



## Autumn Term Newsletter No.13

All week, little muddy footprints have crept from our Orchard around the school as the Junior children have returned from working with Matthew to make our school a Cob Oven. Our Devon soil is perfect for making cob so we have dug up sections of our Orchard, added straw, sand and water and mixed it with our feet then squashed it with our hands. If you can make a snowball sized ball of cob and drop it without it breaking you know you have worked it enough! The cob is placed around a 'sandcastle' to shape the oven. Once the oven is complete the sand castle in the middle is removed to leave the cooking space. It was an exciting moment on Friday morning when the first fire was lit. Hopefully, we can get the oven up to temperature to start cooking today so everyone in the fair can pop up to taste our wood fired bread!

All of this was made possible through Dartington Trust being successful with a Heritage Lottery Funding bid to restore the Deer Park and then looking for a school to work with them so that skills and crafts could be passed on to a new generation. We feel so privileged to have had this experience and we are looking forward to all the opportunities we will now have to cook outdoors and share our experience with other schools. In the summer there will be a special family day organised at Dartington to celebrate the project. We hope you will be able to join us there and will let you know the date when everything is finalised.



### **This Week's Star Pupils:**



Beech — Freya  
Pine — Ruby  
Apple— Carl James  
Oak— Laci  
Birch— Katie  
Rowan — Jessica  
Cherry— Amari  
Maple — Alan  
Holly— Jack B  
Willow — Max  
Hawthorn — Rhys  
Hazel — Jess

### **Diary Date Reminders:**

Monday 12th December - KS2 Christmas Service at Upton Vale Baptist Church from 6pm  
Friday 16th December—last day of Autumn Term  
Tuesday 3rd January—Non Pupil Day  
Wednesday 4th January—First Day Back for Children



### Attendance Award

Congratulations to Pine Class for winning the School Attendance Award with 99% attendance.

The whole school achieved 95.1% attendance overall which is below our 96% target.



Don't forget to follow us on Twitter to see photographs and updates about school life.

<https://twitter.com/StMargaretsTQ>

## FREE LEARN TO RIDE SESSIONS

Having trouble getting your child going on two wheels?

Torbay Council is offering Free Learn to Ride sessions to pupils in years 1 to 6. These will take place in the School holidays at Torbay Velopark with only two pupils to each instructor. We have an extremely high success rate at getting pupils riding in the two hour session.

Places are limited so book early to avoid disappointment.

For more details and to book a session for your child please call Phil Edwards at Two Wheels Tuition on 07711 252699 or email [twowheelstuition@yahoo.co.uk](mailto:twowheelstuition@yahoo.co.uk).

Family Ponder...

What is Christmas?

(Beech Class P4C lesson)

## **Year 5 News**

Y5 shared their learning about Victorian Britain with their parents in a very musical assembly this week! The children enjoyed sharing their writing about the industrial revolution and LOVED singing about how children were treated in the mines and factories.

## **A Very Special Carol Service**

The Year 6 choir entertained the residents of a local home this morning. 18 pupils volunteered and have worked incredibly hard, giving up every break time to learn and rehearse traditional carols to add to our Upton Vale Christmas concert repertoire, making Miss Wooldridge very proud!



## **Christmas Dinner**

If you think cooking for a large family is tricky, imagine cooking for 358 children! But our kitchen staff did a fabulous job and lunchtime ran like clockwork! Thank you for sending in your children in Christmas jumpers to add to the seasonal fun whilst raising £165.00 for Save the Children.

## **Christmas Fair**

The PTA have worked hard for weeks behind the scenes to organise the Christmas Fair and we are very grateful for the many hours they have given up to make this a fun event for all! Thank you to everyone who has been involved in planning and setting up the fair. We would also like to thank our families for making the fair a success by donating books, DVDs, toys, bottle and cakes. Hopefully as you read this newsletter you are either in school setting up stalls or heading to school to enjoy the fun of the fair!

## **Spring Term Clubs**

We have emailed out our school clubs booklet with this newsletter and uploaded the information to our website. With the exception of the Gymnastics Club and Alternative Sports Club you will need to sign-up via the School Gateway. After you sign-up you will receive a text confirmation of the place and be notified that your child can attend. Please note, some clubs are limited in numbers so it would be a good idea to enrol your child as soon as possible. Club enrolment closes on Friday 16th.

*RESPECT*

*CREATIVITY*

*INDEPENDENCE*