

# SMUPS Newsletter 30/1/26



**Friday 30th January**



## **Hello from Mrs Harvey**

Hello all SMUPS children and families and welcome to the weekend,

We are well into the new half term and 2026 now. The children are attending well, on time, in their school uniform and showing us how ready to learn they are so thank you for your ongoing support with this. It is always a pleasure to greet children and families at the gate and see you home safely at the end of the school day. We are so pleased with how the children conduct themselves at lunchtime. We have a smooth routine of family style dining inside and active play outside. The ping pong tables we bought last term are proving popular and three minute games of small team football and other ball games work very well. We thought about our key school rule and British value of 'Respect' this week and saw how the FA are promoting positive behaviour for great games, follow the link below to share the video at home. We are working with the NSPCC to encourage our children to 'Speak Out and Stay Safe', please see resources below for further discussion and use at home. Remember your number themed outfits next Friday for NSPCC Number Day! Our Year Five and Six Netball team have qualified for the next round of the North Devon Netball finals. Our

Exmoor Challenge candidates start their training this week. I hope you have also had a chance to join in with the PTFA lambing bingo.

Have a wonderful weekend,

Mrs Harvey

[FA Respect - Good behaviour makes for a great game](#)



## Class News

### Acorns



This week in EYFS, we have been exploring our *Changes* topic by looking at historical artefacts and discussing how things from the past are different from today. We have also enjoyed learning about opposites, including hot and cold, alive and extinct, and real and imaginary. The children have shown fantastic enthusiasm and curiosity throughout their learning. We are especially proud of the progress they are making with spelling and tricky words — all the extra practice at home is really paying off.

Well done Team Acorns I am so proud of you all!

## Oak



*1 - We have been working very hard in Year 1 this week and are very proud of the children.*

*In Drawing Club, we have been learning how to wash a Woolly Mammoth and have written some imaginative and funny sentences. Our handwriting has also improved, with most children beginning to join their letters.*

*In maths, we have finished place value (tens and ones) and will now be moving on to addition and subtraction within 20. Please continue to practise on Numbots, as this really helps.*

*We have also started our new science unit on animals, beginning with mammals. In Design and Technology we have been thinking about sandwich fillings, we have all voted for our favourite and will soon be making them in class!*

*Today we are saying goodbye to Miss Cronk, who has finished her third-year placement. She has been a great help and has taught us all so much. We wish her lots of luck as she qualifies at the end of the summer.*

*The Year 1 Team*

## Ash



Swimming continues to be a success in Ash Class. All the adults are really impressed with the children and how well they are doing.

We have been having great fun this week using clay and creating our sculptures which have now been in the kiln. We can't wait to see the children's Clarice Cliff inspired designs.

In Maths we have now moved onto Multiplication and Division and the class are enjoying practising their times tables. Please could you continue to encourage this by logging on to Numbots.

A reminder that next Wednesday we are inviting Ash Class parents in from 2.45-3.15pm to come and taste our cooking from around the world. The children are really looking forward to seeing you!

## Pine



Another fantastic week in Pine Class! 😁

This week, we have been focusing on dividing a 2-digit number by a 1-digit number, including remainders, and using flexible partitioning. This has been a tricky skill to learn, but everyone has smashed it and now understands how to divide confidently.

In English, we have started our new topic all about fantastic women! This week we learned about Gertrude Ederle, writing informative sentences about her achievements. I think everyone is excited to learn about Mary Anning next and to find out more about fossils.

In PE, we have been loving our *Matilda* dance unit, pretending to be The Trunchbull and putting on our fiercest faces!

To finish off the week, yesterday in Art we added different coloured dyes to our batik swatches to create beautiful final pieces.

Well done, everyone! ✨ ✨

## Beech



We have had a very busy few weeks in Beech Class. In literacy, the children have been inventing crazy machines to help make our lives easier. They have enjoyed finding solutions to a problem and developing how to meet the needs of the brief. We have also been composing musical notation and performing using recorders. All the children were successful and I can see a few budding woodwind musicians emerging. We continue to learn about Hinduism and their daily worship and rituals which the children are enjoying. The children work hard and are focussing on being a part of a team and rising to the challenges they are set. Keep up the good work class.

Mrs Scandrett

## Holly



Holly class have had a great couple of weeks! We have been really enjoying learning all about the life and work of Charles Darwin. The class are using this time to research him, in preparation for writing a Biography all about his careers and achievements. We have also been experimenting with paper art and the class have successfully made some designs by cutting patterns out of paper with craft knives; We have also been completing our paper structures that we designed as shop window displays. The children also exhibited their music talents when were learning how to mix music, using an online DJ tool. What a fun week , Well Done Holly class!

## Willow



We have been working hard on assessments over the past two weeks. We are so impressed with how everyone is building confidence with learning and showing mastery in this way. We are fully immersed in our History learning about the Ancient Mayans. We have been investigating artefacts and linking to Mayan culture and lifestyle. The discussions in class continue to wow us with detail and the enthusiasm shown - not just for History - but in all areas of learning. Another super week Willow Class.

## Elm



Elm class have had a super week, learning lots about the life of Charles Darwin in preparation to write his biography. They have used their skills of formal writing and are understanding how to use lots of their English knowledge to produce some super work. In addition we have been learning how to use craft knives safely to create our own stencils- we are excited to learn about the work of Banksy next week and will be making our own graffiti wall! Well done to our new prefects; Mya and Tyler who are looking forward to helping out around the school.

 Stars of the Week/s



Acorns: Olivia & Sammy, Poppy & Arthur

Oak: Ellie & Erica, Joash & Ada

Ash: Lucas & George, Joanna & Phoebe

Pine: Lola-Mai & Elsie Ruby & William

Beech: Tegan + Summer & Elysia + Florence

Willow: Max & Aku, Charlie N & Alfie L

Elm: Ralph and Isaac, Mya and Isla

Holly: Dallas& Sheriden, Oliver & Sophia

## Collective Worship



Church team told us the story of Noah and the Ark this week and although the rain recently has been incessant, we thought about how God has lived up to his promise not to flood the world again. We discussed why God chose Noah to build the Ark and start a new world on dry land and we decided it was because he was a good man and trusted God in completing his mission so he was the chosen one to take on such an important task for human kind.

## Attendance



Acorns: 97.64 %

Oak: 97.39%

Ash: 96.93%

Pine: 97.33%

Beech: 91.44%

Willow: 95.31%

Holly: 91.45%

Elm: 97.58%



- Friday 6th February: NSPCC Number Day (Number themed outfits needed today!)
- Thursday 26th February: PTFA 'Spots and Stripes' DISCO

## Staying Safe



## Speak Out Stay Safe

Take a look at information, support, advice and activities from NSPCC for parent and carers. [www.nspcc.org.uk/parents](http://www.nspcc.org.uk/parents) Activities to extend learning at home. Take part in games and

activities at home to help children learn about speaking out and staying safe.  
[www.nspcc.org.uk/activities](http://www.nspcc.org.uk/activities)