



Pupils of the Week

AWARDS				
	Betty Bee	Wilbur Woodpecker	Olive Owl	Samuel Squirrel
Kingfishers	Maeve	Harrison	Freddie H	Ruby
Jackdaws	Mia	~	Rosie	Louis
Ospreys	Oscar H	Elina	Eden	Charlie

Dear Parents

Now that we are heading into the winter months and the possibility of snow, we will always keep an eye on the weather forecasts so that we can make decisions on whether we need to close the school. The primary consideration is the safety of the children and staff. Most of our staff do not live in Kilmington and have to travel to get here. As you will probably know, the conditions can vary greatly from area to area. Staff will let me know the conditions local to them and whether they think they can safely make the journey. I will then have to decide whether we have enough staff to keep everyone safe, in consultation with the Executive Head. If we do not have enough staff, then we will need to close the school.

AS SOON AS THE DECISION IS MADE TO CLOSE THE SCHOOL YOU WILL BE CONTACTED BY EMAIL.

If you have not heard, then it means that we have not made the decision to close. The information will also be posted on the Devon County Council School Closures website:

<https://www.devon.gov.uk/schools/school-and-route-closures/>

Other times when we might have to close the school could be flooding stopping staff getting in to school or something like a total power cut as several systems wouldn't be able to function.

POPPY APPEAL

We raised £58.65 for the Royal British Legion Poppy Appeal. The district total was £3666.00. With the new war memorial located in the village hall car park we were able to stand over there to respect the 2 minute silence.

CHRISTMAS

CARDS - To avoid the children getting too hyped up too early, we have decided that children will be allowed to bring in Christmas cards for their friends from MONDAY 8TH DECEMBER. The cards can be brought to school and will be given out at playtimes so please ensure that your child knows when they can give them out!

CHRISTMAS NON-UNIFORM will be on the last day of term – the children do look lovey in their Christmas jumpers.

CAROL CONCERTS will be on Tuesday 16th December this year at 2.30pm and 5.30pm. We require ALL CHILDREN to attend the evening performance, so please make sure that you have this in your diaries. It is very difficult to rearrange singing parts and seating arrangements if people don't turn up in the evening. There will also be a collection for the school fund at both performances, all donations will be gratefully received and will allow us to offset the costs involved in putting on performances such as extra photocopying and purchasing of licences.

JACKDAWS

Outdoor Learning

Thursday (after lunch)
4th & 11th December

LAST WEEK FOR AFTER SCHOOL CLUBS

MON	Music	1 st December
TUE	Craft	2 nd December
THURS	Coding	4 th December

Diary Dates December

Thurs 4 th	Jackdaws Outdoor Learning (after lunch)
Fri 5 th	Ospreys Museum Visit – PACKED LUNCH – early registration, coach departs 8.30am
Thurs 11 th	Jackdaws Outdoor Learning (after lunch)
Tues 16 th	Christmas Carol Concert 2.30pm & 5.30pm – parents invited
Wed 17th	PTFA Christmas Hamper Draw
Fri 19 th	Christmas Lunch – booking required by Sunday 14th December Xmas non-uniform Last day of the Autumn term
Monday 22nd December – Friday 2nd January Christmas Holidays MONDAY 5th JANUARY – NON PUPIL DAY	

[Diary Dates website link](#)



CLASS NEWS

PIPITS

The big question that Pipit Class is thinking about this term is, "Where does the day go at night?" This has inspired some deep thinking about night time. The children explored making dark dens. They could explain that they needed to block all the light to make the space dark. Torches have provided opportunities to explore light, reflection and shadow. They loved making shadow puppets.

In literacy, they have focused on Owl Babies, learning about nocturnal animals and how they hunt at night. Currently they are learning the repeated refrains in Peace at last! And we are learning about bedtime routines. The children have made lanterns and they are looking forward to going on a lantern walk in the dark after school next week.



KINGFISHERS

In English, the children have been writing their own version of the story 'Oi Frog! They have written a conversation between two characters and thought of rhyming words in order to follow the structure of the story. The children have also been practising accurately punctuating sentences with capital letters, full stops, exclamation marks and questions marks.

In maths, they have been deepening their understanding of numbers to 100 by ordering, comparing and partitioning 2-digit numbers. We have now moved onto shape and the children are beginning to recognise not only 2D shape like triangles, squares, pentagons and hexagons, but also 3D shapes such as spheres, cuboids, pyramids and triangular prisms!

In History our topic is all about significant explorers in the past and the children are becoming very confident in being able to speak, and write, about Neil Armstrong's landing and exploration of the moon, Charles Darwin's travels and studies of nature and Ibn Battuta's pilgrimage to Mecca. Kingfisher class have learnt so much and worked so hard that they managed to fill our '*Stars in the Jar*' and earned an afternoon of den building! Here are photos from our den village!

JACKDAWS

In Jackdaws Class, we have been very busy with our learning! In Maths, we have mainly been exploring multiplication and division. We've been exploring times tables as well as how to solve problems. We've also briefly looked at area and how to find the area of rectilinear shapes.

The children have really enjoyed our latest text 'The Day the Crayons Quit'. We have explored the text and worked on reading skills, grammar skills as well as writing skills. We are working toward writing an informal letter which is modelled in the text.

In Science, we have been learning about light. We know that light travels in straight lines and that surfaces reflect light which is how we see! This half term, we've also very much enjoyed our outdoor learning. The children have made some clay creatures, created miniature woodlands as well as learning how to sketch trees and improve on their drawings.

OSPREYS

Ospreys are fully immersed in our history topic about WW2. We have been very impressed with the enthusiasm and curiosity that the children have around this period in history. We have looked at modern day Germany; examined the reasons why Hitler came to power; looked at the causes of WW2; examined Britain's involvement including aspects of The Home Front and how the Southwest was affected during the war years. The children now have a wealth of knowledge about this subject so please 'test' them to see how much they remember! We are very excited about our trip to The Tank Museum which will consolidate lots of the learning.

We have introduced an 'anchor task' which involves a short dictation where children can showcase the grammar, spelling and punctuation that they have learnt. This is a low-stakes task with the expectation that all children make little steps of progress each time.

We started the term focusing on the novel Goodnight Mr Tom and it has been great to see that lots of children were inspired to watch the film version at home. By reading this book, the children's learning about WW2 has been reinforced. They wrote a short narrative involving an evacuee meeting their host for the first time.

The book Dragonology has truly captivated the children's imagination, and they are currently in the process of building their skillset to write a report based on their own dragon creation. We have been expanding our vocabulary as we learn the meaning of new words such as sinewy, combustible, lore, concealed, impenetrable and fauna and flora to name a few.

In maths, we have been consolidating our understanding of place value; children are more proficient when reading numbers like 12,501,018. We have spent several weeks learning about fractions involving equivalence, simplifying,

comparing, positioning on a number line, converting between proper, improper and mixed number fractions and adding and subtracting fractions. For the remainder of the term, we will be revisiting and building on multiplication and division. Please note that quite a few children still need more practice recalling tables facts. Many aspects of the Year 5 and 6 maths curriculum rely on children being able to recall these multiplication and division facts and while we can support in class by using a times table grid, this will not be available when children take end of year assessments which are timed. Not knowing these facts instantly holds the children up and they will find that they cannot complete the assessments in the required time. **Little and often is the best way to practice – just 10 minutes every day really does make a difference.**

We have enjoyed learning about evolution and inheritance in our science topic and now we have moved on to learning about light and how we see. This week we have been investigating ways we can show that light travels in straight lines and that we can see objects because light reflects off them into our eyes. Any investigating that can be done with a torch at home will further embed their understanding and enjoyment in the learning.

We have had great fun in our PE lessons: the whole class has been really enthusiastic in the gymnastics classes and it has been wonderful for us to have some advanced gymnasts who are able to demonstrate and inspire the rest of the class to really work hard on improving their skills. Hockey has been a great success with much of the class showing some great stick skills and an increasing awareness of the need for game-play.

Design and technology this term will involve designing and making a stuffed toy; we will be starting this next week. Children have been asked to bring in examples of soft toys with simple shapes and to maybe have some ideas of what they might like to make.