



Newsletter (Autumn No.16)

12th January 2018



Dates for your diary;

15th Jan –
Class 2

Swimming
begins,
Football Club
begins.

19th Jan –
Sports for
Champions at
HPS

24th Jan –
Recycling Day

6th February –
Internet
Safety Day

21st February
– Whole
school zoo
trip

Week
commencing
26th February
– Bikeability

1st March –
World Book
Day

Class News

Class 3

This term Class 3 will be covering the topic 'Exploring Earth'. We will be looking deep into the Earth and seeing what lies beneath our feet, before examining the physical Geography of the Earth - exploring mountains and volcanoes. Alongside this our Science will be based on exploring states of matter and other materials. Our first text in English is 'The Princess' Blanket', where the princess receives various blankets that are made from different environments found on Earth. In relation to this Mrs Maude will be working with the children to do some textiles work where the children will work together to create a class blanket.

Class 2

This term Class 2's topic will be 'Dragons.' We are using the beautiful text 'Tell Me a Dragon' by Jackie Morris. We will be creating our own dragons using watercolours and writing about them using a variety of descriptive language as part of our English work. In Maths we are looking at creating pictograms and bar charts, linked to our previous work on the Bloodhound project. We will be carrying out Dragon themed science experiments where we will be learning how to work scientifically, plan experiments, make accurate observations and record data. We are also lucky enough to have Rebekah Moffat joining us this term who will be doing some Music work with the children. We will be swimming on a Monday afternoon until Easter as well as continuing PE lessons with Mr Williams.

Congratulation Emily & Jessica



A massive 'Well Done' to our superstar athletes. Emily and Jessica have worked incredibly hard and achieved great success for their ages in National swimming and Triathlon events. Congratulations, we are all very proud of you.

Message from our Student Teacher

My name is Rebekah Moffat and I am in my final year at Plymouth university training to be a Primary School teacher. I am here at Rackenford for my final placement until Easter. I will mainly be working with Miss Budden in class 2, but I hope to visit class 1 and 3 as well. I am looking forward to getting to know all the children and parents.

Parent Support Group

The first meeting of our new parent support group took place this week. This is a time for parents/carers to talk over any concerns, share ideas, contribute or just come for a coffee and listen. Further meetings will be organised shortly.

Trust Perseverance Respect Forgiveness

Friendship Compassion Truthfulness

Class 1

Over the next few weeks our theme will be 'Spots, Stripes and Whiskers'.

The Exmoor Zoo visit this week was a fantastic success giving us a close look and some amazing animals.

We will look at seasonal changes as we go into spring. In Literacy 'The Tiger Who Came To Tea' will be a story we focus on with role play, writing menus and shopping lists and our own tiger stories.

Times tables

If your children are in Class 2 and Class 3 they have been launched into a new approach to learning the times tables. Times tables are an integral part of the maths curriculum and we have decided that we would like to really focus on improving all our children's knowledge of them to ensure that they are secure. We have created a bronze, silver and gold system for the children to work through. Today they will have brought home a times tables booklet that they can work through at home. The whole thing does not need to be completed in one week - it is hoped that your child will work through it carefully to ensure that they are really leaning their tables. Each week the booklet needs to come to school so that their class teacher can monitor and talk to them about their work. There will be a times tables test each week - but instead of Rocket maths children will be tested on the one times table that they have been learning. To achieve a bronze award your child needs to be able to write out the times tables fully from 1 x to 12 x the number. When this is done they can move on to achieve silver. To gain this award your child will complete a set of questions for their times table that are out of order. Once they have got all these questions correct they can move on to the Gold award where they need to be able to derive the related division facts for the focus times tables. If your child completes all their times tables then they get the challenge grid to place all their tables into against the clock - to improve their rapid recall of facts.

Parent email

This week you should have received copy of the schools new Golden Rules together with Behaviour and Safeguarding policies. Please let Hilary know if you have had any problem with the delivery of these.

Sports for Champions

Letters with more information have come home with your children today. The sports for Champions event takes place at Heathcoat on Friday 19th January. The whole school will be attending in the morning. Thank you to those who have already returned sponsor forms. Thank you also for the offers of help on the day.

Widemouth Bay

Thanks to Mr Hudson and his year 6 children for taking the time to visit today. They shared their experiences of Widemouth Bay activity center. It was great to get some questions answered and got us all really excited.

Church News – Coming Soon !

Stephanie Jeffs has kindly offered to run some fun after school activity groups. These will be starting after half term and will include themes such as 'Messy Church' and 'Praise Parties' with singing, games, arts and crafts. Look out for more informationcoming soon!

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Awards will of course be back in next weeks news.

Collective Worship

We would like to extend an invitation to our families, extended families and friends in the community to join us at Collective Worship every Wednesday. 9am for a 9.10 start, finishing at 9.30.

Open Time with Stephanie Jeffs

Following our Collective Worship services on Wednesday mornings Stephanie Jeffs will be available at the school until 10am. This is a relaxed and open invitation to give parents/carers an opportunity to come and talk to Steph about anything they'd like.

W/B 15th Jan 2018

Mon	Am – Mrs Maude and Mrs Bostridge out. Mrs Bright covering Class 1 Class 2 Swimming starts today. Mrs Lewry covering reception all day. Miss Ellis helping in Class 1
Tues	Drum Lessons
Weds	Piano & Guitar lessons.
Thurs	
Fri	Sports for Champions whole school trip in the morning. Mrs Maude teaching Class 3



Gemma Mills is doing some training on Family Councelling and Promoting Possitive child behaviour.

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