



***“Mighty oaks from little acorns grow”***

*Through having high expectations for all, we constantly strive to promote the overall development of all members of our school community to enable them to reach their full potential. We are a welcoming, and motivational school that nurtures and supports pupils to learn transferable skills for life-long learning.*

**Message from Simon Roberts**

After months of heat engulfing the South West, the school grounds have welcomed the recent rain! Whether our year six children have also appreciated the autumnal weather, during their residential visit to Dartmoor this week, remains to be seen. Mrs Dunning and her team have been extremely proud of the resilience and determination displayed over the week; I’m sure the children will sleep well this weekend.

It has been a pleasure to watch (and participate in!) the different activities and clubs starting up around school this week. Our first competitive sporting event outside of school, cross country racing at Killerton, will take place next week; letters to those children who have been invited will be sent out today. As a school, we are actively seeking as many different sporting events to engage in as we can this year, so please be assured that if your child was not selected for the event (but was interested in participating in it) there will be other opportunities on offer throughout the year. As outlined in my school improvement statement (below), selection for and engagement in these types of events is just one of many areas I will be reviewing and seeking feedback on over the months ahead.

Looking ahead to next week, please keep an eye out for an e-mail related to booking a slot for parents’ evening. We will also be electing our new school council representatives – the children, with the exception of those in year six, have been briefed in class and in assembly about what they need to prepare if they are interested in standing for the position!

**School improvement**

It’s not just the voice of the children that I am after though. I want to hear from you. I have valued every bit of feedback received so far, and cannot stress how important your thoughts are in helping me to build the school’s improvement plan. In my next newsletter, I will outline the programme of how I intend to do this.

Two items I have actioned based on feedback from the gate:

- I have arranged for the trust’s **SEND & Safeguarding Lead** and the school’s **SEND coordinator** to present to the governors at our next meeting in November. Further details in their statement below.
- I will use this newsletter to try and clarify existing systems and areas of school life that I have received repeated queries about.

## Message from the Governors

The LGB (Local Governing Body, typically known as 'Governors') are a group of volunteers from the local community who offer strategic support and challenge to the Headteacher. The LGB is currently made up of three parent governors, one community governor and one staff governor. Several governors take additional responsibility for an area of school life. Our SEND Governor is Ian Darling; Health and Safety is Luke Flaxington and Safeguarding is Rebecca Davies. The LGB Chair is Molly Southwood. There is more information about our roles and backgrounds on the school website (<https://duchy.devon.sch.uk/about-us/governors/>).

We are looking forward to supporting Mr Roberts as he settles in and develops his plans. We are really pleased to be welcoming Francesca Brinicombe, Strategic Lead for SEND & Safeguarding at Ventrus and Rebecca Prior, our school's SEND coordinator to our next meeting. We will have an opportunity to put questions to them both about SEND provision at our school and across the Trust.

We really welcome any thoughts or comments from parents. If you'd like to reach us, please email the LGB Clerk at [duchyclerk@ventrus.org.uk](mailto:duchyclerk@ventrus.org.uk).

## Message from the PTFA



The PTFA is hosting a pig racing event, on **Sunday 16<sup>th</sup> October**, to raise funds for the school. It's a great family afternoon out. You can place bets on your favourite pigs and cheer them on! Racing starts at **3pm** but the Cricket Club will be open from **2pm** with food available from Mad Man Grill.

Please note: No real pigs will be harmed in the name of family fun. All pigs are stuffed and battery operated. Don't forget to bring money so you can place your bets!






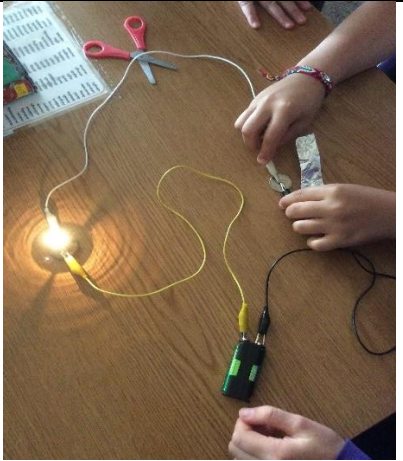



## Fundraising support request



Do you have any spare change hanging around? Any coins tucked under the car seat or down the back of the sofa? If so, Orson (in year six) needs them! Next week, he will be raising funds on behalf of Crisis - the national charity for people experiencing homelessness.

If you are able to help, he will be based outside the school's entrance, Tuesday to Friday, during the morning drop off. Thank you!

Our fortnight in photos

<p style="text-align: center;"><b>Acorn class</b></p> 	<p style="text-align: center;"><b>Andrews class</b></p> 	<p style="text-align: center;"><b>Scott class</b></p> 
<p>In maths, we have been matching and sorting socks. We have been using new vocabulary; same and different.</p>	<p>In history, we have been creating a timeline of events from the 1960s.</p>	<p>In music, we have been learning how to play the notes C, D, E and G on a glockenspiel.</p>
<p style="text-align: center;"><b>Daley class</b></p>	<p style="text-align: center;"><b>Acland class</b></p>	<p style="text-align: center;"><b>Reynolds class</b></p>
		
<p>In history, we have been learning about the Palaeolithic and Neolithic periods through drama.</p>	<p>In music, we have been exploring musical notes with recorders.</p>	<p>In science, we have been exploring the conductivity of different metals.</p>
<b>King class</b>		
		
<p>In King class, we have been immersed in different challenges and activities, on Dartmoor, during our residential.</p>		

Clarify it!


**Weekly awards**


Every Friday, during our celebration assembly, we award three certificates:


- **Star of the Week** – This is presented to a child who has demonstrated a value or quality which was discussed during my Monday assembly and reinforced by their teachers throughout the week. This week's focus was INDEPENDENCE (one of our school values).
- **Mathematician of the Week** – This is presented to a child who has demonstrated a quality (e.g. effort, attainment, progress, determination, etc) that their teacher has recognised.
- **Question of the Week** – This is presented to a child who has approached their learning with curiosity, asking insightful and thought-provoking questions.

I will be reviewing and seeking feedback on this awards system, as per my notes above, in the months ahead.

Celebrations

Mathematicians of the Week		
		
Our mathematicians for the last fortnight were:		
	23.09.22	30.09.22
Acorn	Orla	Rupert
Andrews	Isla	Natalie
Scott	Rohan	Violet
Daley	Deacon	James
Acland	Troy	Daisy
Reynolds	Logan	Oscar
King	Oscar	

Stars of the Week		
		
Our stars for the last fortnight were:		
	23.09.22	30.09.22
Acorn	Harrison	Toby
Andrews	Emily	Betsy
Scott	William	Phoebe G
Daley	Theodore	Mollie
Acland	Izzy	Stanley
Reynolds	Issac & Bradley	Effie
King	Phoebe	

Questions of the Week		
		
Our impressive questioners for the last fortnight were:		
	23.09.22	30.09.22
Andrews	Thomas	Oscar
Scott	Alice	Charlie
Daley	Ethan	Elliott
Acland	Tom	Elias
Reynolds	Starr	Archie
King	Charlie	

In assembly time, we have also celebrated these fantastic recent achievements!

Elijah	Scott class	For winning the Bradninch Scarecrow Competition
Theodore	Daley class	For achieving his Gymnastics Club Proficiency 5 award
Isabella	Daley class	For securing her Gadgeteers reading award and swimming award

## Diary Dates

Term	Commences	Finishes
Autumn	5 <sup>th</sup> September 2022	16 <sup>th</sup> December 2022
Spring	3 <sup>rd</sup> January 2023	31 <sup>st</sup> March 2023
Summer	18 <sup>th</sup> April 2023	21 <sup>st</sup> July 2023

Date	Item
19 <sup>th</sup> September	Bank Holiday (school closed)
26 <sup>th</sup> September - 30 <sup>th</sup> September	Year 6 Residential
6 <sup>th</sup> October	King Class Assembly (3pm)
17 <sup>th</sup> October	School photo day
19 <sup>th</sup> October	Parents' Evening
20 <sup>th</sup> October	Parents' Evening
21 <sup>st</sup> October	Non-Pupil Day (school closed)
<b>24<sup>th</sup>– 28<sup>th</sup> October</b>	<b>Half Term Week</b>
2 <sup>nd</sup> November	Foundation Admissions (2023) Open Morning
9 <sup>th</sup> November	Reynolds Class Assembly (3pm)
17 <sup>th</sup> November	Scott Class Assembly (3pm)
18 <sup>th</sup> November	Children in Need – theme TBC
21 <sup>st</sup> -25 <sup>th</sup> November	Book Fayre in school
23 <sup>rd</sup> November	Foundation Admissions (2023) Open Morning
23 <sup>rd</sup> November	Acland Class Assembly (3pm)
6 <sup>th</sup> December	Foundation/KS1 Nativity (2.30pm)
7 <sup>th</sup> December	Foundation/KS1 Nativity (3.45pm)
9 <sup>th</sup> December	Christmas Jumper Day Christmas Craft Morning - Parents Invited 9.15-10.15am
12 <sup>th</sup> December	Christingle at St Disens' Church (2pm)
13 <sup>th</sup> December	Christmas Party (Y3/4)
14 <sup>th</sup> December	Christmas Party (Foundation/KS1)
15 <sup>th</sup> December	School Christmas Lunch
16 <sup>th</sup> December	Christmas Party (Y5/6)