

SMUPS Newsletter 6/3/26



Friday 6th March



Hello from Mrs Harvey

Hello all SMUPS children and families,

We have had an awesome first few weeks back after half term and are particularly pleased to be back on the field at lunch time on dry days and are appreciating some warmer, lighter days together. There are many events this half term, we have enjoyed World Book Day this week and look forward to Red Nose Day later on in March, see below for more details. This is a key term for development and learning. Children are settled in their classes and year groups and can now strengthen the building blocks of their learning. Please make sure you have a consultation booked with your child's Teacher where you can discuss their progress and attainment.

We will be running Sports Day this half term this year. This is in honour of Miss Dekker who is leaving us temporarily in the summer term as she is on a sabbatical. She has adventures planned in Australia and New Zealand and although we will miss her we are excited about her travels. Miss Dekker is an excellent leader and person. She is kind, determined, dedicated and works incredibly hard. She has already done so much for our school and we

look forward to her return next academic year where she will continue to build on this further with a united senior leadership team. We look forward to the return of Miss Partridge who is coming back to us after maternity leave after Easter. Miss Partridge will continue her strong leadership of Early Years and Key Stage One and bring her experience and expertise to the development of our Nursery which we await confirmation on for September 2026.

There have been plenty of germs around but we continue to work with children and families to make sure they get the most out of primary school by attending every day. Thankyou to the overwhelming majority of our families that make sure children are in on time, ready to learn, every school day. Further information is included below about the impact having time off has on children's learning, now and in the future. Please monitor your child's attendance on Arbor. We log if children's attendance drops below 95% and begin to action this with phone calls, letters and attendance meetings to support you to improve this and get back on track. Please note that there is a new trust attendance policy that is due to be released soon and be aware that five days of missed learning equals ten sessions which can result in a fine if it is due to unauthorised holiday, persistent absence or late arrivals.

Have a wonderful weekend.

All our very best,

Mrs Harvey



Acorns



We have had a lovely first few weeks back at school! It has been so nice listening to all the children's fantastic half term adventures! Acorns has made so much progress with their handwriting and independent writing in drawing club, we have explored the stories 'Rama & Sita' and 'The Odd Egg' The children have also worked super hard with Mrs Long to create some beautiful Mothers day cards which we can't wait to share with you all soon! We had the most wonderful World Book day and we were so impressed by how creative everyone was!

Please remember to keep reading - books are changed on a Friday!

Well done Acorns!

Miss Snell x

Oak



We have had a great two weeks back at school!

Oak Class has been producing some beautiful artwork, which has made many adults smile when they have seen it displayed. We also had a wonderful day on World Book Day, where the children enjoyed dressing up and writing sentences about the characters they chose. In addition, we have been very active in our PE lessons with Mrs Long, practising skills and getting ready for Sports Day at the end of the term. It has been a joyful and energetic start back, and we are very proud of the children.

Please keep up your reading at home and Numbots to help Year 1 get even better at their fluency in maths and reading!:)







Ash



What a wonderful World Book Day yesterday. The children looked amazing and a thank you must go to you all for your hard work with the costumes.

This week we have started our new English work based around 'Once upon a dragon's fire'. The children have begun thinking of ideas using expanded noun phrases, coordinating conjunctions and prefixes to write their fabulous stories about their own dragons. We have also just finished our Multiplication and Division unit in Maths and will begin to look at Height and Length this week.

Our Science is focusing on animals including humans and we are exploring different habitats which links into our school trip to Arlington Court. Please could you make sure you have completed payment on Arbor and filled in the packed lunch form (please send back even if having a home packed lunch so I can mark this down also).

Next week will be celebrating Science week and we are looking forward to the children sharing all their knowledge with us, as they really are wonderful learners!

Well done Team Ash!

Pine



What a fantastic start to this half term! We have worked incredibly hard in Maths, learning how to calculate the perimeter of different 2-D shapes. This has been a little tricky at times, especially when working with irregular shapes, but once again, Pine Class have absolutely smashed it!

In English, we have finished our learning about fantastic women who changed the world. We are definitely experts on Mary Anning and Gertrude Ederle.

We also had a fantastic day yesterday celebrating World Book Day. We had lots of fun, and everyone looked amazing in their costumes!

We would also like to give a huge shout-out to Lara for raising an incredible £1,115 for The Little Princess Trust. Lara cut off just under 11 inches of her hair and donated it to the charity. We are so proud of you, Lara — you are a true credit to SMUPS! ✨ ✨



Beech



We have had a very productive few weeks in Beech Class. In maths the children have been working hard with their dividing. It hasn't been easy but they have shown real perseverance and made some excellent progress. We have been focussing on our writing and have been enjoying 'The Matilda Effect' and how to craft formal letters of complaint. We also had some very inspiring stories planned, written and shared on World Book Day which kick-started with an immersive assembly creating characters. The children loved creating stories together; discussing books; sharing stories; developing characters and also took part in the BBC Teach Live Lesson. We explored genre, reading styles and spent time talking about how to develop a love of reading. The children created and wore some amazing costumes which

helped to inspire the writing which ensued. Thank you to all the parents for supporting your children to get involved and have some fun!









Holly



Holly Class have had a great first two weeks back after half term. They returned well rested and ready to learn, and it has been lovely to see their hard work at school—and at home—starting to flourish as their confidence grows.

In English, we have been learning to write formal persuasive letters, while in Maths we have been focusing on decimals. In Geography, we began exploring national parks across the UK, comparing Dartmoor National Park and Exmoor National Park.

The highlight of the week was Art, where the children learned about Banksy and created their own stencils and spray-painted artwork, which turned out brilliantly and of course **WORLD BOOK DAY!**

Willow

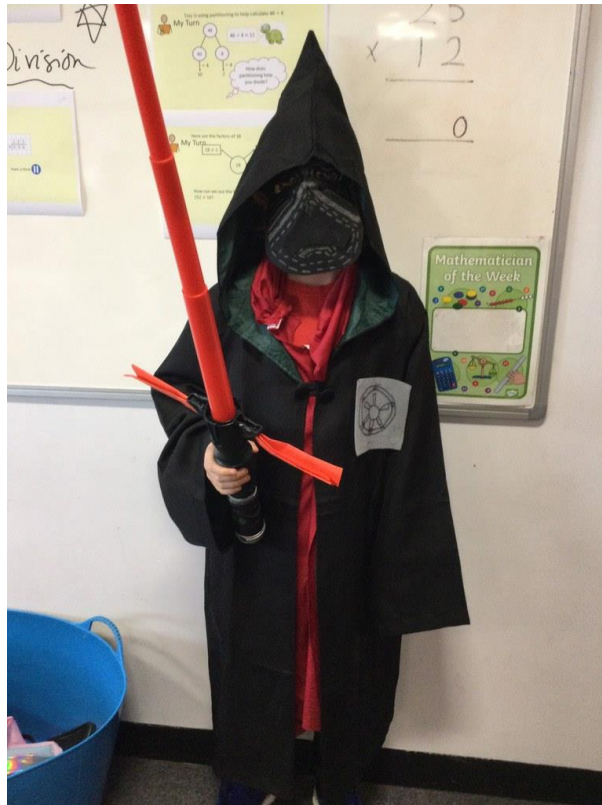


Willow Class came back from half term with energy and increased dedication to their learning. This has led to two weeks packed with super learning. With lots of excellent writing (starting our non-fiction river writing) and marvellous Maths (finishing our Multiplication and Division unit,) together with new topics.

The children have grappled brilliantly with long multiplication and division and we are really proud of their growing confidence with big calculations.

We really enjoyed starting our Art unit, Drawing and Collage, exploring symbols, patterns and portraits as we work towards a Gustav Klimt inspired portrait showcase. The children showed off their skills with digital photo manipulation, which we will build on as we both draw and then collage and montage online for this final piece.

And, World Book Day was a real treat. We loved seeing everyone dressed up and ready to share their character ideas. We created shared stories based on the character we made as a whole school in Collective Worship, then shared these with our Buddy Readers in Year 2.







Elm



The children have had a super week at school, the highlight of which was World Book Day yesterday. The children came with wonderful and imaginative costume ideas and spent the day writing a story about our invented book character. Well done to Dylan who stood up in Collective Worship and explained his invented book character! The children had a visit from SMCC this week and should have brought home a booklet for parents and carers to complete- please send this in by Monday! The children have been working on using craft knives safely to make stencils- they are proudly displaying their Banksy style graffiti art that they have created with this on the boards in the corridor upstairs in school- do have a look when you come for parents' evening!



1 - Our grafitti wall

 Stars of the Week/s



Acorns: Lucas & Mollie Louis & Ruby

Oak: George & Ione, Millie, Wyatt & Izu

Ash: Delilah, Ryder & Noah Talyia & Barney

Pine: Mollie & Lara Henry & Grace

Beech: Mia & Ralph, Charlie & Aaleisha

Willow: Evie & Aku, Liberty & James

Elm: Sofia P, Greg, Isabelle B and Dylan

Holly: Sabrina and Rosie, Maylah and Bright

Collective Worship



The church team told us the parable of the lost coin this week. This helped us to think about how we are like the lost coin and how Jesus celebrates when one of his followers are lost and then is found. We thought about how everyone of our pupils and staff team are as precious as the gold coins to us and how sometimes we make mistakes and don't feel as part of the class or school family as we usually do. We remembered how much everyone celebrates when we come back to our school family again so that we feel together and united again.

Attendance





Acorns:97.32%

Oak: 97.92 %

Ash: 90.95%

Pine: 99.54%

Beech: 96.53%

Willow: 98.57%

Holly: 93.16%

Elm: 95.17%

Attendance %	Missed Days	Missed Weeks	Days Missed Over 5 years	Weeks Missed Over 5 years	Annually	Hours of Learning Missed (approx.)	Impact over 5 years
100%	0	0	0		Excellent	0	None
99%	1.9	0.38	9.5	1.9	Very Good	9.5	
98%	3.8	0.76	19	3.8	Very Good	19	
97%	5.7	1.14	28.5	5.7	Very Good	28.5	
96%	7.6	1.52	38	7.6	Good	38	
95%	9.5	1.9	47.5	9.5	National Average	47.5	Quarter Year missed
94%	11.4	2.28	57	11.4	Below National Average	57	
93%	13.3	2.66	66.5	13.3	Below National Average	66.5	Approximately third year missed
92%	15.2	3.04	76	15.2	Requires Improvement	76	
91%	17.1	3.42	85.5	17.1	Requires improvement/worrying	85.5	
90%	19	3.8	95	19	Cause for concern	95	Half Year missed
89%	20.9	4.18	104.5	20.9	Serious concern	104.5	
85%	28.5	5.7	142.5	28.5	Major issue	142.5	
80%	38	7.6	190	38	Significant impact on outcomes	190	Whole Year missed
75%	47.5	9.5	237	47.5	Significant impact on outcomes	237.5	1 ¼ year missed



- Friday 20th March: Red Nose Day
- 23rd & 24th March: Parent consultations - please book via Arbor
- Family hub support drop in dates: every 2nd Tuesday of the month in term time only 9:15 - 10:30am

– 10/3 14/4 12/5 9/6 14/7

- Wednesday 1st April: Sports Day

Red Nose Day



https://www.justgiving.com/fundraising/rnd26-south-molton-united-cofe-primary-school?utm_medium=FR&utm_source=CL&utm_campaign=020

Please follow this link to donate for Red Nose day, we have a £250 target that we want to smash! Donate to wear 'red to toe' OR funny PE kit for our sponsored Red Nose mini Olympics in Early Years and Key Stage One and Red Nose cricket in Key Stage Two.

SMUPS PTFA



LAMBING BINGO tickets available from the office, instructions included!

EASTER BINGO-tickets on sale end of February 18th March

We have to say another huge thankyou to our incredible PTFA for organising another fantastic DISCO, they are such joyous events and our children have so much fun which raises funds for important projects at our school.

Staying Safe



Please make sure you are vigilant about your children's phone and social media use. Check age restrictions of apps they use as it is not safe for children to access digital platforms they don't fully understand leaving themselves and others vulnerable. Follow this link for further guidance from the NSPCC.

[What is social media? | NSPCC](#)

Young Voices



We were incredibly proud of our Young Voices Choir at their performance last week in Birmingham, as part of a 5,000 strong children's choir. Their singing was beautiful and heart-warming to be part of. Their behaviour was a credit to the school and showed great resilience - with a full rehearsal, evening performance and then the journey home. The event was magical and really inspired the children (and adults alike.) We will be sharing our

experience in Collective Worship soon and begin to teach you some of the songs, so you can enjoy them too.

