



Spring Term Newsletter No.5 (7.2.20)

We started the week with an assembly to promote mental health as part of *Children's Mental Health Week*. We reflected on the 5-a-day essentials to keep a healthy brain. See if your child can use the visual clues below to tell you what we need to do to look after our mental health (solution next week).



Have a look in the [PSHE Blog](#) to see how Year 1 explored the 'Lion Inside' to help with their mental health. Check out the Mental Health and Well-being page for simple visual top tips for [self care and mental health](#) for our children—thanks to Mrs Essam.

A special mention to Marlena in Hazel Class this week. She has been so inspired by the Y5/6 WWII topic that she visited a care home in the area to interview a Polish resident who has first hand experience of living in a concentration camp as a young boy. Marlena communicated in Polish and has translated the interview herself into English. She says that it was really emotional speaking to someone who had actually been through such a terrible time and that she was amazed at how well the gentleman remembered the details as he is now over 90 years old. You can read an extract of her emotional and extraordinary interview in the [History Blog](#).

In our on-going improvements to the curriculum, we are exploring techniques to help children hold knowledge in their long term memory. Miss Wooldridge has introduced a new maths resource this week designed to help the recall and retention of key maths facts and skills in each year group. Flashback 4 is a 5 minute task to start each maths lesson and revisits a skill from the day before, week before, unit before and term before, plus a clock face task! Check out the [Maths Blog](#) for some examples from Year 2 and 6.

Look in the [Maths Blog](#) to find out how Birch Class enjoyed exploring money this week. Look in the [Computing Blog](#) to see how Hazel Class found their way round the ipads this week, and how Willow created some [must-see illusions](#). Last Friday some of our students visited Dunboyne Court with special cakes they made in school. Have a read of our [Well-being in Action](#) page to find out more.

World Book Day in March is fast approaching. See the letter from our Reading Lead, Miss Palfrey, in our [Reading Blog](#) to find out more about PJs, silly potatoes and story tellers.

On Thursday, Mrs Pike, Miss Palfrey, Miss Pritchard and myself joined colleagues from across Torbay to be inspired by the English educational trainer, writer, author and poet, Pie Corbett. We already use many of Pie's proven techniques for reading and writing. Miss Palfrey and Miss Pritchard are now looking at further exciting and practical ideas that teachers can take into the classroom. Check out their [super-fan selfie with Pie](#) on the Reading Blog. A key reminder to take home: read, read, read and read again with our children; enjoying and sharing a good book will improve their life chances in many areas. Just 15 minutes a day at home can make a difference.

Coronavirus Update for Schools

Schools have been advised that the overall risk of Coronavirus to the UK remains moderate and to report to you that "you should not be unduly worried about the possibility of your children catching the Coronavirus. There is no reason why your children should not continue to attend their early years, school or further education setting as normal." Further information can be found here: <https://www.gov.uk/coronavirus>.

Essential advice to slow the spread of the virus is as follows:

- Always carry tissues with you and use them to catch your cough or sneeze.
- Bin the tissue, and to kill the germs, wash your hands with soap and water, or use a sanitiser gel.
- If you have arrived back from China within 14 days follow the specific advice for returning travellers.

If you may be planning to travel to China during the forthcoming half term period, please refer to the links below for guidance from Public Health England and the Foreign Office.

- <https://www.gov.uk/foreign-travel-advice/china>
- <https://www.gov.uk/government/news/wuhan-novel-coronavirus-and-avian-flu-advice-for-travel-to-china>

Parking and Driving Challenges at Drop-off and Pick Up—Polite Prompt Again Please

Due to the continued challenges faced by neighbours and parents (as well as the dangers to children) I have requested the support of PCSOs. I'm also receiving reports of fast **and dangerous** driving which is clearly an accident just waiting to happen. Please look out for the PCSOs in the near future as they will be out and about, helping to keep us all safe at busy times of the school day.

Miss Palfrey and the Reading Ambassadors' Weekly Book Choices



For our older readers:
One Plastic Bag by
 Isatou Ceesay

For our younger readers:
The Incredible Painting of Felix Clousseau by
 Jon Agee



Weekly Attendance Award



Congratulations to
Hazel Class for
 winning the School
 Attendance Award with 97.3%
 attendance. School target: 96%
 The whole school attendance is
95.3% - we need to get better

Stars of the Week

Ash	Harry - for being such a super 'think-o-docus' in his number work. We are so impressed by your speedy number facts Harry! A little mathematician in the making! Niamh - for showing such enthusiasm in all areas of her learning. We love how you always persevere and try your best in everything you do! You worked especially hard to use your sounds in your writing this week!
Elm	Scarlett - for showing such wonderful respect to all your friends and teachers this week, we are really proud of you. Sophie - for showing such aspiration in your writing this week, trying so hard to make sure your letters sit on the line. Well done Sophie!
Beech	Ryan - for taking on board feedback from adults and trying hard to improve his writing. Your Florence Nightingale Fact File was fantastic!
Pine	Paige - for her amazing contributions in maths lessons and her determination to improve her understanding of number. Great work Paige.
Oak	James- for always showing a great attitude and resilience to his learning and for always showing respect to everyone. Thank you for being such a lovely person and for welcoming all our visitors this week. Well done James!
Apple	Theo - for using adventurous adjectives in his writing and for an excellent scientific explanation of what animals need. Well done Theo!
Birch	Maya - For always demonstrating our core values and being a superb example to the rest of the class in every single way. What a pleasure to have you in Birch Class!
Rowan	Isaac - for consistently contributing, challenging himself and being a fantastic maths mentor
Cherry	Floyd is an amazing character to have in the classroom! He always 'creates his own good days' and should be particularly proud of the progress he is making in writing. Very well done Floyd!
Maple	It has been an absolute delight teaching Grace this week. She has been making more of an effort to complete all of her tasks and has contributed in all of our class discussions. Well done, Grace!
Willow	James gave up some of his own time this week to help a friend with their learning. What a very selfless and kind thing to do. Well done James
Holly	Olivia-Mae - In our work on diary writing, she worked very hard this week to check, edit and improve her first draft, which led to a great final piece of writing. Well done Olivia-Mae!
Hazel	Ema - for excellent contributions all week. I'm so impressed with your efforts to participate more and take risks with your learning, showing a fantastic growth mindset. Well done Ema!
Hawthorn	Corey- for his superb attitude in class this week. His writing has been fantastic, and I've been hugely impressed by his superb contributions in class discussions. Keep up the great effort, Corey!

Diary Dates

17-21.2.20	Half term week (school closed)
Wk beg 2.3.20	Year 6 Residential / Activity Week
Wed 4.3.20—Mon 9.3.20	Book fair in the library after school
Thur 5.3.20	World Book Day— PJ Day! & bring a potato dressed-up as your favourite character. See the Reading Blog to find out more .
Wk beg 9.3.20	Advance notice: parents evenings will be held this week Science and Engineering Week—lots of whizzing and popping coming up
Wed 11.3.10	Science homework fair supported by our friends from Dunboyne Court. Click this link for more info .

KINDNESS

RESPECT

RESPONSIBILITY

ASPIRATION