



### Weekly Newsletter

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**Headteacher: Hilary Priest**  
**Newsletter No: Spring 5**

**Telephone 01803 862018**  
**12<sup>th</sup> February 2020**

Dear Parents and Carers,

Last day of half term is tomorrow and the first day back is Monday 24<sup>th</sup> February.

### **Safeguarding Audit**

This week Babcock carried out a safeguarding audit for us to check that our policies, procedures and practice are all effective in terms of keeping your children safe in school and dealing with any allegations. We are delighted and hope you are too, that we passed with flying colours and we were deemed to keep our children very safe and well cared for.

### **WHIZZY SCIENCE**

Last Tuesday, Ken Armstrong (Alex and Amelia's Dad), gave up a whole day of his time to enrich our children's knowledge, love and thirst for science. He started the day with an assembly for Years 3 and 4 that was filled with colour, whizzes, bangs and pops. Children were in awe and asked endless questions. Ken would have been there all day if we had let them carry on being curious. Ken then ran a workshop in each of the Year 5 and 6 classes in turn where children were given the opportunity to have a go themselves making all those colours, whizzes, bangs and pops. The children were given such a fantastic opportunity and experience that most children don't get until they start secondary school. Thank you Ken – you're a STAR!

### **Staffing news**

In Willow Tree Class there will be a change of teacher from February 24<sup>th</sup>. Mrs Vikki Drew will be teaching on a Monday, Tuesday and Wednesday each week, whilst Mr Mark Brudenell will continue to teach on a Thursday and Friday. This is due to the school needing to utilise Mrs Sam Wilkinson's role as Deputy Headteacher within the whole school instead of in the classroom. Mrs Drew will continue to teach in Flame Tree Class on Thursdays and Fridays and Mrs Sue Biggins will be the class TA for Grey Birch Class.

### **Ginkgo Tree Forest School Day – CHASER**

Wednesday 11<sup>th</sup> March Ginkgo class have been offered the opportunity to take part in a Forest School day on the Raleigh Estate near Dartmouth. We will be in the woods all day doing various activities. The day is being provided free of charge but we do have to cover the cost of transport. Therefore, we are asking for a voluntary contribution of £5.50 to cover the cost of the coach. Please could parents fill in the consent form and return it to Rebecca so that we know if the trip can go ahead.

### **Reading Week**

World Book Day is on Thursday the 5<sup>th</sup> of March and we intend to celebrate by holding a reading week with lots of activities to celebrate books and reading. We hope to run a reading café at the beginning and end of each day throughout the week and would love parents to come in and help. Please contact Mrs Drew ([vikkid@the-grove-](mailto:vikkid@the-grove-)

primary.devon.sch.uk) if you are able to help on any day during the week. We also plan to dress up on the 5<sup>th</sup> March as a book character or in pyjamas with a favourite bedtime story, so you can begin planning your outfits!

### **School Council News**

Thank you to the school councillors who picked up plastic around the school grounds last week – we found a surprising amount. We are meeting **this Sunday, the 16<sup>th</sup> at 10 a.m.** by the weir (at the bench) beside the River Dart to pick up plastic. Ms Caldwell will be there to meet you. We will be finished by 11 a.m. All are welcome. Please come and support the school councillors who want to help the environment. If your family have gardening/thick gloves to pick up the rubbish bring these along.

### **PTA Meeting**

The PTA are planning the school disco for Thursday 19<sup>th</sup> March, please pencil this into your diaries and further details will be sent out nearer the time.

We also have booked in a Bag2School collection on Thursday 30<sup>th</sup> April. I know this is a couple of months away but if you're having a wardrobe clear out over half term please consider keeping hold of clothes/bedding/towels etc for this collection.

We have also had the date of the summer fair confirmed for Friday 10<sup>th</sup> July, so another date to add to your diaries.

### **Praise Assembly**

Praise assembly this week will be Trumpet Tree class tomorrow at 2.45. The next praise assembly will be Grey Birch tree on Friday 28<sup>th</sup> February.

Kind regards

Hilary Priest

*Adverts – please note that the school is neither recommending nor supporting the adverts below. If you wish to advertise in our newsletter then please contact the school for details.*



**Speech, Language and Communication Needs  
Parent Workshops 2020**

A free workshop for parents of children and young people with speech, language and communication needs.

We will be focusing on strategies to support your child with vocabulary learning. We will be looking at how to support word learning through book sharing, as well as exploring visual ways in which you can support your child to learn new words throughout their school career.

This workshop is suitable for parents of children at Primary and Secondary school.

Please choose from the following venues:

	Venue	Date	Time
Exeter	St Michael's Primary Academy	4 <sup>th</sup> March 2020	13:30 - 15:00
West Devon	Stowford Primary	4 <sup>th</sup> March 2020	13:30 - 15:00
South Devon	Haytor View Primary School, Newton Abbot	12 <sup>th</sup> March 2020	09:30 - 11:00
East Devon	Marpool Primary, Exmouth	3 <sup>rd</sup> March 2020	09:30 - 11:00
Mid Devon	St Andrews Primary, Cullompton	4 <sup>th</sup> March 2020	13:00 - 14:30
North Devon	Sticklepath Primary, Barnstaple	5 <sup>th</sup> March 2020	10:00 - 11:30

To book your free place, please email [sue.vanstone@babcockinternational.com](mailto:sue.vanstone@babcockinternational.com)