



Newsletter No. 22

7 October 2015

Dear Parents,

We had a lovely day yesterday, showing prospective parents around our school during our joint Open Day with Dragonflies Pre-School. 6 of our Year 5 children were 'trained' to conduct guided tours of the school and the parents visiting were really impressed with the children's politeness and respect for adults and their confidence to talk about our school. Well done to them, they are great ambassadors. If you have a child who is due to start school in September 2016, the Devon County Council online applications for children entering into Reception opens on 15 November 2015 and closes on 15 January 2016.

Thank you to all of the children and parents who opted for a school meal on School Census Day. I saw a lot of teddy bears coming to school that day and looked after one in my office for most of that morning! We had an additional 12 meals which will help our school funding – every little bit helps! A big thank you to Mrs Hay, our Finance Officer who worked hard on this and on helping parents apply for the Pupil Premium Grant, which also affects our funding.

We've got some exciting things happening at the moment. As I write this, Robin and Woodpecker classes are at Magdalene Farm and some of the children in Robin class have been undertaking some Forest School activities in the school grounds. We are really looking forward to 'Ada Lovelace Day' (you can read about it below) and before we know it, it will be half term.

### **End of the day**

It has been pointed out by some parents that the end of the day pick up is becoming tricky. This is because as soon as the younger children come out of the door, parents are moving forward and crowding around the door. This then makes it difficult for the teacher to see the parents further back in the playground. I don't think this is happening every day as I was out yesterday afternoon and pick up time went smoothly. However could I please request that everyone picking up children keeps further back in the playground? Teachers will then be able to see you more easily and send your child to you, or you can come forward at that point to collect your child. Hopefully this will make the end of the day pick up a little smoother. Thank you.

### **Science Ambassadors**

Congratulations to the new Science Ambassadors! Dr Trew was very pleased to meet you all this week. Thank you for helping her to tidy up the science cupboards.



### **Ada Lovelace Day**

On Thursday 15<sup>th</sup> October 2015, we are having a day of 'hands-on' science activities at school to celebrate **Ada Lovelace Day**. We will be learning about famous female scientists

like Ada, who was an early computer programmer. Parents and friends are welcome to join us in the hall at 3pm to find out what has happened during the day.

### Safety notice

Please could we remind parents not to park in the hatched area outside the school gates. This is the emergency access so needs to be kept clear at all times.



### Thank you

Robin Class would like to say a huge thank you to Max and Oscar's Dad for making two bug hotels for their outdoor area. The children are looking forward to filling one of them up to give the bugs a home over winter.



**Thank You!**

### Music Success

Congratulations to the following children who took their instrumental exams at the end of the summer and passed with excellent results:

Lucy C, grade 1 piano, pass  
Dylan B, grade 1 piano, merit  
Eleanor B, grade 1 violin, merit  
Oriel C, grade 2 violin, distinction  
Hannah D, grade 2 violin, merit  
Talia H, grade 1 cello, merit  
Noah A-S, grade 3 cornet, merit

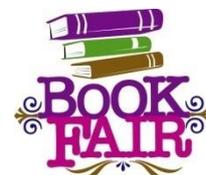


### Welcome

Last week we appointed Mrs Sarah Brett who will work part time along with Mrs Newcombe in the school office. She will be starting with us next week.

### Book Fair

Our Book Fair is starting today after school and will run to Tuesday 12th October. It will be a perfect opportunity to buy books for children for Christmas. Please come and support us.



### Dates for your diary

Thursday 8<sup>th</sup> October - National Poetry Day  
Thursday 8<sup>th</sup> October - Tuesday 12<sup>th</sup> October - Book Fair at school  
Friday 9<sup>th</sup> October – Kestrel's Class Mass at 10am  
Wednesday 14 October - Multi Skills Tournament at Colyton  
Thursday 15<sup>th</sup> October - Ada Lovelace (Science Day) (**NO EAGLES SWIMMING**)  
Monday 19<sup>th</sup> October 3.45pm - Residential meeting for Year 6 parents.  
Tuesday 20<sup>th</sup> October - Kestrels start swimming at Flamingo Pool (6 sessions)  
Wednesday 21<sup>st</sup> October – Parent Consultation Evening  
Thursday 22 October – Parent Consultation Evening  
Thursday 22 October- **Last** Eagles swimming session.  
Friday 23<sup>rd</sup> October- Diocese Inset Day - **school closed to children**  
Monday 26 - Friday 30 October - Half Term  
Monday 2 November - Children return to school

### Did you know ....

...we use Assessment for Learning as part of our teaching strategies. Assessment for Learning (or AfL as it is commonly known) has 4 parts to it. These are:

- Learning objectives – where the teacher knows precisely what they will be teaching a class in any one lesson and therefore exactly what the children need to learn.

- Success criteria – these is what a teacher expects to see in a child’s work to show that they have been successful in that piece of work. Alternatively, it may be steps that the child needs to take in order to complete their work successfully.
- Improvement marking – marking has changed a lot since most of us adults were at school. Gone is the red ticks and crosses. We now used ‘tickled pink’ highlighting to show where a child has met a learning objective and ‘green for growth’ highlighting to show where a child needs to make an improvement. Children are given time at the start of the next lesson to make improvements to their work and they are expected to respond to the teacher’s comments.
- Target setting – each child is set targets in reading, writing and maths. These should be the next step in learning for the child and achieved in 2 to 3 weeks. This is what we send home to parents every half term.

<u>Special Person</u>	<i>W/e 25th September</i>	<i>W/e 2nd October</i>
<b>Robins</b>	Zach B	Akein N
<b>Woodpeckers</b>	Henry C	Emanuela M
<b>Owls</b>	Sky C	Beatrice C
<b>Kestrels</b>	Hannah D	Chirathi N
<b>Eagles</b>	Max M	Keryn W

### Attendance

Week ending 25th September 96.60 %

Week ending 2<sup>nd</sup> October 97.79%

Our attendance target is **96.2%**



With best wishes,

*Angela Herrera*

Mrs Angela Herrera  
Headteacher