



*“You are braver than you believe,
Stronger than you seem
and
Smarter than you think”
A.A. Milne Winnie The Pooh*

Our children certainly showed that this is true this past month of May. It is a funny old month; the month of university finals, A-Levels and GCSEs and of course Statutory Assessment Tests for our year 2 and year 6 children. Some of our year 2 children are only 6 and yet they have to summon up all their courage to remember what they have been taught about fronted adverbials, if the “i” comes before or after the “e” and what on earth is a mixed number and all without any talking, discussion or manipulation of apparatus to support their thinking. How many of us are expected to do that in our working lives? But there is the odd bank holiday thrown in to ease the pain. It was a surprise and delight to me to witness the unalloyed joy a bank holiday Monday gave my not-quite-been-in-a-grown-up-job-for-a-year son. It is important to remember that these formal tests are only one measure of a child’s success.

A peek through the classroom door...

Amethyst Class has been busy enjoying our ‘In the Garden’ topic. They have loved the ‘Garden Centre’ outside where they have been able to buy and sell flowers, seeds and everything for their gardening needs. They have been looking after our outdoor area very nicely, weeding, watering and planting out the sunflowers they have grown from seed. They have looked at some of Van Gogh and Claude Monet’s paintings, using them as inspiration for their own art work and have looked for ‘treasures’ in the school Wild Garden.



Ruby Class has been working hard and having fun this springtime. A few weeks ago the Year 2 children represented the school at the tennis festival at Comberton Village College, and showed good teamwork and perseverance. Year 1 children have had the opportunity to play tennis with our PE specialist teacher.

In school children have been learning outside and inside, exploring 2D and 3D shapes, practising phonics and learning about kings and queens. Everyone has particularly enjoyed plant investigations in Science, including experimenting to see if radish seeds will grow in a CD greenhouse. We are looking forward to continuing our kings, queens and castles topic after half term and have exciting plans for a castle in our outdoor area.



Emerald Class has been thrown into many a new venture during the month of May. Children got ‘down and dirty’ with the human digestive system in science, thoroughly enjoying the opportunity to recreate the digestive process involved as a cracker and a banana suffered at the hands of plastic bags, plastic cups, old tights and cardboard cups all heavily disguised as basic parts of the digestive system. Peristalsis and oesophagus won the children’s votes for the best vocabulary associated with the human digestive system and we were even treated to ‘the worm’ by two rather talented boys who were keen to slip in a bit of cross curricular PE into the science lesson!



From the digestive system to The Battle of Bosworth as the children were entertained by Henry Tudor and Richard III, accompanied by Sir John Stanley’s army of course. Some fantastic comic strips were created, demonstrating the children’s love of the blood thirsty battlefield! A great way to hook the children in to our Tudor topic this term and an opportunity to introduce the Tudor Rose which will feature highly when the children get ‘down and dirty’ once more with clay!

On the sports field it has been a month of striking and fielding with the support of A Chance to Shine’s cricket coach, Matt Morley, along with developing hand / eye co-ordination and racquet skills with the support of our PE specialist Julia Scarborough. The children have demonstrated not only some technical excellence but some fantastic teamwork, cooperation and communication all of which are qualities sportsmen and women aspire to develop. Alongside designated PE sessions, children have also been enjoying developing their running / walking stamina through taking part in our daily mile challenge. This has proven to be a welcome active break in an afternoon.

Coton’s 5 Cs: caring, cooperation, creativity, challenge and courage.



Topaz Class children have made Roman mosaics using paper and completed an art project using the tie dye technique to make a t-shirt. They were very successful. The children used the first chapter of Mark Wells new book, 'Riddle of the White Sphinx', to start their English unit of work on Imaginary Worlds. The class have been very lucky to have two archaeologists come into the classroom and show them Roman artefacts. Thank you Lia's uncle!



Sapphire Class has had an impressive start to the summer term. The children have shown and taught Miss Evans everything she could possibly need to know about being at Coton Primary - which has been rather handy! The year 6's have tackled the SATs monster and have defeated it with resilience, bravery and courage. They enjoyed breakfast club during SATs week with some amazing homemade croissants and biscuits brought in (a HUGE thank you for those). During this time the year 5's have been superstars supporting the younger children in their classes. To top it all off they enjoyed a chilled out afternoon in pyjamas watching a film. The whole class have been working on their own inventions for Dragons Den with some outstanding ideas coming forward. Who wouldn't want: a cookie bar; music playing bed; shoes which heal you; super cars or glasses which can do almost anything?! Sapphire has been working out 'What's the Matter?' for their science topic this half term. They have used their own energy to turn liquid (cream) into a solid (butter) and have even made lava lamps to show how liquids have varying densities. Here's to another busy and final half term!

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The Library Project

The Amazon deliveries we receive every day are opened with a frisson of excitement in the office because we know that they herald the arrival of yet another parcel of your favourite books which you are generously donating for our school library project. I would like to take this opportunity to thank everyone who has taken the time to choose the books and donated them so generously. We welcome books and reading material of every genre. As Jon Scieszka, the children's writer, reading advocate and the founder of Guys Read, a web-based literacy program for boys whose mission is to help boys become self-motivated, lifelong readers, said:

Expand the definition of 'reading' to include non-fiction, humour, graphic novels, magazines, action adventure, and, yes, even websites. It's the pleasure of reading that counts; the focus will naturally broaden. A boy won't read shark books forever.

We are in the process of obtaining quotes for a new library in school to house both non-fiction and fiction books and are seeking alternate sources of funding for this part of the project. I will update as to our progress on that front as soon as I can. In the meantime, please keep buying the books!

Sponsored read/ listen

You should have received by way of parent mail before the half term began information of the sponsored read/listen. Our wonderful PTA pledged £2 per child to get your children's donations on their way. If every child in school manages to get sponsored £5-10, this will unlock £360 worth of free Usborne Books for the School Library. Sponsor forms should be returned Friday 7th June along with sponsorship money to school office. The child that clocks up the most reading/ listening hours wins a £10 **Smiggle** or **Book Trust voucher**. The winner can choose what they would prefer **and** the class clocking up the most hours will win a class prize in school, such as a movie afternoon at end of term. All the money raised will go towards the school library Project. So far PTA events have raised a grand total of £856.42, including £185.20 raised at the end of SATs disco. There have been anonymous donations amounting to £300.00 (in addition to a £2,500.00 donation made earlier in the year). The PTA is aiming to have raised £1500 by the end of June...so get reading!

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Family Worker Drop-In

Clare Merrington, our family worker, is available every **second Tuesday** during term time. She can usually be found outside school from 8.45am and is next due on **Tuesday 4th May**.

Clare is available for anyone who would like someone to talk to about any aspect of parenting. It can be a quick chat on the doorstep or a longer discussion in private. You can make an appointment via the office, but it is not usually necessary.

PTFA

Our PTFA Committee does a marvellous job, but could do with more willing volunteers. If you have any spare time and are interested in joining, please do contact the school office.

Swimming

Curriculum swimming during the school day will begin on Wednesday 5th June as will the PTA after school swims, all being well. Please remind your child(ren) to bring their swimmers, towel and any goggles with them to school on Monday!

Summer suns are glowing...

I suspect many of you will have already enjoyed the first sweet strawberries of the summer. I know I have. I also got my first bout of prickly heat during the half term- not so sweet! But a timely reminder that, lovely though the warmer weather is, it does come with a caveat; as always, please make sure that your children come to school having already applied a high factor sun screen and wearing loose-fitting clothes which keep them both cool and covered. Sun hats are strongly advised. Please, no flip-flops, no bare shoulders and no shorts that are too short. Make sure that any sun screen brought into school is named and in a bag which will minimise any damage caused by a leakage. Please also instruct your child on how to apply the sun screen.

*Do you remember the Shire, Mr Frodo? ...they'll be sowing the summer barley in the lower fields...
and eating the first of the strawberries with cream. Do you remember the taste of strawberries?
JRR Tolkien, The Return of the King*

Ishbel Coleman

Headteacher.

Dates for your Diary

- Half term: **Monday 27th May to Friday 31st May**
- Summer 2 begins: **Monday 3rd June**
- Primary Schools Orchestra Concert at Cambourne Village College for pupils in Year 3 - Year 6 : **Wednesday 26th June**
- Year 1 Phonics screening: **Week beginning 10th June**
- School group photos: **Friday 21st 9-11.30am**
- Cream tea quiz: **Saturday 22nd June**
- Emerald Class trip to Kentwell Hall - **Friday 28th June**
- Amethyst Class new parents meeting: **Wednesday 3rd July 4-5pm.**
- Sports Day: **Wednesday 10th Sports Day from 9.15am**
- Amethyst Class new children visits: **Tuesday 9th July 9.30 - 10.30am and Thursday 11th July 9.30-10.30am**
- Amethyst Class new children and parents school lunch: **Friday 12th July 11.30am until 12pm**
- Dress rehearsal KS2 production **Tuesday 16th at 1.30pm**
- KS2 production: **Wednesday 17th at 6pm**
- KS2 production: **Thursday 18th at 6pm**
- Leavers assembly: **Tuesday 23rd July at 9.30am**
- Last day of Summer Term: **Tuesday 23rd July. School closing at 2.00pm**
- Inset day: **Wednesday 4th September**
- Autumn term begins: **Thursday 5th September**

COTON C of E (VC) PRIMARY SCHOOL Term Dates - 2019/20	Start day for children	Last day for children
Autumn term begins Wednesday 4 th September 2019- school closed for staff training	Thursday 5th September 2019	Friday 18th October 2019
Autumn half term	Saturday 19 October 2019	Sunday 27 October 2019
Autumn term continues	Monday 28 October 2019	Wednesday 18 December 2019
Christmas holiday	Thursday 19 December 2019	Sunday 5 January 2020
Spring term begins	Monday 6 January 2020	Friday 14 February 2020
Spring half term Wednesday 1 st April school closed for staff training	Saturday 15 February 2020	Sunday 23 February 2020

Spring term continues	Monday 24 th February 2020	Tuesday 31 st March
Easter holiday Wednesday 1 st April school closed for staff training	Thursday 2 nd April 2020	Sunday 19 April 2020
Summer term begins May Day- Monday 4 th May- School Closed Friday 22 nd May- School closed for staff training Monday 20 th July- school closed for staff training Tuesday 21 st July - school closed for staff training KS2 SATs Week: 11 th - 14 th May Year 4 multiplication tests: from 8 th June Year 1 Phonics check: week beginning June 8 th	Monday 20 April 2020	Thursday 21 st May 2020
Summer half term	Saturday 23 May 2020	Sunday 31 May 2020
Summer term continues	Monday 1 June 2020	Friday 17 th July 2020
Summer holidays begin on Friday 17 July 2020 until Tuesday 1 September 2020		