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13th November 2020 – End of Week 9 - Autumn Newsletter #11

Dear Parents,

I hope you found parents' evenings informative this week. You should now have a clear understanding of how your child has settled back into school this term and where he or she is in relation to national expectations for the core subjects. I would like to take this opportunity to thank the teaching staff for their considerable endeavours to provide your children with high quality learning opportunities. Juggling this with covid safety measures and pressures is no easy task.

Now that children have been back in school for 9 weeks, I'm keen to get your opinion on how well we have been doing: what's working well and what do we need to do to improve further. As I've said before, working in partnership is really important for us to get it right for your children so your views really do help. Therefore, I would really appreciate it if you could spend about 5 minutes completing the following survey. Thank you for your time doing this.

<https://www.surveymonkey.co.uk/r/33XNK7B>

Curriculum News

Have a look in the Science Blog this week to see how Year 4 Cherry class has been [exploring electricity](#) to make bulbs and motors work. Check out Year 4 Hazel Class using [green screen technology](#) to travel the world. In our Sports Blog you can find out how we got on in the [Virtual Games](#) and read an update about sport that's [taken place this term](#) in school.

Children in Need

Today we saw lots of spots and rainbows in school. Thank you for our support with this. We raised £347.25 in total.

Next Week is Anti-bullying Week – United Against Bullying

Next week in school, children will be taking part in a range of activities across the week, starting on Monday with 'Odd Socks Day' to help us focus on celebrating differences. So please send your child in with odd socks on Monday 16th – the crazier, the better. The week will finish with 'Friendship Friday'. See our [Mental Health and Well-being](#) page under 'Well-being in Action' for more details from Mrs Russell about what's going on. If you would like some support at home you can find an Anti-Bullying Week Parents pack by [clicking here](#). This resource provides you

with tips about what to do if you are worried about bullying and it gives you the tools to help you talk to your children about bullying. It really is a very useful and informative resource.

KS2 Homework and Working at Home if Isolating

If your child is in Year 3, 4, 5 or 6, teachers are using *Google Classroom* for homework and for setting work if your child is isolating. Teachers are training them how to use this so if you have a device at home we would be grateful if you can encourage them to access the work in this way. Photocopying of hard copies to send home or collect from school is quite a time consuming task so it would really help if your child can use the device. However, we do certainly understand that this might not be possible for all children so please don't worry if this applies to you as we will continue to provide paper copies. As during the original lockdown, if you need help with any aspects of learning online please feel free to email our helpline: Ithelp@st-margarets.torbay.sch.uk. In addition, encourage your child to ask their teacher for help and you are also welcome to email the teacher direct on their class email.

Calling all families—Your help is needed!

Last September we began to teach the children their phonics through the Read, Write Inc programme. As part of this we spent nearly £900 on building up our home reading books so that the children could take home reading books which were matched to their phonic knowledge and developed the phonics we were teaching in school. Sadly when lockdown came into effect things changed and as a result of this some of our books are missing. Although odd books across the colour bands might be missing, we are missing the majority of our blue book band books. We are grateful for any books which have been returned but ask that everyone have another search in case any books are hiding in amongst other books in your bookcases (staff are also having a look in the classes). To replace these blue books would be £274.50. Below is a list of the titles from the blue book band set. All of the books have a similar layout on their front cover. Thank you so much for your help. If you could send the books to KS1 we would be very grateful.



Breakfast and After School Club

If your child is booked into one of our after school activity clubs and they are not going to be attending a session, could you please make sure that you inform the school office before the club starts. We will then inform the club organiser. Thank you

A reminder that Breakfast Club and Afterschool Club now have their own telephone number which is 07783607282 if you need to speak to them. Please note that you will not be able to contact these clubs out of normal school hours. The main office is manned between 8.15 a.m. until 4.15 p.m. for phone calls. We are sorry for the inconvenience and will continually monitor and revise the situation.

Photos

On Wednesday 18th and Thursday 19th next week we are going ahead with school photos. These will only be done individually and with siblings this year.

Pandemic Double Down

Please continue to be safe during this new lockdown. It's crucial we all avoid pandemic fatigue. In school, we've made further adjustments to our safety measures including being extra careful that staff social distance from each other. We have more additional sinks in school with installations in the Foundation and Key Stage 1 block as well as the main school corridor. Remember to send your child in in warm clothing as doors and windows are open more often for ventilation. Regular cleaning continues to occur all throughout the day.

The national guidance for parents was updated yesterday; [quick link here FYI](#).

A reminder: as rates have risen, the likelihood of symptoms being positive has increased. Therefore for now anybody with symptoms (pupils or staff) who share a house with a confirmed case will be assumed to be positive. This is not government policy; it is a local decision taken by Torbay from Tuesday this week. This increases the likelihood of us having a partial lockdown in school but will help prevent onward spread. It is really important that we know when any children first display symptoms. Please inform us if your child gets symptoms when they are in the middle of isolating if there is a positive case in your house.

A reminder: one of the big messages Public Health want to get out there is about the behaviour of young people during lockdown. It appears that adolescents and young people up to the age of 29 are the main cause for the increase in infections. Please do whatever you can to ensure they follow the rules and social distance. Please see the letter emailed out on Wednesday 4th November from the Director of Public Health which you can also find on our website; [quick link here](#).

Have a lovely weekend.



Tim Hughes (Headteacher)



Attendance Stars –for 13th November 2020



Whole school for last week: 98.1% (end year school target is 96%)

Class attendance star this week is for both Year 1 classes: **Beech and Pine with 100%** - that means Beech has won a non-uniform day and Pine has collected their first star, aiming for their second non-uniform day. Well done all Year 1s!!!!.

Individual stars of the week...

Beech	Louie for trying so hard with your writing this week. I loved your take away menu and your box to go with it. I could read all your words and knew exactly what I could order for my tea!
Pine	Rosie - for always having her hand up ready to answer questions. She is a great role model for the rest of the class.
Oak	Jack- for great aspiration and focus in his writing and for also joining in with his learning more. Great positive attitude Jack- Well done!
Apple	Zoe has tried hard throughout the term so far and could have been our star many weeks. She listens, tries hard and always gives 100% whether doing written work or being creative. Well done Zoe!
Birch	Victor wrote and performed a fantastic poem with wonderful expression in front of the whole class - Well done!
Rowan	Lewis – for consistently working so hard on his times tables, improving his listening and doing so well in Read, Write, Inc.
Cherry	Ella - she has a wonderful inquisitive attitude to all of her learning and is always answering and asking questions. She has worked especially hard on using fronted adverbials in her writing this week and it has been a pleasure to read her work. Super aspirational effort.
Hazel	Holly H - As part of our work on 'Celebrating Difference' Holly has shown a fantastic sense of aspiration and perseverance to produce a fantastic piece of art work. Well done Holly.
Willow	Euan - A great attitude to his learning this week. Even when completing tasks that are not his favourite! Keep this up Euan and well done!
Holly	Isabelle - for her consistently aspirational attitude to her work. She does her best with every task and is always willing to listen to advice about how to make her work even better.
Maple	Kye - for showing determination, energy and aspiration in all aspects of school life and learning. Your positive attitude towards reaching your goals sets an amazing example to your peers and it is a pleasure to teach you. Well done Kye!
Hawthorn	Ethan- you continue to be a marvellous role model for those around you. You show great enthusiasm in lessons, and always strive to do your best. Your writing this week was absolutely fantastic!