



Autumn 2019 Newsletter 5

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The Three Hares Topic

This will be the last week of our Three Hares Topic and we have some exciting events planned to bring the learning together across the school. Tomorrow, we are welcoming Merrick Durling into school. Merrick is a teacher and story teller with a wealth of knowledge of the history of tin mining locally. Merrick will be in role as a miner ready to tell stories and answer the children's questions. Year 3 will be visiting Castle Drogo tomorrow and learning more about our local area through their visit. On Tuesday, in our Harvest Festival assembly, each class will share an aspect of their learning with the school. On Thursday and Friday, all classes will be receiving Three Hares drama workshops from local group, MED theatre. These workshops are very kindly funded by the PTA. **On Friday afternoon from 2:30** we would like to invite you into school to visit classes and find out more about the topic and what the children have learnt. Unfortunately, year 3 will be swimming at this time, but Miss Chalcraft would like to invite parents of year 3 pupils to visit and admire the pupils' homework projects on **Thursday at 2:30pm**.

Christmas!

This year, we have decided to have a change from making and selling Christmas cards and will instead be producing a South Tawton tea-towel featuring all of the children. More details to follow.

Drum lessons

On 1st October we welcomed drum teacher Phil de Jong to one of our morning assemblies where he delighted the children with a drum demonstration. He has offered to provide 1:1 drum lessons in our school using the Drumsense method. With over 40 years playing experience and 20 years giving private tuition, budding pupils will be in expert hands. Offering 20 minute sessions at £12.50 per lesson, termly block booking in advance is required. Phil welcomes any enquiries and can be contacted directly on 07941 130801

Year One library visit.

On Thursday Year One travelled to Okehampton to visit the library as part of their book themed week. This also happened to coincide with National libraries week. Ellie, the librarian, spoke to them about all of the different services that the library can offer and then the children were able to sit down and enjoy sharing a variety of different books. Thank you very much to all of the parent drivers who kindly gave up their time to drive the children for this visit. Mrs Dennis.



Painted benches

Our thanks to the anonymous painters who have given their time and paint to visit the school at evenings and weekends to brighten up the picnic tables on the playground!

Year 2 Multi-skills Festival

On Tuesday, Year 2 attended the annual Year 2 multi-skills festival at Okehampton Primary School. They had a fantastic time learning new skills by taking part in activities such as fencing, basketball and dance.



Year 4 Robin Hood Forest School

Over the last couple of weeks, Year 4 have been linking their Literacy topic, Robin Hood, in with their Forest School time. They have had the chance to make dens, just like Robin and his Merry Men and even managed to make their very own bows and arrows. Although it has been a bit wet and windy, the children have had a fantastic time!

Chicks in Year R

We were excited to watch our 4 chicks hatch in class this week! They now have their own crate to roam around in and we can hear them chirping at us. They come out for regular cuddles, so pop in for a look before they go back to the farm at half term. We will look forward to seeing them return for visits when they are older.



Sustainability Plea

If you have any spare, clean takeaway (white plastic) tubs which could be used for school packed lunches, please bring them into the school office. If your child is having a school packed lunch, please remember to send them in with a sandwich tub.

Dogberry and Finch Bookshop

Please find an attached leaflet for a competition being run by Dogberry and Finch Bookshop.

Road Closure – Tawton Lane - Saturday 19th October 2019

Devon Highways department have advised that Tawton Lane will be closed to traffic on Saturday 19th October, to allow for patching work. This shouldn't affect the school, but please avoid using the road while the work is carried out.

Grey Mare Festival Thursday 31st October 6pm-7.30/8pm – An advertisement from the organisers

Tom Pearse's Grey Mare came from Sticklepath. Many of the names in the famous song lived locally. So the Grey Mare appears every Halloween "askirtling and groaning" and dancing - to be found by local children. These intrepid Seekers ask 4 householders and they exchange Soul Cakes for information. The 7 ghostly riders, who so abused the Mare, also appear and give directions until she is found and apologies made. It is a time to reflect on dear ones who are no longer with us. It helps to bring good fortune and harmony for the coming year and children and carers are invited to join in the annual event.

All are welcome to process through the village with the children and musicians and to be amazed by the Halloween appearance of the Grey Mare.

Meet at 6pm in the Sticklepath Playing Field Pavillion with torches and winter wear.

For more details: Crafty Capers. <https://m.facebook.com/Beacon-Arts> derekmoore60@hotmail.com tel: 840316

Visit from St. Petrocks, Exeter

Lucy from St. Petrocks kindly came into school to talk about the important work that St Petrocks do helping those in need of a hot meal and support. The children asked very well thought out questions such as, 'How do the people know about the service?' 'Why do people not have houses?' and 'Can anyone without a home be helped?'

Eliza – 'I learnt that there was a place in Exeter where people who don't have a home can go to eat and wash.'

Ellen – 'I learnt that important items to have in a backpack are a sleeping bag, carrier bag, change of socks, pants, rain coat and a torch.'



Harvest Festival

Our harvest festival assembly will be held in school on Tuesday 15th October. Unfortunately, due to space limitations, we are unable to invite parents to this event.

Food Bank Collection

Thank you to everyone who has brought in food for our collection. Please continue to donate until the Harvest Festival on Tuesday.

PTA 100 Club

Thank you to everyone who has signed up for this year's 100 Club. 62 people are currently in the club which is less than the 74 and 75 people in the last two years. The more members of the club, the greater the money raised for the school and the higher the monthly cash prizes for its members. The club is always open to new members throughout the year - it costs just £1 per month to be a member and each month there are three cash prizes to be won. If you would like to join, please either collect a membership sign up form from the school office or contact the office if you would prefer one to be e-mailed to you. As the September draw has now taken place, the subscription for the remainder of the school year is £11 which decreases by £1 each month thereafter.

The winners of September's draw were as follows.

- 1st 87 Kerry Rushton
- 2nd 44 Neil Vernon
- 3rd 21 Hannah Thomas

Dates for your diaries

October half term – Monday 21st – Friday 25th October

Individual and family photos for school and pre-school -
Monday 11th November

Last day of Autumn Term – Thursday 19th December