



Weekly Newsletter

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Dear Parents and Carers,

What is happening this week and first week back

Last day of half term tomorrow (Thursday 14th) and we are open again on Monday 25th February. Parent consultation letters have been handed out to make arrangement for parents evening on Monday 4th and Tuesday 5th March. You will receive your replies tomorrow. Flame Tree class are swimming on Monday 25th February (first day back) so please remember swimming kit.

Parents Drop off and pick up

Drop off: Please ensure that all KS1 children are taken by an adult all the way to the classroom door in the mornings. We do staff the field from 8:45 until the bell rings for KS2 only to play before school.

Pick up: Please could we remind parents that children can only play on the field after 3.15 – 3.30 on days when a club isn't using the field if they are supervised by a parent or carer. We are finding that a few KS2 children are playing on the field whilst waiting for their parents to turn up which is unacceptable. The school has a rule that if children find that their parents are not in the designated meeting place then they should report back to their teacher or see Rebecca in Reception. KS1 children should always be collected by an adult from the class teacher. The school is not responsible for children after they have left the class teacher. If you have a KS2 child and would like to collect direct from the class teacher each day please make this arrangement with them.

Billy Elliot Performance, KEVICC.

Last week, Year 6 were lucky enough to attend the final dress rehearsal for KEVICC's production of Billy Elliot – the family friendly version thankfully! It was an ambitious performance, with impressive acting and singing. The children enjoyed the show and very impressed and managed to follow the complex story line, Maggie Thatcher, the Miners' Strike and all!

Tusk Force charity

Last week Lime Tree class and Year 5 had a special visit by the charity 'Tusk Force' to find out about their work to protect elephants in Africa. Lime Tree class would like to invite their parents and carers to an art exhibition in their classroom on Wednesday 13th February at 2.50pm. Our safari art work will be on display and there will be opportunities to purchase our bracelets that we made. Year 5 bracelets will be on sale in the playground after school. There is more information about the project at the end of this newsletter.

Iris and Amelie's Valentine craft stall



Amelie and Iris from Beech Tree class have been busily making valentines gifts and cards and will be selling them at their craft stall in the playground after school today. They want to raise some money for extra art materials at school. They will have friendship bracelets, cards and origami boxes. Tokens for friends as well as lovers!

Painting competition for the Totnes-Vire Twin Town Association - Reminder

Paint your town competition – on A4 or A3 and brought to school with name and age on back. Prizes for winning entries. These are to be displayed as part of a 'twin towns' exhibition. Closing date for this is 28th March. Entries can be anything to do with Totnes town. Entries can be from any child over 3 years old!

School Council – Fundraising for our Nuture/Reading Dog

Tomorrow we are holding a remote control car fun afternoon. If your child is interested, please bring in a £2 together with their car or vehicle. They can take it to their class and in the afternoon they will be called to enter the race course which will be set up in The Studio. Your child will get to drive or race their vehicle on a circuit with their friends! If your child doesn't own a remote controlled vehicle, and wants to have a go, please send them with £2 and we are sure a friend will lend theirs. Also tomorrow could parents from Mountain Ash and Guava tree classes please donate cakes/sweet treats and leave them with Rebecca on Reception in the morning. If parents from other classes didn't manage to bake when it was their classes turn please also bring in some goodies. Thank you very much for your wonderful baked goodies this term as well as your money each week from all the school councillors. New councillors and fundraising ideas, including running a film night coming up!

Totnes Cubs and Scouts

Sadly our Group Scout Leader for the 3rd Totnes Sea Scouts has retired. We are urgently looking for a new volunteer to take over the role as our group is currently suspended until a new leader is found. Should you wish to become a Leader within Totnes then please contact Paul Bailiss for more information. Paul Bailiss dc@torbay.devonscouts.org.uk. They are also looking for a new treasurer, chairman and a secretary.

PTA News

We have a PTA meeting this afternoon in the Acorn Unit starting at 3.30pm. All welcome to attend.

Bag2School

Please look in your child's book bag as all bags will be sent home by Thursday. You can return your filled bags after half term for our collection on Friday 1st March. This is a great way to have a clear out and help to raise money for our School PTA. There are more bags available if you need them, they will be at reception. All money raised will go towards funding the canopies. Thank you for your continued support.

Praise Assemblies

There will be no praise assembly this week as our **last day of half term is tomorrow** (THURSDAY). Willow Tree class will be having their praise assembly on Friday 8th March at 2.45. For all other class assembly dates please see our website.

Kind regards

Hilary Priest

Adverts – please note that the school is neither recommending nor supporting the adverts below. If you wish to advertise in our newsletter then please contact the school for details.

Totnes Library What's On

Saturday 16th February 10:30 - Pirate and Biscuit Bonanza with author Clare Helen Welsh

Come along for a morning of pirates, mice and biscuit fun with local author Clare Helen Welsh. You can meet the author, listen to a story, design your own biscuit rocket and make pirate crafts! Only £1.50 per child and under 3's are free, for all ages.

Tuesday 19th February 10:30 - Teddy Bear Stories and Crafts, in the hall next to the library

Come to a free session of teddy bear stories and crafts, all ages are welcome. Materials will be provided, but if you have a small cardboard box to hand please bring it with you.

Got some children's books you don't need? The Friends of Totnes Library would like your unwanted books for their next book sale and swap. Donations can be dropped off any time at Totnes Library.

Kids Tusk Force

Year 5/6 and Lime were very lucky last week to have a talk and workshop with June from the Kids Tusk Force, This was linked with our RE and Topic work. The children were very interested and asked if they could help. Year 5 and 6 are having a stall on Wednesday 27th and Thursday 28th February. They will also have cakes and name the elephant game. I hope you will be able to support us so that we can raise enough to adopt a baby elephant or two. They will not be coming to school. Below is a little information and a couple links to the charity.

www.kidstuskforceuk.org.uk

www.sheldrickwildlifetrust.org.uk

In Kenya an Elephant Nursery exists nestled within Nairobi National Park under the auspices of the David Sheldrick Wildlife Trust, which is overseen by Angela Sheldrick, whose elephant experience spans a lifetime. This pioneering organisation, which works in partnership with the Kenya Wildlife Service offers hope for any orphaned elephant fortunate enough to be found alive.

When a tiny new-born elephant is orphaned, it is often because its mother and family have been killed to serve the brutal ivory trade. For an elephant, family is all important; a calf's very existence depends upon its mother's milk for the first two years of life.

It took Daphne Sheldrick nearly three decades of trial and error to perfect the milk formula and complex husbandry necessary to rear an orphaned infant African elephant yet today, with support from many caring people world-wide, the David Sheldrick Wildlife Trust is proud to have saved over 150 orphaned infant calves, which would otherwise have perished. More importantly, every one of these orphans can look forward to a quality of life in wild terms, living free in Tsavo East National Park protected by their new extended orphaned family and friends amongst the wild herds.

For more information in understanding our work, please see [Understanding the Orphan's Project](#).

None of this would have been possible without help of many people worldwide, for the rearing an infant elephant is an expensive and long-term commitment. During the time it is dependent upon milk and a team of trained carers who represent the lost elephant family and are there for the little elephant until such time as it is comfortable amongst the wild herds and chooses to become independent. The time involved depends entirely upon the personality of each individual and also upon how well the elephant can recall its elephant family. But all the orphans reared by The David Sheldrick Wildlife Trust are "elephants" again and integrated into the wild community by the age of ten, though always in their large elephant hearts will be a corner for the specific humans who were their *family* in infancy.