



“Mighty oaks from little acorns grow”

Our children join us as “little acorns” and through the teaching and modelling of our vision, values and aims by all members of our school community, our children leave us as “mighty oaks”, equipped with the transferable skills to continue their journey of life-long learning.

Message from the Head

The coronation of His Majesty King Charles III may feel like a distant memory, but there was great excitement in school this week when a letter arrived from Buckingham Palace in response to the competition we ran earlier in the year (below):

Coronation Competition

As part of our coronation celebrations on Friday 5th May, we are holding a competition. Children are invited to design the front cover of a card that could be sent to the newly crowned King Charles to congratulate him.

Entries can be in any media that you wish

- Entries must be no larger than A4
- All entries must have the child’s name and class clearly written on the back (not the front)
- All entries must be given to class teachers on or before the morning of Friday 5th May



Prizes will be awarded to the winner in each class with winning entries then posted to King Charles III! We know how creative our children are and we are excited to see their designs!

It is framed in the school reception area for any who may be interested to read it!

We look forward to welcoming our families in for 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 then!

Parent Forum Group

I met with the Parent Forum group earlier today. Please contact your class representative directly should you wish to have any feedback from the discussions held or are seeking responses to any issues or queries you may have raised to them.

- Reception: Vacancy
- Year 1: Kate Townsend
- Year 2: Vacancy
- Year 3: Eve Malatjie
- Year 4: Jess Carpenter
- Year 5: Becky Tyler
- Year 6: Justine Reed

If you are interested in becoming a class representative, either filling one of the vacant positions or one of the posts currently held by another parent, please e-mail duchy@ventrus.org.uk

Trips and Events

Year 1 to Tiverton Museum



Year 1 had a great time exploring Tiverton Museum. We looked at a range of artefacts that taught us more about food and farming in the past. We enjoyed our 3 workshops that focused on shopping, food and farming equipment.

Key Stage 2 Cross-Country



On Tuesday 3rd October, 32 children (taken from years 3, 4 and 5) travelled to Killerton for the season opening cross-country competition for local schools. All pupils gave 100% effort racing around a hilly, muddy and treacherous track, and we had a high number of top-5, top-10 and top-20 finishers in the races. All children demonstrated tenacity, respect, and team-spirit throughout the afternoon, doing themselves and The Duchy School proud! Well done to all our runners and a massive thank you to all the parents, grandparents and other relatives who came to cheer the children on; your support really does make a huge difference.

Year 6 Residential



Last week, our year 6 children spent the week on their residential at The Dartmoor Training Centre. They took part in a range of activities during the week including: caving, climbing, abseiling, archery, zip-lining, orienteering, mountain biking and weasling. All of the adults and children had a fantastic week and showed amazing tenacity throughout the week. For more photos of the week, please take a look on the year 6 page on our school website.




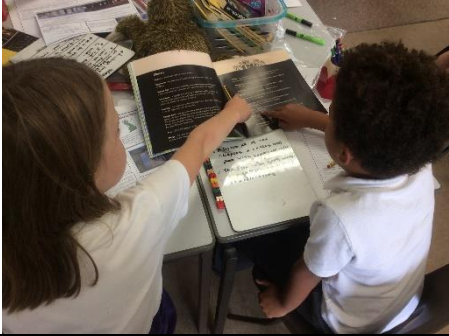


Celebrations

Values Champion			Learning Champion		
	06.10.23	13.10.23		06.10.23	13.10.23
Reception	Ida	Maci	Reception	Georgie	Erik
Year 1	Alfie	Riley	Year 1	Bobbie	Ava
Year 2	Ella	Olive	Year 2	Jocelyn	Olly
Year 3	Jessica	Katy	Year 3	Anya	Solomon
Year 4	Mollie	Murray	Year 4	Charlie A	James
Year 5	Rosie M	Lela	Year 5	Noah	Zac
Year 6		Amelia	Year 6		Sofia

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

Year 2	Daisy	For obtaining 7 th Kup and 8 th Kup in Taekwondo.
Year 4	James	For completing the Summer Reading Challenge.
Year 5	Zac	For obtaining 7 th Kup in Taekwondo.
Year 5	Rosie S	For her recent achievements in Showjumping at Bicton.

Our fortnight in photos

<p style="text-align: center;">Reception Class</p> 	<p style="text-align: center;">Year 1</p> 	<p style="text-align: center;">Year 2</p> 
<p>We have enjoyed talking about Harvest and exploring different fruit and vegetables. Mrs Emery brought us in some apples and we made crumble!</p>	<p>A huge thank you to Mr Younger for bringing in his tractor. The children learnt so much about the role of a farmer and their machinery.</p>	<p>In science, we have been investigating which materials it is possible to change the shape of by squashing, twisting, bending and stretching.</p>
<p style="text-align: center;">Year 3</p> 	<p style="text-align: center;">Year 4</p> 	<p style="text-align: center;">Year 5</p> 
<p>Year 3 have been busy using their topic books to research Stonehenge. Did you know some of the stones came all the way from South Wales?!</p>	<p>In science, children have been looking at variation by grouping living things based on their similarities and differences.</p>	<p>In science, we have been investigating which solids are soluble and which are insoluble.</p>

Secondary School Application for Year 6 parents

A reminder, for the families of our year six children, that the easiest way to apply for secondary school places is online by visiting www.devon.gov.uk/admissionsonline . If families don't wish to or can't apply online, they can also complete a hard copy application form which can be obtained by calling 0345 155 1019. A lot of secondary schools in Devon are under pressure with space due to local growth, so it is essential that applications are received on-time. Late applications may be disadvantaged, so it is vital parents make an on-time application to give themselves the best chance of securing a place at one of their preferred schools.

Diary Dates

Please regularly check and review the Diary Dates section of the newsletter; we will be updating with details of further trips, events and activities as and when they are confirmed.

Term	Commences	Finishes
Autumn	6 th September 2023	15 th December 2023
Spring	2 nd January 2024	28 th March 2024
Summer	15 th April 2024	23 rd July 2024

16 th October	School Photos (individual, sibling groups within school and class photos)
18 th October	Parents' Evening: 3.50-6.30pm
19 th October	Parents' Evening: 3.50-6.30pm
20 th October	Non-Pupil Day (school closed)
23 rd – 27 th October	Half Term Week
2 nd November	PTFA Disco
3 rd November	Y4 Trip to Escot
12 th November	Remembrance Wreath Laying in Bradninch
15 th November	Parent phonics information sessions at 9.00am and 3.45pm
17 th November	Children In Need – theme TBC
w/c 20 th November	Bikeability (Year 6)
24 th November	Flu Immunisations in school – give consent by 22nd November (via letter emailed)
w/c 27 th November	Bikeability (Year 6)
22 nd November	Foundation Admissions Tours – 1.30pm
23 rd November	Foundation Admissions Tours – 9.15am
w/c 27 th November	Book Fayre in school
5 th December	Reception /KS1 Nativity (2.30pm)
6 th December	Reception /KS1 Nativity (3.45pm)
6 th December	Y3 Trip to Kents Cavern
7 th December	Key Stage 2 Christingle rehearsal
8 th December	Christmas Jumper Day Christmas Craft Morning-Parents (10.45-11.45am)
11 th December	Key Stage 2 Christingle at St Disen's Church (2pm)
12 th December	Key Stage 2 Pantomime trip to Northcott Theatre
14 th December	School Christmas Lunch
15 th December	Last day of term
18 th – 29 th December	Christmas Holidays
2 nd January	Spring Term starts

2 nd January	Non-Pupil Day (school closed)
4 th January	Reception & Key Stage 1 Pantomime travelling production (2pm)
31 st January	Y5 Trip to O2 Arena (Young Voices)
7 th February	Y4 Trip to Paignton Zoo – <i>communication to follow</i>

Clarify it

Nuts

This is a gentle reminder to parents that we are a nut free school. Some of our learners have nut allergies and to keep everybody healthy and safe we have a “no nut/nut product” rule. Kindly ensure no nut products are sent to school in your child’s lunch. This includes all nuts and seeds, as well as nut spreads (e.g. peanut butter) and products with traces of nuts.

Smart watches

We’ve noticed a rise in the number of Smart watches being worn in school. We recognise the importance/value in a watch (e.g. encouraging children to be able to tell the time) and the functionality of some of these (e.g. promoting a healthy and active lifestyle by counting steps on a pedometer function). However, many have of these types of watches have apps that we cannot have in school (e.g. camera functions). From a safeguarding perspective, please may we ask that any watch worn by your child is basic and does not have a camera function or any function that could cause a distraction in school. Thank you for your support with this.

In the Community

BRADNINCH & KENTISBEARE
1891 1885
2023
CRICKET CLUB

BUZZ
ABOUT CRICKET

MONDAY
23
OCTOBER

FROM
10AM

Half term
CRICKET

**U10/11 + U13 SESSIONS - OPEN TO ALL
NOT A CLUB MEMBER - NO PROBLEM
JOIN THE FUN**

FREE TO SIGN UP - PLACES LIMITED

Email hello@bandkcc.co.uk to find out more and reserve
your place now

UNIT 14 KINGSFORD RURAL BUSINESS
CENTRE, KENTISBEARE, EX15 2AU

KIDS HALLOWEEN PARTY

At Ye olde White Lion

Bradninch

TUESDAY 31ST OCTOBER



DISCO 6-8PM



KAREOKE 8 - 10PM



£2 PER CHILD

(12&UNDER)

ALL PROCEEDS FROM TICKET SALES GO TO DUCHY PRE-SCHOOL