



Spring Term Newsletter No.7

Many thanks for your patience this week with the onset of our building works. We appreciate that it is very busy at the front of the school at the moment at each end of the school day so our staff are trying to help keep the children safe by ensuring that the crossings are clear and no-one is parking on the zigzags. We are really grateful to the families who are now walking to school or parking further away—it is making a positive difference.

We are also aware that parents with pushchairs are finding it difficult, due to the nature of our site, to navigate steps when there are so many people using one entrance and exit. You are welcome to leave your empty pushchairs under the shelter on the playground whilst you collect your child or, if it is easier, if you let your child's class teacher know, you could wait on the large playground and they will bring the children down to you as soon as they can.

It has been lovely to see the sunshine again this week and the children have enjoyed being out in it. We do try to get the children out as much as possible as we have great grounds for learning outdoors. If you have seen our Twitter account this week you will already have spotted children doing maths outdoors; we don't just use the grounds for PE and playtimes. Please can you make sure your child has a coat with them at all times as they can then be included in all activities outdoors.

This Week's Star Pupils:



Beech — Gemma Brooks
Pine — Ashton Billingham
Apple— Harrison Hogg
Oak— Kayden Morrison
Cherry— Alfie Bartlett
Holly — Charlotte Meekings
Willow— Charley Matterface
Maple — Sonny Jackson
Birch — Chloe Daniel
Rowan — Oliver Bovey
Hawthorn — Isabella Backholer
Hazel — Tyler Maidlow

Diary Date Reminders:

Monday 29th February—Maple class swimming

Thursday 3rd March—World Book Day

Dress up as a character from a book

Monday 7th March Y6 Residential Week

Attendance Award



Congratulations to Birch Class for winning the School Attendance Award with 97.7% attendance.

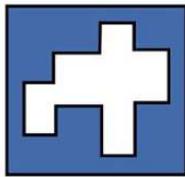
The whole school achieved 95.3% attendance overall which is above our target. Well done!



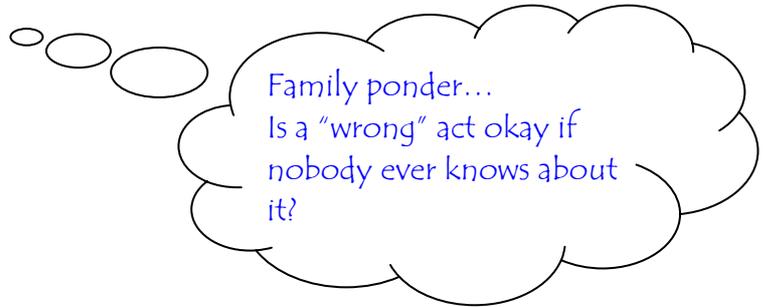
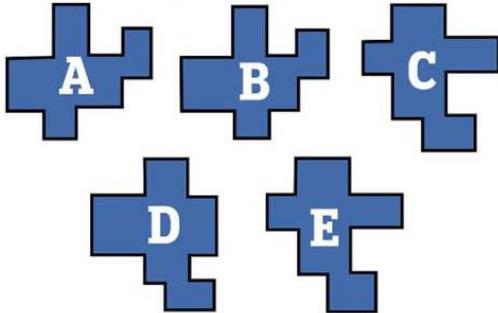
Don't forget to follow us on Twitter to see photographs and updates about school life.

<https://twitter.com/StMargaretsTQ>

Maths Challenge



15. Which jigsaw piece fits into the space - A, B, C, D or E?



Family ponder...
Is a "wrong" act okay if nobody ever knows about it?



Chicken Duty

Willow class will be responsible for looking after the chickens and the orchard next week. Please make sure they have their coats with them (a pair of wellies would also save them getting muddy trousers and shoes!) Thank you.

Reporting an Absence

As you are aware, we monitor attendance closely in order that every child meets his/her potential and to ensure we are confident that all the children are safe. We have recently reviewed our processes for first day absence reporting. The local authority requires us to be able to account for every child when they are not in school; this is a safeguarding requirement for all schools. We therefore want to share with you our procedures for absence reporting:

- If your child is unable to attend school (we understand all children are poorly from time to time!) please phone the school office on 327090 before 9:30am.
- If we haven't heard from you by 9:30am and your child is not in school, office staff will send a text message to remind you to clarify why your child is not in school
- If there is no response to that message, office staff will telephone you and will work through the contacts we hold on your child's emergency contact information
- If the absence remains unexplained by late morning, office staff will notify the designated safeguarding lead (Mrs Pike) who may speak to the attendance officer (Tracey Brennan Osment) or family support worker (Andrea Lewis) if they are in school and / or Mrs Stell. A home visit may be deemed appropriate
- If the absence remains unexplained by the end of the school day, a call may be logged with Children's Services

We would like to reassure you that these procedures are in place in order to fulfil our safeguarding duty and we would also like to thank you for your support in this important matter. If you have any concerns about these procedures or attendance in general, please feel free to discuss those concerns with Mrs Pike or Tracey Brennan Osment.

A message from the office....

Just a reminder that you should have received a medical form regarding your child. Thank you for all the forms that have been returned already. If you have not returned the form yet please do so as soon as possible as we would like our records to be up to date. Thank you.



Congratulations to our families who have successfully completed the Keeping Up with the Children course run by South Devon College. Family Learning takes place every Friday morning and is a great way to meet other parents and to learn how to support your child with their learning.

If you are interested in finding out more information please see Miss Berry in Foundation Stage.

Parent Questionnaire

Thank you to all the parents who completed the questionnaire during Parents Meetings. We appreciate you taking the time to complete it as we want to know what you feel we are doing well and what you feel we could do better. Sixty parents responded and the results were overwhelmingly positive as the following table shows:

	Strongly Agree	Agree	Disagree	Strongly disagree	Don't Know
My child is happy at this school	69.5%	29%	1.5%	0%	0%
My child makes good progress at this school	59%	41%	0%	0%	0%
My child is well looked after at this school	63%	35%	2%	0%	0%
My child is taught well at this school	58%	42%	0%	0%	0%
My child receives appropriate homework for their age	45%	45%	10%	0%	0%
This school ensures the pupils are well behaved	52%	41%	5%	0%	2%
This school deals effectively with bullying	36%	33%	5%	0%	26%
This school is well led and managed	51%	44%	0%	0%	5%
This school responds well to any concern I raise	54%	38%	5%	0%	2%
I receive valuable information from the school about my child's progress	42%	54%	2%	2%	0%
I would recommend this school to another parent	53%	43%	2%	0%	2%

If you were one of the parents who expressed concerns regarding behaviour or bullying please speak to your class teacher or a Senior Leader so we can discuss these concerns with you. We want to ensure all families have confidence in the level of care that the children experience in this school.

We have changed the homework procedures this year to allow more flexibility but the above table shows that 10% of parents have concerns. These were mainly parents of the younger children who felt that perhaps there was too much homework. The KS1 team will review this.

This year we have also changed the Progress Reports we send out at the end of the term so they contain more information—rather than just having tick boxes they now include a target for reading, writing and maths that you can support your child with. If you feel you do not have sufficient information about your child's progress please speak to their class teacher to make an appointment.

Another comment related to the school having a greater online presence. The new website has proved a huge disappointment to us and we are currently looking to move to a better one (again!). We do post regular photos and updates on our Twitter site and email weekly newsletters full of information about the school week.



Ski Club

Well done to all the children who attended our Ski Club this Year. Mr Tonge commented on your excellent behaviour and your enthusiasm for learning. Corbyn has been skiing with the school since he was in Reception and he is now in his final year. The Alpine Ski Club has asked him to join their race team so hopefully he will continue to ski after moving on to Secondary school.



Congratulations to our most recent Big Write Winners!

Alana, Callum, Annabelle, Jasmine, Natalie, Leon and Lucia impressed all the staff with their writing skills



On Thursday 3rd March it is World Book Day and we would love the children to dress up as a book character for the day. There are lots of ideas on the www.bookaid.org/get-involved/world-book-day/world-book-day-dress-up/

They will also come home with a £1 token to spend on a book. The books are available in Fables Book shop in St Marychurch and you can see the range here: <http://www.worldbookday.com/books/>

Year 4 have a fabulous opportunity to take part in a five week Aviva Tackling Numbers Programme which is a scheme to improve young people's numeracy and financial literacy skills. Their first session was this Tuesday when two members of the Exeter Chiefs came to school. The children had an hour of classroom based learning and an hour out on the field. We are very grateful to St Cuthbert Mayne for allowing us to use their field whilst ours is out of action.

At the end of the scheme there will be a tag rugby festival which will be held at a local rugby club where all the schools who are participating will be able to showcase their skills. The children loved their first session and can't wait for next week's.

