

# School Newsletter



Dear Parents,

What a wonderful week we've had! The children have started their new topics and they are already feeling inspired and keen to learn more. Our Forest school has now started again, and the children had a wonderful time immersing themselves in nature, taking the curriculum outside, identifying leaves and creating leaf artwork. This week, I have had the privilege of teaching Year 1, 2 and 3 as well as Stoke class and it has been delightful getting to know your children and see the learning taking place.

At the beginning of the week, in our whole class assembly, I presented our new school councillors with their School Council badges, which they are wearing very proudly. We will have our first school council meeting next week to discuss school issues and share ideas and suggestions from the children in their class. Pupil voice is important and school council is a way of enabling our children to take a proactive role in their school. Watch this space for upcoming projects!

- Small but Mighty!



# Classroom News

## Nursery and Reception

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This week Stoke class have been sorting and classifying in maths. Having read 'The button box' by Margaret Reid, the children worked in partners to sort buttons by size, colour and pattern. They also enjoyed exploring the outside area, working together to make water flow and working on their gross motor skills.



## Year 1 and Year 2

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In Wonwell this week, the photos show our Science learning - we began exploring materials, recognising them and thinking about their properties. In Geography we began learning about where our country is in the world, the name of our country and its capital city as well as being able to identify the county we live in. Our art this week has been introducing collage through mood boards and a free expression exploring texture and technique.





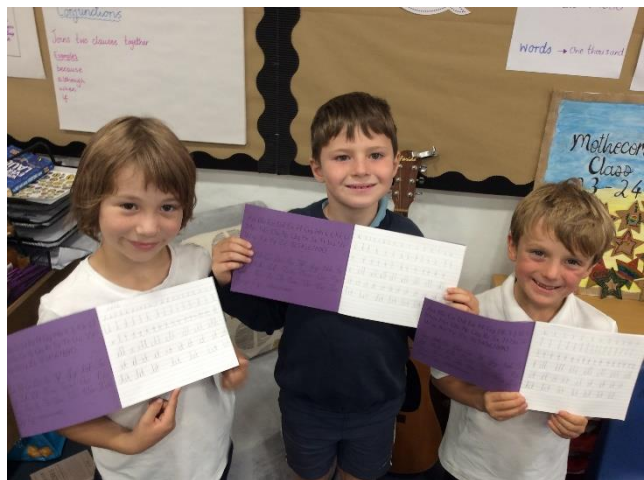
## Year 3 and Year 4

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This week in Mothecombe class we have been 'digging deep' into all our new learning. We have spent our English lessons learning the grammatical features of our class text 'The Day the Crayons Quit'. We have learnt all about expanded noun phrases, conjunctions and different types of nouns. We played a fun game outside identifying nouns and racing each other to see who was the 'Noun Chief'.

In Maths, we have started our topic of Place Value and are learning new words such as 'ascending and descending'. Please ask your child what these words mean! We have also started Forest school this week!

In Science, we have started our new topic and had a great time sharing what we know already about living things and what they need to survive. In History, the Egyptians has really inspired us to find out more – we have lots of questions for Miss Phillips and are certainly keeping her on her toes!



## Year 5 and Year 6

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This week we enjoyed zooming into a webinar by the brilliant author, SF SAID, hearing all about the process of writing his books and the importance of reading for pleasure. We found out that his latest book, Tyger, took him 9 years to write! The children enjoyed drawing characters from the books as they listened. We also started our art project for this term, learning how to create tints, tones, and shades. The children were very careful and considered as they worked. They did an excellent job! Well done, Bigbury!





# Forest School

Years 4,5&6 enjoyed their first visit to forest school this week, with a focus on art. The children picked blackberries on the walk down and we talked about seasonal change. They were tasked with finding either an oak, hazel, sycamore or beech leaf and stuck it on a piece of paper. They followed the lines of the veins outwards and created patterns within them. Some beautiful work was produced!



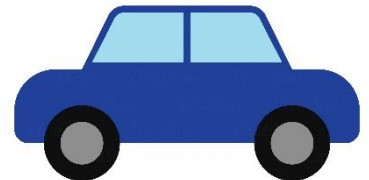
# End of the School Day

At pick up time, there is a high volume of traffic in a very small area outside of the school gate. To keep the children safe, please can parents/carers wait on the playground for their child/ren instead of waiting outside of the school gate or along the road. This will help us to make sure all children get to their adult safely.

From next week, Wonwell class will exit from their classroom door. Mothecombe class will exit from the main double doors. Bigbury will exit from the back of their classroom and wait on the steps to be collected. Stoke class will continue to be collected by the gate next to their outside play area. Please can you make yourself visible to your child's class teacher so they can make sure your child gets to you safely. Many thanks for your support.

## Parking

A number of our local residents and parents have been in touch recently with concerns regarding congestion and intensive parking around school drop off and pick up times. Whilst I appreciate that we are quite unique in our school location, and the narrow lanes and limited parking is a challenge, please can I ask that you park respectfully, not blocking resident's driveways or access.



## Year 7 Applications

Although the children have only just started in Year 6, the online You must submit an application by Tuesday 31 October 2023 at

<https://www.devon.gov.uk/educationandfamilies/school-information/apply-for-a-school-place/apply-for-a-secondary-school-place/> or contact the Education Helpline on 0345 155 1019 or [admissions@devon.gov.uk](mailto:admissions@devon.gov.uk) where an adviser will be happy to assist you. National Allocation Day will be Friday 1 March 2024.



# Diary Dates

## Autumn Term 1

Week beginning 18 <sup>th</sup> September	After School Clubs Start
Wednesday 20 <sup>th</sup> – Friday 22 <sup>nd</sup>	Residential at Beam House for KS2 children who have booked.
Thursday 28 <sup>th</sup> September	Mothecombe Class attending Farm School ( <b>Change of date</b> )
Monday 9 <sup>th</sup> October	Year 6 Junior Life Skills at Ivybridge Community College (morning only)
Monday 9 <sup>th</sup> October Wednesday 11 <sup>th</sup> October	Parent Consultation Evenings – online booking system will be available, and you will be notified when this is 'live'.
<b>Tuesday 10<sup>th</sup> October * new date</b>	Ivybridge Community College meeting for Year 6 parents. 5:30pm At Holbeton School
Tuesday 17 <sup>th</sup> October	Wonwell Class attending Farm School
Thursday 19 <sup>th</sup> October	Harvest celebration at the church. Date/Timings will be confirmed soon.

# Community

The new members of the HSA met with me this week to look at the accomplishments from last year and to decide on some key events for the year ahead. The HSA plays a vital role at Holbeton and the new team are keen to continue and build upon the amazing success achieved last year. Money raised from HSA events help to fund enrichment opportunities, school trips and resources – all the money goes straight back to the children. If you would like to be part of the HSA or find out more please get in touch. Upcoming dates for HSA events will be shared with you soon.





At National Online Safety, we believe in empowering parents, carers and trusted adults with the information to hold an informed conversation about online safety with their children, should they feel it is needed. This guide focuses on one of many apps which we believe trusted adults should be aware of. Please visit [www.nationalonlinesafety.com](http://www.nationalonlinesafety.com) for further guides, hints and tips for adults.

## What Parents & Carers Need to Know about YOUTUBE KIDS

YouTube Kids is a child-friendly version of YouTube which offers a colourful and easy-to-navigate environment that's suitable for young children. This app is easily accessible and available for mobile devices, which can be downloaded without needing the YouTube app on the device. Despite YouTube Kids seeming like a very child-friendly platform, it has raised concerns over its advertising and inappropriate content seeping through the curation process.

### SETTING UP

1 Download the YouTube Kids app and connect your own YouTube channel.

2 Input your child's name, age and birth month.

3 Select the types of videos you want to include for your child based on their age and your own personal choice.

4 If you decide to approve the content yourself, the app will present you with sample videos for you to accept and reject.

5 Once you've made your choice, you're ready to use the app!

## Advice for Parents & Carers

### REMOVE ADVERTISEMENTS

Like YouTube, adverts on YouTube Kids are also quite pervasive. If you decide you don't want your child being exposed to adverts, you can subscribe to YouTube Premium which will remove adverts on YouTube Kids. However, it's worth remembering that this doesn't block adverts that content creators decide to make as part of their content, and children are still able to access channels from branded fast food or toy companies.

### BE WARY OF UNSUITABLE CONTENT

YouTube Kids has a far lower chance of showing unsuitable material than YouTube, but there are still reports of malicious users deliberately uploading inappropriate content. It's important that your child feels able to talk to you if they were ever exposed to upsetting content in the future. It's also safest to report inappropriate videos: tap the three dots in the corner of the video and select 'Report'.

### DISABLE SEARCH OPTION

YouTube Kids allows you to disable the search feature, which you may find useful in preventing your child from unintentionally finding age-inappropriate content. Doing this will also give you more control over what your child is watching. It's also worth noting that setting an age limit will ensure that your child is only exposed to recommended videos that are deemed suitable for their age group.

### RESTRICT VIEWING TIME

The YouTube Kids app provides you with the option of setting up a timer to monitor and limit your child's daily usage, which automatically stops the video when it reaches the set time. It may be best to make use of this feature to prevent screen addiction – which can potentially lead to children staying up too late, affecting their mood and concentration the following day.

### MONITOR WATCH HISTORY

YouTube Kids has also made it possible for parents and carers to see what their children are watching on the app by clicking on the 'Recommended' icon on the top right of the home screen. It may also be worth having a look at what your child has recently watched by clicking on their history tab. The red bar on the video shows how much of the video has been watched.

### WATCH TOGETHER

It's important to make YouTube Kids a fun and positive experience for your child. This may require spending time finding channels and content that you and your child will enjoy and benefit from. Try introducing family sessions where you can share the most enjoyable videos that you and your child have recently watched. This can be a great way of giving you and your child many new things to talk about with each other.

### Meet Our Expert

Clare Godwin (a.k.a. Lunawolf) has worked as an editor and journalist in the gaming industry since 2015, providing websites with event coverage, reviews and gaming guides. She is the owner of Lunawolf Gaming and is currently working on various gaming-related projects including game development and writing non-fiction books.



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