



Pupil of the Week Awards

	Betty Bee	Wilbur Woodpecker	Olive Owl	Samuel Squirrel
Kingfishers	Ruby	Anna & Arthur	Pip	Karla
Jackdaws	~	Eleanor	Phia	Louis & Bear
Ospreys	Fraizer	Oscar	Autumn	Elsie

Dear parents

Welcome back everybody to the new academic year. There is a lovely atmosphere across the school and everyone seems to have settled so well; all the classes are already engrossed in their learning with the high standards of behaviour that we expect clearly evident.

PE KITS

Please remember that PE kits need to be left in school at all times and need to include:

- Blue PE t-shirt
- Black shorts / skorts
- Black joggers / leggings
- Trainers
- **Spare socks**

Spare socks are required in **all PE kits**. If it rains and children get wet feet (for example at playtime) they will then have spare footwear to change into and therefore won't be wet all day.

HARVEST AND OPEN AFTERNOON

We would like to welcome you to our first celebration event of the school calendar. The annual Harvest celebration will be held in The Beacon Baptist Church on Friday 23rd October. The service will start at 2pm and the church have very kindly offered refreshments before the service starts. After this you will be invited back to school to take a look at your children's exercise books ahead of the parents' evenings that will take place the week after half term.

ATTENDANCE

Attendance for the school so far this term is **95.6%** which is fabulous. Let's try to keep this going as we all know how much is covered in a day at school. Many of the morning lessons carry on from each other day to day, so it can be difficult for children to miss odd lessons in the middle of a series.

NHS guidelines to help decide when it is necessary for children to stay off school can be found here:

<https://www.nhs.uk/live-well/is-my-child-too-ill-for-school/>

OUR PLAYGROUND LIBRARY

Many of you will have noticed our library sheds in the lane and the playground. These were kindly funded by the PTFA last year and have been well used by children. This year we would really love to encourage all families to engage in sharing books by opening the playground library each day after school between 3.25-3.45pm so that it is easier to change books. The parents' library in the lane will also be open during these times.

There is no need to sign the books out. Please feel free to borrow books and return them when you are finished. We are also accepting donations of good quality books to replenish the shelves. Together we can build a strong culture of loving reading which will support your children to thrive.

COMMUNITY

This school is part of a small village community and we try to be considerate to all our neighbours. I have been asked to remind everyone to park considerately around the school at drop off and pick up time. We are lucky to have the use of two car parks which provide ample spaces for all families. Please do not park directly on the road anywhere from the entrance to the car park to the little gate with the school sign. This will help people with visibility getting in and out of the car park, and will help our neighbours across the road get in and out of their drives without difficulty.

I have also had reports of children after school, running around the churchyard, climbing on the walls and even swinging on the gates. This really is unacceptable behaviour and no member of school staff would allow this to happen. Please can I ask for your help in upholding our high standards of behaviour in our community and ensuring that all children treat our community with respect. Similarly, behaviour at the bottom of School Lane has been brought to my attention with reports of swinging on the trees and jumping across the stream which our neighbours are not happy about.

AFTER SCHOOL CLUBS

Information regarding the Autumn term clubs was sent home via the children yesterday. Please can we have the reply slips returned via the children to their class by Thursday 1st October.

As usual, you will only receive notification if your child DOES NOT have a place allocated for a specific club. If a club is oversubscribed we will randomly pick the number of children that can be accommodated for that club

PLEASE NOTE:

- Music club will not be held on Monday 5th October.
- Pipits Reading club is now anytime from 3.15pm to 3.45pm.
- No clubs will be held the week of 2nd November, as Parents' Evenings are being held that week.

Dear Parents and Carers

I am writing to update you on some changes within our Governing Board. After several years as Chair of Governors, **Chris Dack** will be stepping down from the role to focus on his other commitments. I am delighted that he has chosen to remain on the Governing Board, as he brings a wealth of experience and knowledge to the team. On behalf of the Federation, I would like to thank him for the support, guidance and commitment he has shown throughout his tenure as Chair.

At our Annual General Meeting this week, **Lieutenant Colonel Tom Evans-Jones** was elected as our new Chair of Governors. We look forward to working closely with him as we continue to develop and strengthen the Federation in the years ahead. Due to his work commitments, Tom will formally take up the role in March. In the meantime, **Lorraine Crosfield**, who has been a valued member of our Governing Board for some time, has kindly volunteered to serve as Interim Chair until then.

Our governors are all volunteers, and I would like to take this opportunity to thank each of them for their time, dedication and support. Their commitment plays a vital role in ensuring the very best outcomes for the children in our schools.

Alison Mackey
Executive Headteacher
Devon Moors Federation

CLASS NEWS

PIPITS

What a wonderful start to the year in Pipit Class! The children have all settled in well after the staggered start and it was fantastic to visit all the families at home. This really builds strong relationships which are so important for giving your children a sense of belonging in the class.

We have been building routines and rhythms with the children so they know what to expect. They have already learnt the first 8 phonemes in phonics and they are beginning to read their first words. This is such an exciting time in the school year!

In mathematics we have been practising recognising amounts up to 3 without counting; this is called subitising. We have also been singing lots of songs and practising finger rhymes.

Our big question this half term is, "What do I know about me?" The children have been looking closely at their features and have been noticing similarities and differences. They have drawn some brilliant self-portraits. They have also been discussing their likes and dislikes.

The pre-schoolers have been focusing on the nursery rhymes 1,2,3,4,5 and pat-a-cake, spotting rhymes and clapping syllables. In number time they have been looking at small amounts to see if they are the same, more or fewer.

KINGFISHERS

Kingfisher class have been reading a great version of Little Red Riding Hood in English. They have learnt about 3 different types of sentences – statements, commands and questions and how these are punctuated. They have also learnt about using nouns and adjectives to describe in sentences.

In maths they have been developing and securing their understanding of numbers to 20. We have looked at how numbers can be represented using base 10 equipment, on ten frames, rekenreks and number lines. The children have been brilliant at using what they already know to estimate missing numbers on a blank numbers line.

In Science they have been learning about different materials like wood, plastic, glass, metal and fabric. We have looked at materials' properties and used adjectives like smooth, hard, stretchy and see-through to describe them.

In Geography we have mad 'messy maps' of our classroom (see photos below) and looked at an aerial photograph of our school and the surrounding area. The children understand that aerial photographs and maps give a 'bird's eye view,' The children have learnt that we live in the UK which is made up of England, Scotland, Ireland and Wales. They have also learnt about different settlements – villages, towns and cities.



JACKDAWS

Jackdaws class have really settled into life as Year 3 and Year 4s. We have been very busy with our learning and have made a great start to the new school year!

In Maths we have been focusing on number and place value. We have been working on a few skills such as partitioning numbers and rounding to the nearest 10, 100 and 1000.

In English, we have been studying the wordless book 'Journey'. The children have really enjoyed this and have just finished writing their story which is a retelling of the section of the book.

In Science, we have been studying rocks. Again, the children have enjoyed this and so far we've been using our observation skills to group different rocks and we've also been working scientifically when conducting an investigation.

In RE, we have been looking at the creation story and linking this to how Christians believe we should all take care of the planet.

We've had a great start to the year and Mrs. Shaw and I are really proud of what amazing learning which has taken place so far. Keep it up Jackdaws!

OSPREYS

We have had an extremely calm and productive start to the new school year. The children have come back to school highly motivated and interested in their learning; we are all really enjoying our time with them.

We have read the story of the Fourteen Wolves' return to Yellowstone Park and this week the children wrote a diary entry in the role of one of these wolves. Here are some quotes from their writing:

'We bound, nose to tail, as we ambush a young elk and the alpha female takes it down. We eat whilst she gets her breath back.'

'I looked up in curiosity at this monster in the sky.'

'I see a blinding light and I see Blade fall to the ground, then Coda, then Fang. I feel a stabbing pain and everything went fuzzy, then dark.'

'The roaring torrent of water is ice-cold, gushing from glaciers and snowfields high in the peaks above. But Scar knows his pups will cross the river with ease.'

In maths, we have revisited place value, including reading and writing very large numbers such as 13,703,217; rounding numbers, positioning numbers on a number line and negative numbers. We have started a daily fluency slot where children can practise and consolidate addition, subtraction, multiplication and division.

Biomes and Ecosystems is our geography topic and this week we have been learning the skills of using 4 and 6 – figure grid references. On Monday, we will conduct fieldwork at the Farm to consolidate the class-based learning.

Our science topic has started off well with a visit to the forest school where we made a scale model of the solar system using a cherry tomato for Earth. Jupiter represented by a basketball. Mercury was a tiny peppercorn! We will continue to learn about the Earth's place in the solar system and study the moon's orbit round us while we orbit the Sun.

In PSHE we have been considering the ingredients for a friendship (we made Friendship Soup at outdoor learning) and recognising what qualities are essential for healthy relationships.

OSPREYS **Outdoor Learning**

Ospreys children can come to school in appropriate clothing and bring their wellies or alternative appropriate shoes in a separate carrier bag. Wellies are ideal and long trousers and long sleeved tops are essential to protect from brambles, stingers and insects. Enough clothing to keep warm and dependent on the weather coats may be needed.

Thursday
October 1st, 8th, 15th & 22nd

Diary Dates September & October

September	
Mon 28 th	Ospreys Farm Visit – PACKED LUNCH – parents to transport
October	
Thurs 1 st	Ospreys Outdoor Learning (after lunch)
Mon 5 th	Jackdaws Farm Visit – PACKED LUNCH – parents to transport
Mon 5 th	After School Clubs week 1
Wed 7 th	R-Y6 Flu Immunisations - only for pupils with online consent from parent/carers
Thurs 8 th	Ospreys Outdoor Learning (after lunch)
Thurs 15 th	Ospreys Outdoor Learning (after lunch)
Thurs 22 nd	Ospreys Outdoor Learning (after lunch)
Fri 23 rd	Harvest Celebration – 2pm The Beacon After, parents are invited to school for the children to share their work with parents
Monday 26th October – Friday 30th October Half-term	

Our forthcoming events and diary dates are on our website listed in the *News & Events* section.

[Diary Dates website links](#)

[Term Dates website link](#)

