



“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

Yesterday, we were joined by Reverend Olly Mears who led our Harvest assembly to the school. A huge thank you to everyone who donated to the Food Bank this week. It goes to show how supportive our community truly is. Our stars of this week have been selected with this inclusive approach in mind.

I am pleased that we will be having face-to-face parent consultations next week, on Wednesday 19th and Thursday 20th October. Please make sure you have signed up to meet your child’s teacher. We look forward to seeing you all then!

Finally, don’t be alarmed if your child comes home covered in pen dots, on Wednesday, next week! Each dot will represent a completed lap of the field. We will be trialling a new initiative designed to promote pupils’ cognition and wellbeing. An additional **optional** choice, during a break time, the aim is to walk or run a mile. If successful, we will look forward to rolling it out more formally in the months ahead.

School improvement

Parent Forum Group

I met with the existing Parent Forum group last week. Together, it was agreed that we would now meet half-termly to discuss any queries and issues that they are presented with. Please see below details of the existing representatives; if you are interested in becoming a class representative, please e-mail duchy@ventrus.org.uk

- Acorn: **Vacancy**
- Andrews: Jenny Sanders
- Scott: Eve Malatjie
- Daley: Jess Carpenter
- Acland: Becky Tyler
- Reynolds: Justine Reed
- King: **Vacancy**




During our meeting, I shared with the group how I intend to capture thoughts and ideas, from the wider school community, that would require a significant investment of time and effort. The reality is that delivering long-term sustainable improvement will involve difficult decision-making and prioritising certain areas over others. This is why over the duration of the next half-term (November and December) I want to formally capture this information to enable me to better understand what common themes and queries keep arising and therefore need priority of attention. My next newsletter, on November 4th, will detail how this will be done.

Please be mindful, therefore, that the parent forum group may decide that questions posed to them may be better directed elsewhere at this moment in time.

Reminder from the governors - SEND

On Tuesday 22nd November, 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.

Celebrations

Mathematicians of the Week			Stars of the Week			Questions of the Week		
								
Our mathematicians for the last fortnight were:			Our stars for the last fortnight were:			Our impressive questioners for the last fortnight were:		
	07.10.22	14.10.22		07.10.22	14.10.22		07.10.22	14.10.22
Acorn	Alfie	Teddy	Acorn	Bryony	Theo	Andrews	Olly	Jocelyn
Andrews	Chloe	Oscar	Andrews	Sofia	Meadow	Scott	Georgia	Maia
Scott	Harper P	Lily R	Scott	Sophie	Arlo	Daley	Xander	Anabelle
Daley	Daisy-Rose	Emmanuel	Daley	Isabella	Barnaby	Acland	Marni	Rosie M
Acland	Zac	Rosie S	Acland	Tyler	Troy	Reynolds	Luuk	Lily
Reynolds	Jamie	Sofia	Reynolds	Piran	Arlo	King	Oscar L	Leo
King	Fenn	Riley	King	Ezra	Ronnie			

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

Daley Class	Lara	For completing both the Wild Challenge and the Gadgeteers Reading Challenge.
Daley Class	Isabelle	For achieving L4 in her swimming.
King class	Orson	For his phenomenal fundraising efforts on behalf of Crisis - the national charity for people experiencing homelessness.
Pupils from across Years 3, 4, 5 and 6	The cross country team	On Tuesday 4 th October, a team of 32 pupils from across Years 3, 4, 5 and 6 went to Killerton for the first cross-country event of the year. The team achieved 6 top 10 and 16 top 20 placings in the various races which was a superb achievement! As such, the team has qualified for the East Devon finals to be held at Bicton Arena next month. Well done to everyone who took part!

Our fortnight in photos

<p>Acorn class</p> 	<p>Scott class</p> 	<p>Daley class</p> 
<p>In Understanding the World, we have been learning about Harvest time and making delicious soup!</p>	<p>In science, we investigated different materials to find out which made the bounciest ball.</p>	<p>In PE, the children applied their throwing and catching skills into team games.</p>
<p>Acland class</p> 	<p>Reynolds class</p> 	<p>King class</p> 
<p>In English, we have been using a conscience alley to explore our main character's dilemma.</p>	<p>In art, we have been adding facial features to our sculpted Greek theatre masks.</p>	<p>In science, we have been planning our own investigations using electrical circuits and ensuring that we complete a fair test.</p>
<p>Year 1 trip to the Tiverton Museum</p>		
		
<p>As part of our history learning, we visited Tiverton Museum to learn more about toys from the 1960s. We got to discuss, explore and play with a range of toys. We made wooden peg dolls that we were able to take home with us.</p>		

Clarify it!

School council

Our recently elected school council representatives are a formal group of pupils who act as representatives of their classmates in discussing school issues with the headteacher. They are elected to represent the views of all pupils and also to improve the school. They help to make decisions about how the school is run and take on projects that support learning and development.

The children are only permitted to stand as a school council representative once within the 'phase' they are in:

- EYFS and KS1
- KS2

This means that no child is allowed to stand as a school council representative more than twice in their school career.

Two children are elected as representatives for each class. A democratic voting process is employed with the candidates securing the most votes (regardless of any discriminating factors, such as gender) elected as representatives.

A school council is an invaluable way of representing and contributing to pupil voice in our setting. **I will NOT be reviewing and seeking feedback on this aspect of school life, as per my notes above, in the months ahead.**

Message from the PTFA



The PTFA is hosting a pig racing event, on **Sunday 16th 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!

Diary Dates

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

Date	Item
17 th October	School photo day
19 th October	Parents' Evening
20 th October	Parents' Evening
21 st October	Non-Pupil Day (school closed)
24th– 28th October	Half Term Week
2 nd November	Foundation Admissions (2023) Open Morning
9 th November	Reynolds Class Assembly (3pm)
17 th November	Scott Class Assembly (3pm)
18 th November	Children in Need – theme TBC
21 st -25 th November	Book Fayre in school
23 rd November	Foundation Admissions (2023) Open Morning
23 rd November	Acland Class Assembly (3pm)
25 th November	Flu Vaccinations (link to consent/decline will be sent after half term)
6 th December	Foundation/KS1 Nativity (2.30pm)
7 th December	Foundation/KS1 Nativity (3.45pm)
9 th December	Christmas Jumper Day Christmas Craft Morning - Parents Invited 9.15-10.15am
12 th December	Christingle at St Disens' Church (2pm)
13 th December	Christmas Party (Y3/4)
14 th December	Christmas Party (Foundation/KS1)
15 th December	School Christmas Lunch
16 th December	Christmas Party (Y5/6)