

SMUPS News

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Hello from the Head!

Welcome back—it is lovely to be writing a newsletter again after three months. It has been wonderful to see the children return this week and reunite with their friends and teachers. We are so pleased to have the children back in school and to see the happiness on their faces as they play and learn. Walking through the corridors, it has been fantastic to see and hear the sound of whole classes learning.

The children were able to enjoy the field and outdoor spaces earlier in the week with the beautiful weather and will be getting outside as much as possible as the weather continues to improve. For children in years 4, 5 and 6 basketball coaching has resumed again on Thursdays and we are planning to possibly be able to do this with younger classes in the summer term.

Please look out for our new “Wordy Week” later on in the newsletter. This is a discussion based home learning task. There is a question to help stimulate and start a family discussion so please do set aside some time as a family to talk about the question.

Thank you once again for all of your support with home learning during this latest period of school closures. There has been lots of talk about recovery curriculum and catch up in the media and from politicians and it can be quite negative. Without wishing to downplay the impact of time away from school, please be reassured that children are remarkably resilient and will have developed all sorts of new skills and characteristics as a result of this. We will be focusing on supporting their wellbeing, social and personal development as well as their academic development. We are living in extraordinary times and the children will have mixed emotions as a result of this, which we will be helping them to process and understand.

Collective Worship

Classes are beginning to build up towards Easter and each class will be presenting a different event from Holy Week as we build up to Easter.

Things to Remember

- After School Club and Breakfast Club have restarted for those parents who need it. Please book online and book at least 48 hours in advance.
- Years 4, 5 and 6 have basketball coaching on Thursdays. They should come to school in P.E. kit or suitable sportswear.
- All classes are doing full P.E. lessons, please check emails from Class teachers about instructions for P.E. kit.
- Next Friday, 19th March, is Comic Relief. Please wear non uniform and bring a £1 donation.

Certificates and Awards

We had our certificate assembly of the school year today. Well done to our winners.

Acorns: Finley & Madeleine

Ash: Isabelle

Pine: Ralph

Oak: William & Heidi

Elm: Freya

Apple: Isaac

Willow: Tiegán

Beech: Hattie

Holly: Kyra & Aiden



Children's Mental Health and Wellbeing

Yesterday, Professor Tanya Byron (a clinical psychologist) spoke to Devon Primary Headteachers and it was very interesting to listen to her talk. She gave some great tips for mental health and wellbeing. She spoke about the fact that we are living in extraordinary times and unprecedented times and that it is perfectly normal for children to be feeling a wide range of emotions and that returning to school and social groups would be potentially be difficult for children.

Some of the ways we are supporting children's well being in school are

- Prioritising exercise, time outside and play so that children's physical wellbeing is supported. It also helps them renew friendships and connections with others. Now the weather is improving and the days are getting longer, try to ensure you get out with your child for play and exercise.
- Good routines— giving the children good routines so that they know what to expect. Try and ensure that the children are getting enough sleep and have good bedtime routines.
- Talking about their feelings and emotions. In school we are trying to make sure children are given the chance to talk about how they are and have been feeling. Please try to do the same at home.
- Hobbies and interests—we hope to able to run a good range of clubs after Easter. Children's sports and clubs are being reopened from the end of March which means it is the perfect time for children to start a new hobby, especially as the weather improves.
- Connecting with nature. Now spring is finally here, we are starting to plant seeds and get growing.



Wordy Week

Anne Frank



Queen Elizabeth



Greta Thunberg



Dr Mae Jemison

Who would...

...make the best prime minister?

...make the best teacher?

...you like to spend Easter with?

"In my opinion..."

"I think.... because...."

Did you know...

...International Women's Day and Mothering Sunday are both happening this week?

Wordy Week

This is the first in a new weekly home learning task for all pupils in school and families. It is a talk task and is there to stimulate and start a conversation between families. Please do make 10-15 minutes to discuss the questions and talk about the reasons for opinions. Encourage and model talking in full sentences using the sentence starters to help.

Each week there will be a "Wordy Week" talk task. If you have siblings in the school, please do have the discussion as a whole family.

During this academic year, Miss Partridge (Pine class teacher) and Miss Dekker (Apple class teacher) have been taking part in the Plymouth Oracy project, which is a project that has been designed to build children's speaking and listening skills. Within school we are working on activities and teaching to support this vital part of children's development.

Come and hear local, award-winning author of ‘Knitbone Pepper’ and

‘Picklewitch and Jack’:

Claire Barker

Monday evening 22 March on Zoom

Doors open @ 6; event starts @ 6.15; ends @ 7.15 p.m.

A lively, family-friendly, fun talk!

- She'll tell us what she does, about the books she's written
- The things that inspire her and how she became a writer
- Share some funny stories and fan letters
- Tell us the illustrators she's worked with, school visits she's done
- And talk about her new book - as well as reading to us and answering our questions.

All her books are very funny - they make children and adults **want to read them!**

- Get your tickets to Claire's Imaginaruim here: <https://www.ticketsource.co.uk/adsm>

A free event – but any donations will be very welcome!

Donate here: <https://cafdonate.cafonline.org/14257>