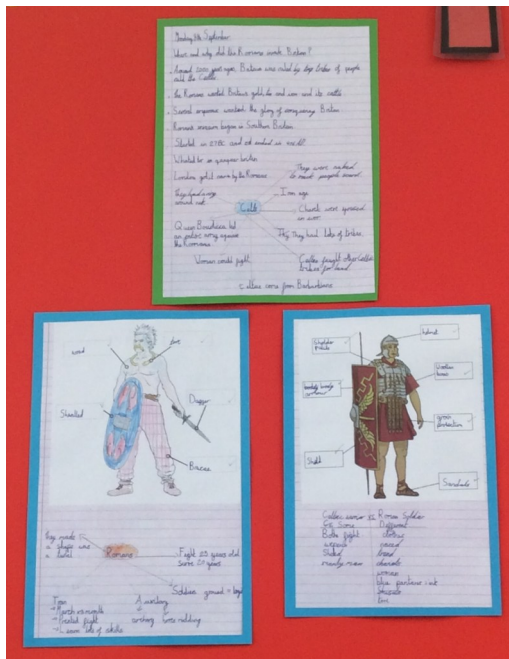


and adjectives which have linked to the text 'Where the Wild Things Are!' In Mrs Pearce/Mrs Rowden's Read, Write Inc group, the children have been exploring a story all about a special soft toy and are getting themselves ready to write all about their own special toy. In Maths, the whole class have been developing their number knowledge using Rekenreks and Year One have been focusing on counting and representing numbers within 10. Year Two have started to explore numbers to 100 and are beginning to

learn how to partition these into tens and ones. We have also enjoyed finding out how the dinosaurs became extinct in topic, singing songs to learn rhythm and pulse in Music among many other lovely learning experiences.

### Class Three

We have had a great first week settling into our new routines, and everyone has been working really hard. In history, we began exploring the Celts and Romans and learned about when they came to Britain. We especially enjoyed looking at their battle armour and discovering new facts. In maths, we have started learning about place value, representing three-digit numbers in different ways using Place Value Coins and Base Ten equipment. In English, we have begun an exciting new book that puts a twist on traditional stories – why not ask us what really happened to Snow White?



### Class Four

All of the children in Class Four have been magnificent this week, working hard and always being ready to learn. They have settled quickly into the routines of the class and are exhibiting wonderful learning behaviours. The Y6s are old hands and understand well the high expectations, but Y5 have been impressive too in the way they have started the school year. This week we have begun our projects on the Industrial Revolution in History and reviewed our knowledge of forces in Science, in preparation for a water resistance investigation. In maths we have begun the year by looking at Place Value and how systematic it is. We have realised that numbers grow very fast as you multiply through the columns. For example, if we use a cm cube to represent 1, the cube has grown to be 10x10x10cm to represent 1,000. To represent 1,000,000, the cube has 1m long edges. A cube to represent one billion would only just fit on the playground! In Writing, we have started to collect ideas and the understanding to write our own 'suspense narratives'. We are enjoying diving into the world of Sherlock Holmes and Dr Watson, who are on the case of a strange death on Dartmoor! The work that the children have put into their books has been fabulous: everyone is thinking carefully about what they want their finished work to look like and taking great care with presentation. Well done everyone.

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