

Delabole Community Primary School Newsletter

February 2020

See this newsletter and more on our school website www.delaboleschool.org



Dear Parents and Carers,

It is hard to believe that already, we are halfway through February, and at last the days are drawing out with a glimmer of light even in the morning. Spring heralds the beginning of us being able to take the children out of doors much more and really plan for learning that goes beyond the classroom. That said, even in the coldest months of Winter, we have enjoyed some great moments of outdoor learning. We hope that the photos below capture just a flavour.

**Linked to our Value, Responsibility our term 3 Enquiry Question has been:
'What Are Our Roots?'**

Adventures in Learning

Drawing on all that we know about 'Nature Deficit' in childhood and what it means for the development of **our youngest learners**, We have centred all the learning in the past term around what it means to enjoy a childhood rooted in nature. The children have been wild, muddy, adventurous, imaginative and thoughtful as they have explored the great outdoors both in school and beyond. This Enquiry was rounded off with an exciting trip to The Lost Gardens of Heligan – and we couldn't have asked for better weather. Inspired by The Mud Maiden and landmarks around the garden, the Class 1 children are now writing their own Mud Maiden Stories.



What if we could go on a journey and tell the story of each step of that journey using found objects along the way. What if each object served as a memory of being in the moment and enjoying one of the most spectacular areas of outstanding natural beauty in Cornwall. What if this place was secret and hidden – and filled with wonder! Not only have our **Class 2 children** experienced outdoor learning every Friday through maths, geography, orienteering and art, but they also visited the incredible St Nectan's Glen. Their journey was punctuated with all sorts of magical experiences including making a journey stick and looking for Minpins. Back in class, their artwork, drama and writing have been enriched so much by their real experiences in nature.

The Egyptologists of Class 3 have really loved their quest to discover the truth behind Howard Carter's expedition to discover the Tomb of Tutankhamun. They have journeyed back in time to sample some of the extraordinary moments of his discovery whilst questioning the motivations behind some of his actions. As part of their journey of discovery back to the roots of civilisation, they have relived these moments and capture them in a bound book – all hand made and something to be cherished for years to come.

Having traced the family history of some mining families from Boscawell Terrace in Pendeen, using the census and their historical enquiry skills, the **children of Class 4** have stepped into the shoes of the Geevor mining community and really examined how their Cornish culture is rooted in mining where the land meets the sea in this most dramatic of landscapes. What a hard life it was – and so relentless. In order to really experience this, they visited Geevor and went down the mines, spoke to ex miners and experienced 'the Dry' exactly as it was left on the last day of the mine. The men were given little warning and they walked away from their jobs into an uncertain future. The room remains frozen in time and is an eerie snapshot of that historical moment.

Whatever the learning, it has been bound up in the best of books and will continue to be as we begin to plan exciting learning for next term.

Achieve and Mastery Workshops

Most of these sessions will be fully underway after half term and we shall be sharing progress with you at Parents Evenings. If, however, you have any concerns or questions, please contact your child's class teacher.

Up and coming events



This year, World Book Day coincides with St Piran's Day on Thursday 5th March.

This year – in celebration of all things books – we have decided to combine the two and invite parents in for the usual pasty lunch...but with a twist. The theme for the day will be the stories and poems of Lewis Carroll. The children will be asked to come into school in school uniform but come wearing a hat to wear to our 'Mad Hatter's Lunchtime Party'. If parents turn up with hats too, that will be a bonus! The hall will be transformed, and the children will spend at least part of the day sharing poems and extracts of stories by this most inventive of writers.

We hope to be dazzled by the hats and to have some fun with it. A proper invitation from the Mad Hatter himself will be circulated after half term.

Parent's Evenings

Just an early 'heads up' to secure the date. Our Spring parent evenings will take place on Tuesday 17th and Wednesday 18th. The focus will be on pupil progress and actually looking at your child's work with them so do please bring them along. It is important that they are part of the conversation around their learning. Parents of children with additional needs need not sign up for parent's evenings as they will have a longer appointment with Mrs Dingle and their child's teacher. This will be arranged via the office.



'Kiss and Drop'

Now that our youngest children in Early Years and Year 1 are settled into school routines, we would like to request that parents help us to grow on their independence in the mornings at drop off. The children know exactly what is expected of them and staff are keen to settle them for the registers and early learning slots - even before the start of assembly at 9:10am. This is often the time when Tas catch individual readers. Please could parents say their lovely goodbyes away from the class lines in the playground, so that children can focus on the staff and be confident about leading in. If you need to get a message to the class teacher, the office will relay it without fail. Often, if a teacher is spoken to as they move a class of children, they have no time to make a note and there is the risk that a message can get forgotten. They will be happy to meet with you at the end of the day if need be.

Attendance Update

At our most recent attendance review, we were concerned to see that our attendance figure for year to date stands at 94.1% which is below the DfE expectations. This remains a priority for us as already – across the school – we have at least 8 children who cannot now bring their attendance up above 90% in the time remaining, and so will have Persistent Absence at the end of the year. In Foundation Class particularly, there are very high rates of absence which means that those important routines for learning are being interrupted.

13th February 2020

This will have an impact on the confidence and progress of our youngest learners. Something worth considering – especially if you have a child in Foundation or KS1: Every day that your child misses school, is a new phoneme that has been missed! This means that they will carry forward a phonic gap which we will need to plug in order to ensure they are confident with their reading and writing. Thank you to every parent who is working with us to make sure that this does not happen. For those children where we have a concern, there will continue to be two weekly screenings.

Coats in School

Please could all parents ensure that their children are wearing a coat to school. They will go outside for play and learning even on the coldest of days.

Closure Due to Bad Weather

In the extreme circumstances of the school being closed for bad weather you will be notified via text message and this will also be confirmed on our website and via Pirate FM.

Best wishes



Sue Cox and the team

Monday 13 th January – 23 rd March	Swimming for Class 2, Class3, Class 4
Wednesday 15 th January – 25 th March	Swimming for Foundation and Class 1
Thursday 13 th February	Last day of Term 3
Monday 24 th February	First day of Term 4
Tuesday 25 th February	Pancake Day menu – All Day Breakfast followed by Pancake
Thursday 5 th March	Round 3 Cross Country at Wadebridge
Thursday 5 th March	St Piran's Day & World Book Day
Tues 17 th & Weds 18 th March	Parents Evenings
Friday 27 th March	Last day of Term 4
Tuesday 14 th April	First day of Term 5
Wednesday 15 th to Friday 17 th April	Y5 Nine Ashes Residential
Friday 8 th May	May Bank Holiday – school closed
Monday 11 th May to 15 th May	Y6 SATS
Friday 22 nd May	Last day of Term 5
Monday 1 st June	First day of Term 6
Monday 1 st to Thursday 4 th June	Y6 Bristol Residential
Friday 5 th June	RCS – Community Cohesion Day – school closed
Thursday 11 th June	Year group & Class photos
Monday 15 th to Wednesday 17 th June	Y4 Porthpean Residential
Mon 29 th & Tues 30 th June	Fly Up Days
Wednesday 22 nd July	Last day of Term 6