



## Autumn Term Newsletter No.13

This has been a fun week in school for Year 3 and 4 as they came to the end of their Survival topic. They spent Tuesday undergoing challenges to earn treats for their team in "I'm in Lower KS2. Get Me Out of Here!" The children were allowed to bring in some home comforts to occupy them in the shelters that they made for the day and were selected to take part in trials. There were lots of trials that involved food—blind tasting trials, eating lemons and dry crackers; and trials that involved in endurance—Last Child Hanging, where the children had to hand on to the monkey bars for as long as possible. The children had a great day and we were impressed with their determination to succeed.



The PTA fair will be swinging in to action after school today! We are sure it will be a success after all the hard work that has gone on behind the scenes. The raffle prizes look amazing and we are very grateful to all the families and local businesses who have contributed to this. We would also like to thank the parents for organising the Christmas Fair for the children.

### **Keeping Up to Date with School Events**

Please remember to check the eSchools calendar regularly (on your app or on the website) to keep up to date with all that happens in school (we always put reminders on these Newsletters too). We text, email and message parents but we know some children end up missing out as their parents haven't see the messages. If your email address or mobile number has changed please let the office know. Up to date contacts are essential in case we need to contact your urgently about your child. Thank you.

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



Beech — Linus has made a super effort with his writing. He always tries so hard to use fantastic vocabulary.  
Pine — Amelia has challenged herself this week and adopted a Growth Mindset with amazing results!  
Apple — Lilly Ann Rose has a positive attitude towards reading and asks to read as soon as she gets home.  
Oak — Charlie K has made a superb start in a new school; great effort in all aspects of his learning!  
Birch — Layla has persisted with her times tables and achieved her 108 club for the first time this week!  
Rowan — Zach contributes to a high level in class and works well independently and interdependently too.  
Cherry — Will shows great resilience in every aspect of school and always tackles things positively.  
Maple — Alfie D and Liam showed extreme perseverance and determination in the Bush Tucker Trials.  
Holly — Leo always shows our school core values and is a fantastic learner with a great attitude.  
Willow — Annabelle is aspirational in her learning and particularly so in her spelling this week.  
Hawthorn — Brooke has made a superb effort in her writing and is making great progress.  
Hazel — Alfie is a star for his enthusiasm and positivity towards his learning.

### Diary Date Reminders:

Monday 11th December –KS2 Cinema trip. Packed lunches required.

Monday 11th December—PTA Bauble Competition

Tuesday 12th December—Foundation Stage Family Christmas Craft afternoon from 2pm. **Please let us know who will be joining your child for this fun event,**

Tuesday 12th December— KS2 Christmas Service at Upton Vale Baptist Church at 6pm.

Thursday 14th December—Christmas Dinner/Jumper Day. £1 donation for Save the Children please.

Friday 15th December—last day of Autumn term

Thursday 4th January—First day of Spring term

### Attendance Award



Congratulations to Birch Class for winning the School Attendance Award with **100%** attendance.

The whole school achieved 97.6% attendance. Well done, everyone!

### Swimming Gala and Aquasplash Festival

On Monday 29<sup>th</sup> November our school took part in a swimming gala at Plainmoor swimming pool against three other schools – St Marychurch, Priory and Homelands. There were two parts, first it was the 25m races and we managed to win a few first medals and a fair amount of 2<sup>nd</sup> places. After the individual races, we then did the relays—which four of our swimmers took part in and we came a close 2<sup>nd</sup>. After the 25m races, we were in the lead. We were all so proud of ourselves. Even though some of us didn't come in 1<sup>st</sup> place all of the points added up. All of our swimmers persevered well and everyone did their best. We were euphoric about our lead. In the second part we competed in some aqua activities which included the big float relay, sinking brick relay, water polo relay and the sinking and floating relay. We came first in 3 out of 4 events. We were overall winners! The result: Homelands 4<sup>th</sup>, Priory 3<sup>rd</sup>, St Marychurch 2<sup>nd</sup> and St Margaret's 1<sup>st</sup>! Well done St Margaret's!  
By Caitlin and Charlotte Y6



### Y5 Science at The Spires

Willow Class have had the opportunity to visit The Spires on Monday afternoons recently. They have been finding out about how to use a Science Laboratory safely and have loved getting to grips with the apparatus. They have tried out the Bunsen burners to make magnesium 'pop' and this week they were examining plant and animal cells under the microscope. Holly Class will have the opportunity to visit The Spires later in the year.

### Foundation Stage Nativity at Pennywell Farm



The Reception children had a fantastic day at Pennywell Farm on Thursday.

They dressed up and took part in the story of the Nativity which, to the delight of the children, included some of the animals at the farm. What a memorable experience for them!

They also had fun exploring the rest of the farm before they went to meet a very special person—Father Christmas.

It was a magical day all round!



*There was lots to explore—and lots to do!*



*Even 'Stripey' got to visit Father Christmas!*

*Learning today to achieve our tomorrows.*