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23rd October 2020 – End of Week 7 - Autumn Newsletter #9

Dear Parents,

This week we've had a school focus on learning to learn; trying to understand how we learn best. We started the week with our whole school remote assembly looking at how we get better at learning a new skill such as football, Maths, solving a puzzle and handwriting. Over the week, children in class have been discussing this further with their teachers and in today's assembly we shared some examples of how children have been learning.

In our staff meeting on Tuesday, Mrs Russell (Reception lead and teacher) and Mrs Tandy (Y1 teacher) trained teachers in Year 3, 4, 5 and 6 on how they might develop more enquiry-based learning in their classes. They talked about the 3 characteristics of learning (playing & exploring, active learning and thinking critically) that are the foundation for all the teaching that takes place in the early years and how we might be able to use these more with the older children. It was an engaging and interesting meeting which will help improve our curriculum teaching.

Teachers and children have been experimenting with enquiry-based learning this week in class. Check out the [Creative Blog](#) to see how Year 3 Birch Class has been finding out about Stonehenge for example. Look in the [Computing Blog](#) to see how Year 1 Beech Class children have been making their own laptops! Have a look in our [PSHE Blog](#) to find Joshua harvesting some apples.

Teachers have now completed their baseline assessments of your children. We will be using this information to help us plan for their needs in the coming weeks. You will also be given this information at parents evenings starting after half term.

Due to the pandemic, Parents Evening will take place by telephone call or *Google Meet*. Please book the slot at the time you wish to receive your call. You will be allotted a **ten minute** phone call to discuss your child's progress. Please note that the call will come through as a 'withheld' or 'unknown' number. If you do not answer at your given time slot the teacher may not be able to call back and the appointment might have to be rescheduled. Many thanks for your understanding. Bookings will open on Friday 23rd Oct at 4pm and will close on Thursday 5th Nov at 9pm. Please note that the Foundation Stage Parents Evenings will take place in December because they are still completing assessments.

PARKING APPEAL – please continue to park safely and drive carefully at the start and end of the school day. The congestion has improved thank you but there are still some on-going issues with drives being blocked and cars driving fast.

KINDNESS RESPECT RESPONSIBILITY ASPIRATION

Important Covid-19 Holiday Updates

As numbers of cases continue to rise in Torbay, please read the below and consider carefully how you will spend a safe half term holiday. If your child has a confirmed case, please remember to email admin@st-margarets.torbay.sch.uk as soon as possible. This email will be monitored regularly over the half term break.

I have added the below information to our website for your future reference. They can be found under 'A range of helpful resources for parents' on the 'Coronavirus (COVID-19)' page; [quick link here](#). This includes a Halloween update / appeal from the council to please remember the rule of 6 and think about alternative ways to celebrate this year that keeps everybody safe.

Important Community Message – Advice Regarding Self-isolation

One of the key ways to help stop the transmission of the virus is to isolate promptly and adhere to the full isolation timescales. There is evidence that not everybody in Torbay is doing this. Please help us all by following the below advice.

You need to take action to isolate if:

- I or a member of my household has Covid -19 symptoms
- I or a member of my household is awaiting a test result
- I or a member of my household has received a positive Covid-19 test result (regardless of if you or the family member have symptoms)

What does self-isolation mean for a household that has a family member with symptoms or a confirmed case?

- Your whole household needs to isolate and not leave the family home.
- Nobody outside of the family bubble should enter the home.

You also need to take action to isolate if:

- If you have been asked by Track and Trace to isolate
- You have received a letter from your child's school or activity club asking them to self-isolate.

What does self-isolation mean for a household with a family member who has been a close contact?

- The person that has been asked to isolate cannot leave the family home until the return to normal activities date detailed in any correspondence provided.
- Nobody outside of the family bubble should enter the home.
- Other household members do not need to self-isolate unless they are also a close contact.

We are asking you to do this to reduce the further spread of Covid-19, to friends, family and our wider school community.

KINDNESS RESPECT RESPONSIBILITY ASPIRATION

If you require support to help your household to isolate, please call the Torbay Community Helpline 01803 446022, available 10am-6pm, Monday-Friday, and 9:30am-12:30pm Saturdays. Online form available at www.bit.ly/torbayhelpline

Are you worried about losing your home?

Anyone can find themselves homeless and knowing you may not have somewhere to live can be a scary time.

The first step is to ask for help and Torbay Council's website has lots of information and contact details of charities and organisations that can support you in working out the next best steps.

If you are worried that you won't be able to pay your rent or mortgage, or have found yourself living with family or friends, there is help out there.

You may have found yourself in a situation where your relationship with your family has broken down and you have had to leave, or your Landlord has served you with an eviction notice, the sooner you ask for help the better.

To see what support there is and who can provide you with advice visit: www.torbay.gov.uk/worried-you-might-lose-your-home/

Enjoy a lovely half term break everyone. Time to re-charge the batteries.



Tim Hughes (Headteacher)



Attendance Stars –for 23rd October 2020



Whole school for this half term: 97.3% (end year school target is 96%)

The national percentage for primary schools in England is 92% so we're doing well. Thank you to all parents for supporting with attendance during these challenging times.

Class stars: Beech, Pine, Apple and Hazel Class all with 99.3% - that means just 1 more class star needed for an Apple non-uniform day while Pine Class is the first class to get 3 stars and have now earned a non-uniform day after half term. Well done Pine!

Individual stars of the week...

Beech	Hughie - for trying so hard to think carefully about the choices you have made during busy time. You have had a fantastic week Hughie - keep it up!
Pine	Cohen- for his incredible geographical knowledge. He has been so busy this week and is always trying hard in class.
Oak	Lily-Summer- for being aspirational in everything that she does and for always showing respect to others. You are an excellent role model Lily-Summer!
Apple	Demi - for always thinking about her presentation when completing tasks, taking her time to ensure she always produces both written and art work she should be proud of!
Birch	Ines - For being aspirational in your maths this week and showing fantastic listening skills and resilience when learning a new method!
Rowan	Lilly-Ella - for always being ready to learn and trying your best in all you do. We are so proud of you and the progress you have made!
Cherry	Seren for the fabulous effort you put into your letter writing this week. You show great concentration and perseverance in all you do. Well done Seren.
Hazel	Barney has been a fantastic example to everyone in Hazel class and we all miss him now that he is leaving us. Keep up the great work in your new school Barney and enjoy making lots of new friends.
Willow	Ethan for always making superb contributions to our class discussions. You are super thoughtful and give very considered opinions and share your ideas well with others. Well done!
Holly	Olivia has been demonstrating fantastic perseverance with her Maths work in particular and never gives up, even when something is tricky. You are a great role model of our aspiration core value, Olivia. Well done!
Maple	Ellie - for your brilliant contributions to our class discussions around wellbeing and treating each other with respect and kindness. You show such maturity, empathy and understanding towards others and are an excellent ambassador for the school. We are lucky to have you in Maple Class Ellie!
Hawthorn	Ella- for your fantastic attitude towards your learning. You are always ready to learn by showing me that you are looking and listening and show enthusiasm with whatever you are asked to do. On top of that, your work is always beautifully presented. A superb member of Hawthorn Class. Well done!