

Summer Term Newsletter No.6 (7.6.19)

Welcome back to a sunny start to the second half of the summer term. The children and staff all arrived back on Monday looking refreshed and relaxed. We began the week with an assembly on *mindfulness* and *being thankful*. We looked at what a wonderful area we live in, and perhaps take for granted. I shared with the children that Torbay is designated as a *UNESCO Global Geopark*; 1 of only 147 in the world which recognises the stunning geology all around us and how we look to develop sustainable living on our planet. We also learnt that about 10% of children in the UK have never seen a beach. That's about 1,200,000 children; quite a staggering fact and something to make us very thankful.

The summer term is a particularly busy one for teachers who are writing reports and making final assessments. We've been moderating each others judgements in writing this week and Year 6 have also been moderating theirs with another school. It's an important process to ensure we have confidence in the accuracy of our reports to you and for the start of the following year. Thank you to the teachers who are burning the candle at both ends of the day.

Teaching Assistants have been looking at the use of questioning to help develop children's thinking and independent learning. They have also been reviewing the theories and practice around attachment which is a fascinating insight into children's behaviour. We think of behaviour as communication. When children are misbehaving, they are trying to tell us something that we need to understand in order to help them.

Mr Tullier is studying for a Masters in Education in collaboration with Exeter University. He is writing a dissertation on parental attitudes and engagement in homework and parents' view on how homework impacts on progress. Part of this is a comparative study looking at a state school and a local private school. He would be very grateful if you could spare 2-3 minutes to complete a short anonymous questionnaire by following the link: <https://forms.gle/bsG9p7ebSLkoXFrQ8>. The issue of homework always elicits a very wide range of responses from parents so it will be very interesting to see the conclusions from Mr Tullier's work which we can use to help inform our approach at school. It's great that we have someone on our team who's up for the challenge of a Master's level qualification.

Mrs Turner reports on some out-of-season Christmas news / Reading news on the website. Check out [this link](#) to see how St Margaret's pupils have collaborated with the Princess Theatre and Tom Gates.

Help Needed! We have some beautiful and very tame chickens in the orchard, however some are cockerels and unfortunately our neighbours might not be happy if we keep them as they get older and more vocal...We are looking to rehome them with loving families and want them all to find their forever home. If you or anyone you know would like one, or maybe you know someone with chickens already or someone who has a small holding, please would you speak to Mrs Turner as soon as possible. Thank you in advance.

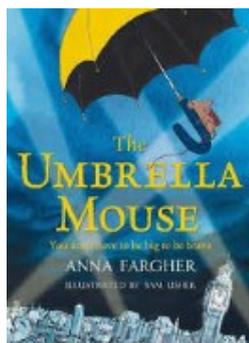
Wild Flowers The orchard is a wonderful place for the children and as the warm weather is replacing the cold, the children are excited to go and explore this even more during play times and breaks as well during lessons. We are always looking at ways to develop our orchard area and wondered if anyone has any wild flowers which they are 'thinning out' would you mind donating them to the school orchard. We would like flowers which are annual such as bluebells, daffodils, primroses and snowdrops. We also have a wish list of things we would like to make/create from wooden pallets if anyone is happy to lend a hand with a hammer and drill.

Finally, congratulations to Mr Tullier who completed his 100 km run from London to Brighton at half term. He finished in the top 10 of men who completed the event; a huge achievement and I believe he's already planning his next challenge.



Miss Palfrey and the Reading Ambassadors' Weekly Book Choices

KS1: Paper Planes by Jim Helmore



Miss Palfrey and the Reading Ambassadors' Book Choices



Upper KS2: The Umbrella Mouse by Anna Fargher

This book was published to coincide with the 80th anniversary of the start of WWII and is a heart-stopping adventure drawing on the true stories of animals caught in the conflict of the war.

Weekly Attendance Award

Congratulations to **Rowan Class** for winning the School Attendance Award with **97.4** attendance. School target: 96% The whole school achieved **96.2% this week**



This Week's Star Pupils!

- Ash — Archie - You were a super author this week and we loved your story 'Claude goes on holiday.' You stuck at it and even returned to it the next day to finish the end of your story. What a 'stick-o-saurus!'
 Talah - You were also a super author this week and used your sounds independently to write your story about the mice and the snake. We really enjoyed reading your story! Well done Talah!
- Elm — Freddie - You really impressed me with how independent you were using your reading clues this week...what a Solve-a-Saurus!
 Esmae - You were a brilliant number detective this week, exploring the different double-number spot patterns you could make on your ladybird.
- Beech — Sophia H has been a super star writer this week! We haven't been able to stop you. It has been wonderful to watch you grow in confidence - well done!
- Pine — Mabel- for being extremely kind and thoughtful to others. She also worked very hard in maths this week, working independently to turn her objects a quarter and a half turn.
- Oak — Sophia C - for being brave and trying her best at a sport competition even though she was a little bit nervous. You were amazing!
- Apple— Theo - excellent attitude to sport, being encouraging to others and an excellent leader to motivate his team to win. Well done!
- Birch — TJ - For always demonstrating our core value - kindness and having impeccable manners!
- Rowan — Bali for wonderful aspiration and putting in maximum effort this week in maths, science and literacy.
- Cherry — Olivia for her wonderful aspiration in writing especially in her use of speech.
- Maple — This week, Calleigh has shown all our school values and has also been such a lovely and supportive friend.
- Holly — Corey - for showing great aspiration in his writing this week. Well done and keep it up!
- Willow — Rufus has been a fantastic learning partner this week. Kind, thoughtful and supportive. Well done Rufus!
- Hazel— Aiden and Harrison - for crafting outstanding texts of their own, showing aspirational attitudes and effort. Well done to these future authors!
- Hawthorn— Ryan- for superb effort in his writing and art. His creativity has really shone this week!

Diary Dates

Tuesday 11.6.19	PTA KS1 and Reception Film Night showing <i>Moana</i> straight after school
Thursday 13.6.19	6.00pm—meeting for new parents
Friday 14.6.19	Non-uniform day to support the PTA summer fair—please bring a bottle for the tombola
Monday 24.6.19	Parent workshop with Frances Harding:'Supporting Children to Manage Stress and Anxiety'. All welcome, 1;30-3pm in the Woodland Den
Wednesday 26.6.19	Foundation Stage Sports Day 1.30-3.00
Thursday 27.6.19	Key Stage 2 Sports Day 9.30-11.30 track events, 1.15-3.00 carousel
Friday 28.6.19	Key Stage 1 Sports Day 1.15-3.00
Saturday 29.6.19	PTA Summer Fair 10-2

KINDNESS

RESPECT

RESPONSIBILITY

ASPIRATION