

## Summer Term Newsletter No.4 (17.5.19)

Firstly, a warm welcome to Sam Newman who has joined the office team as an Apprentice Administrator. Sam comes with a background in veterinary work which came in handy this week when a stray (escape-artist?) tortoise was discovered on the field. If anybody has lost a tortoise please get in touch. In the meantime, he's also joined the bubbly office team and has a cosy temporary home with them.

Congratulations to our legendary Year 6 who completed their statutory end of Key Stage 2 tests this week. They've enjoyed their morning breakfasts. It was like being in a hotel with a selection of cereal and cooked options. It has been a lovely atmosphere with a good sense of camaraderie. I think they surprised themselves with how much they oddly enjoyed the tests. They were very well-prepared by the Year 6 team of Miss Woolridge, Mr Marchant, Mrs Chivers, Mrs Broom and Mrs West in particular. Thank you to them for making what can be a stressful experience into something more rewarding. Thanks also to all the other staff, including our great kitchen caterers, who went the extra mile to make sure the week passed in a smooth manner. James Bennett, one of our school governors, also supported the SATs by giving up his time to attend school to provide oversight and validate the testing procedures. Thank you also to him.

We mustn't forget our Year 2s who are also currently being put through the statutory testing grinder. Their tests take place in smaller groups across the month of May and are used to help inform the teachers' end of year assessments. After the half term it will be the turn of the Year 1s as they complete their phonics screening check which will take place one-to-one with an adult they are familiar with. Year 4 will be taking the new Multiplication Tables Check in June which they will complete on-line.

Besides all this testing, there's been other engaging and memorable events going on in classes. Reception have been planting water cress seeds. Year 2s have been learning to play the ukulele, Year 5s have been playing the saxophone and creating pastel sun sets in their art. Year 3 and Year 4 have been busy with some dark arts mummification which you can read more about on the [History Blog](#). The children also enjoyed an engaging assembly on road safety led by Chris Thomas, one of our Meal Time Assistants, who is also the local Lollipop Man. Many thanks to Mr Thomas for taking the time to do this. I received great feedback across the week from adults and children.

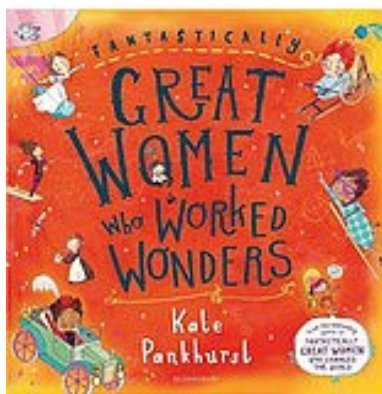
This week we've established the Arts Garden, named *Meadfoot*, as a dedicated area for children to participate in art activities at play and lunchtimes. Thank you to Mrs Bindon who has set this up and thanks to the Arts Leaders who are running the activities which the children are enjoying. The PTA is fund raising for this area so in time we will be able to develop it into something more aesthetically pleasing. It's lovely to see the children having a wide range of activities to take part in during their time away from lessons.

On Tuesday evening, 3 of our school governors joined myself, Andy Robinson (who leads on our curriculum plan) and Nick Rogers (who is leading an exciting initiative in IT) for a meeting to explore our improvement plan for curriculum development. Jamie Cree is the Vice-chair who is supporting with KS2 improvements. Carole Ashworth is our governor champion for Pupil Premium and Science. James Bennett is supporting our improvements in assessment. They are all part of the Educational Standards Committee that is working closely with us on the curriculum. All of them have a skill set that will really help the school move forwards. Jamie and Carole teach at South Devon College and we are exploring how we can collaborate to best benefit our students and theirs. It's very exciting. Regular news to follow over the coming months. If you would like to look at some of the experiences our pupils are already engaged with, you can follow our [Curriculum in Action](#) blogs on the website.

Teachers have spent training time this week looking at children's books and work, from Reception to Year 6, to help ensure we are all constantly reviewing our practice, recognising what we do well and learning from our colleagues to further improve. Thanks again to James Bennett for joining us as it helps provide a valuable in-sight to governors about what goes in class.



Another fantastic new book in our library right now—by Robert Macfarlane



Miss Palfey and the Reading Ambassadors' Weekly Book Choices

**Weekly Attendance Award**

Congratulations to **Rowan Class AGAIN** for winning the School Attendance Award with **99.2%** attendance. School target: 96% The whole school achieved **96.1% this week**



**This Week's Star Pupils!**

- Ash — Molly - for her enthusiastic participation in our assembly preparations this week. A super little actress! Willow for always being such a 'tryatops' in all areas of her learning. She makes the most of every learning opportunity in our class. What a superstar!
- Elm — Elyce - We are so proud of how hard you are working in school. You have been really active in your learning this week. Well done. Gabriella - What a shining star in our show. You have worked hard to learn your words and perform with real confidence. Super effort!
- Beech — Eryn - for always coming in to Beech Class with a smile on her face and lighting up everybody's day! You work so hard on every job you do and are a pleasure to have in our class...thank you!
- Pine — Sophia W- For her fabulous adjectives this week. She worked incredibly hard on her animal description, well done!
- Oak — Ella.T coming into school every day with a huge smile on her face and trying her best in her learning.
- Apple— Tyler - for being aspirational and trying hard to show his working out when answering questions in maths.
- Birch — Elsie - For being extremely aspirational in every challenge given to her. She takes on tasks with determination and a positive attitude and is a model student to all.
- Rowan — Kally for incredible listening and a high level of class contributions! You are a role model!
- Cherry — Grace for showing great kindness towards her peers.What a thoughtful young lady you are!
- Maple — Orah- for always having a smile on her face, showing a great sense of humour and working consistently hard throughout the whole year in all areas of the curriculum.
- Holly — Jessica - for showing excellent aspiration in her learning. Well done.
- Willow — Karla has approached her Art with a great attitude this week and completed a great piece of Art that she should be proud of!
- Hazel— The whole of Year 6 are our stars for their super attitude and positivity in the SATs- you've made us all proud.
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**Diary Dates**

Mon & Tue 3-4.6.19	School group and class photos taking place in school
Thursday 13.6.19	6.00pm—meeting for new parents
Wednesday 26.6.19	Foundation Stage Sports Day 1.30-3.00
Thursday 27.6.19	Key Stage 2 Sports Day 9.30-11.30 track events, 1.15-3.00 carousel
Friday 28.6.19	Key Stage 1 Sports Day 1.15-3.00
Saturday 29.6.19	PTA Summer Fair

KINDNESS

RESPECT

RESPONSIBILITY

ASPIRATION