

### **Communication, Communication, Communication**

One of the constants of working in education is that effective communication is essential. This means between children and professionals, families and professionals, and between professionals. To ensure effective communication, here are some guidelines for what gets communicated when, by whom and where.

**Check-ins on the school gate:** staff on the school gates between 08.50 and 09.00 and at 15.15. This is a great time to pass over general and non-confidential messages between families and professionals. It is very important, however, that we respect that teachers/teaching assistants need to be in school to teach their class at 09.00 or to consolidate their day at 15.30.

**Longer conversations with professionals:** we are always happy to have longer conversations with families about their children – these are essential. These need to be arranged in advance at a mutually convenient time. For professionals, this is often after school, and it cannot be guaranteed this will be the same or even the next day. A teacher's working day does not end at 15.30 and they have many tasks, meetings, training to complete after the children have left the building. I would not expect professionals to give up their lunch or statutory entitled breaks to complete work activities. It is best to arrange these meetings through the school office or with the teacher directly.

**Scheduled meetings/workshops:** we regularly hold family information sessions. These include parent consultations, family voice sessions, book looks, homework shares, teaching and learning workshops and events in which families are invited into school. These are great events to learn more about how we run our school and what part families can play in supporting their child's education.

**Self-service information:** the school publishes a large amount of information for families to refer to. Curriculum newsletters, progression maps, newsletters, specific letters to parents, class blogs and diary dates. If you cannot find the information you are looking for the school office is always available to answer queries you may have or direct you to the relevant information.

**Communicating specific information:** for some communication the school has specific protocols. Absences should be communicated to the school via phone or email no later than 09.00 on the day of absence. Concerns should be raised to the teacher and/or Principal in the first instance with a clear desired outcome stated. These protocols are important to ensure the school accurately meets its requirements for safeguarding and compliance.

**How to communicate and role-modelling:** everyone who works in our school is a professional. They have trained for a number of years to be able to work in education and, in our school's case, are very experienced. As such they deserve to be respected and trusted as that professional. Working in education is not 'just a job' and every member of staff working in school does so because they are passionate about positive outcomes for our children – every professional has the best interests of the children as their first priority. Communication should reflect this and be mutually respectful, accepting and trusting.

Role-modelling how families, children and professionals speak to one another is important. Rude, aggressive or accusatory communication will not be tolerated in any form. School adults should be addressed by their title and surname, especially when in the presence of children, e.g., Mr Hill. All school staff are, of course, people with rich and varied lives outside of school and many families may know school staff personally – we are a small community in which we have close links, and we consider ourselves one large family – however when in the professional space of the school building, appropriate address should be used. This sets a positive example for our children and establishes the appropriate level of respect and trust.

Thank you, as always, for your detailed communication, support and understanding. Further questions, comments or feedback are always welcomed.





### Stars of the Week

**Joanna** – *Flourishing* and developing confidence in the water during swimming sessions

**Ethan** – for *ambition* and commitment in Maths

**Molly Eg** – always showing *ambition* in all areas of the curriculum and continuing to *flourish*

**Edith** – resilience in the Outdoor Days, and in extra Maths!

**Team Points:** Ash

### Year 5/6 Challenge Day

The Year 5/6 children had a great day on Monday with friends from Lydford Primary on Bodmin Moor. The children engaged in map reading and rock scrambling at Killmar Tor.

It was brilliant to see such teamwork, resilience and confidence during the event.



### Dog's Trust Visit

On Tuesday, we were visited by the Dog's Trust who spoke to the children about the importance of adequately caring for your pets, being a responsible dog owner and how to approach unfamiliar dogs. Snowy Owls learnt about a dog's five senses and how these make a dog think and feel. They also learnt different strategies in how to ensure a dog feels safe and happy.

A great citizenship experience!



### Swimming Gala – Champions!

On Tuesday afternoon, a mixed Bridestowe/Lydford team travelled to Meadowlands, Tavistock to compete in the area swimming gala. A series of races involving a wide range of strokes was completed and we were delighted to be announced the event winners for small schools – well done to the team!

### Cross Country

Unfortunately, the cross country event at Chagford on Wednesday was cancelled due to snow and unsafe conditions. The event will be rearranged.



### **Festival of Hope Artwork**

The children have completed artwork based on 'The Window' by Jennie Baker – a picture book about climate change and land use. Our fantastic work will be on display at Tavistock College during the Festival of Hope.

### **Festival of Hope Song**

Our amazing Festival of Hope song is now available to listen to and watch on Youtube. Thank you to all involved and Mr Arnold for leading our singing assemblies.

<https://youtu.be/XH3SIJZICB4>



### **Cornerstone English Hub Visit**

On Wednesday this week we were visited by the Cornerstone English Hub as part of our continued professional development for teachers in the teaching of phonics and early reading. We have engaged with this support to ensure the best possible outcomes for our children. It was heartening that the whole-day visit was completed at lunchtime, as the external professionals felt our provision was so strong, there was very little further advice they could give.

A significant thank you to Mrs Lammas who has the lead role in Read, Write, Inc and the provision of early reading and phonics.

### **Forest School**



Children enjoyed an afternoon in the rain with Ranger Rob this week. They looked at how to make a shelter for severe weather which could help save their life - we had the perfect weather to test it! They then enjoyed s'mores by the campfire to warm up.

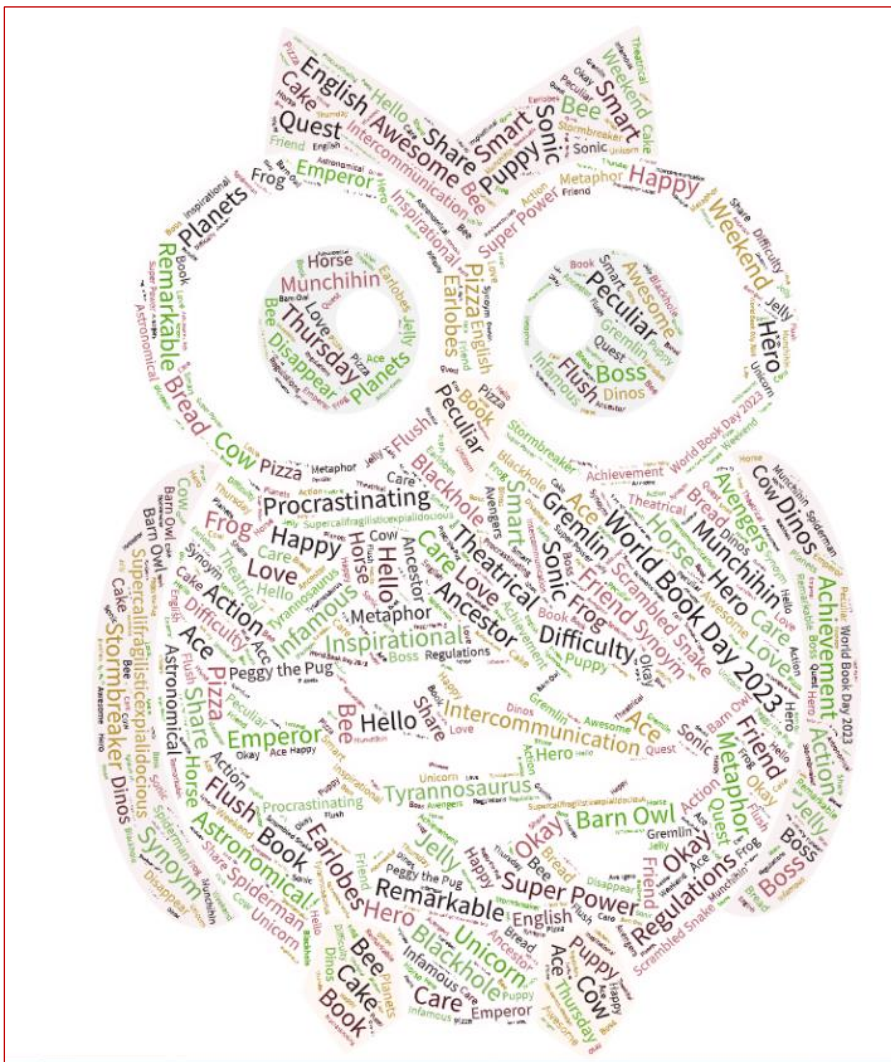


Children were excited to share their words during World Book Day on Thursday.



After watching the Obamas read 'The Word Collector' by Peter H Reynolds in assembly last week and discussing the importance of words and reading, the children were tasked with thinking about a word that they liked, or has sparked an interest in or discussion about, whilst they read at home. They then could wear the word to school on World Book Day.

It was fantastic to see such a variety of words used and discussed. As we know, words have power and they are like keys. If you choose them right, they can open up the world and change your life. Therefore, in the words of Roald Dahl, "Don't gobblefunk around with words." The picture here is made up of the words collected and shared; as you can see there was a real mix!



In order to develop the children's vocabulary, each class teacher is going to choose 1 word every week to discuss and model using in class with their children. Here are next week's words:-

Owlets – repair  
Tawny Owls – proud  
Snowy Owls – peculiar  
Barn Owls – procrastinate

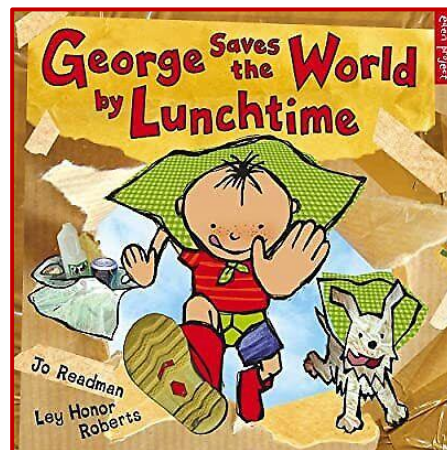


## **Book Review**

To help foster a love of books, each week a member of staff will choose and write a book review. Here's the first one by Mrs Sherring.

*George Saves the World by Lunchtime* by Jo Readman is a superbly illustrated storybook which introduces the concepts of reduce, repair, recycle and re-use to young children.

One morning, George tells Grandpa that today he is going to save the world by lunchtime. And with a little help from Grandpa he does! George saves electricity, recycles rubbish, repairs his toys and visits the farmers' market.



Children everywhere will be delighted to discover how their everyday actions can affect the world around them. Mrs Sherring has a copy in Owlets room if you'd like to borrow it. Or click on the link to hear the story read to you:- [George Saves The World By Lunchtime - YouTube](#)

## **Open the Book**

Thank you to our friends from Open the Book who welcomed us to the Methodist Chapel today for a story and discussion as part of our celebration assembly.



### **FoH Athletics Event**

A mixed Bridestowe/Lydford team will compete at the Festival of Hope indoor athletics event on the 14<sup>th</sup> March at

Holsworthy College – we look forward to supporting them!



## **Owlets Mother's/Grandmother's Tea Party**

On Wednesday 15<sup>th</sup> March at 14.30, Owlets will be hosting a tea party for mums/grandmothers. Invitations have been sent out this week. Please RSVP to Ms Baker by Monday 13<sup>th</sup> March.

## **Events at Okehampton Library**

Need help to boost your everyday number confidence? The Multiply project is being rolled out across libraries in Devon by Libraries Unlimited with funding from Devon County Council. For the entire month of March, visitors will be able to enjoy board games from dominos to Monopoly, along with a special collection of books with fun maths learning. Just come along to Okehampton Library on Thursday afternoons 2-4pm for these free and fun sessions.

### ***Easter Character Hunt - Saturday 1 – Saturday 15 April***

Look for the nine chicks hiding in the library. Find them and collect a sweet treat. FREE - available during library opening hours.

### ***'Storm In A Teapot' from Boo to A Goose – Thursday 13 April 11:00-12:00***

This exciting show from Boo To A Goose Theatre has been created for children aged 4-10 and their families and will appeal to the whole family. Grandma Kettlepot is causing a stir at the local book club, she decides to write her own story but needs the children's help. This accessible, multi-sensory show, with puppets and original music, will have everyone laughing and singing along with the characters.

Tickets: £3 per child. One adult free with each paying ticket. Free for children aged 2 and under. The show will be at the Ockment Centre Hall and booking in advance, from the library, is essential.





### **Red Nose Day**

On Friday 17<sup>th</sup> March, we will be getting involved in Red Nose Day! Red Nose Day is an annual fundraising campaign to end the cycle of child poverty and ensure a healthy future for all children. The organisation funds programs which help keep children safe and healthy while providing them with support and education. On this day, children are invited to come to school with an unusual hair style, which may or may not include a red accessory, in exchange for a donation to the charity. Children will be expected to wear uniform/swim ready clothes as normal. The focus is on making everyone smile and having some fun whilst raising money for a worthy cause. Please make any donations directly via the website: [Donate | Comic Relief](#)

Please **do not** send cash into school as we are unable to accept it.

### **Maths Workshops**

We are pleased to offer parental workshops on the teaching of maths to parents. These events, facilitated by Mr Hill, will help parents understand our maths curriculum and how maths is taught. Specific advice on homework and support at home will feature too. Parents are welcome to attend any session at either school.

22<sup>nd</sup> March, 09.00, Bridestowe Primary

30<sup>th</sup> March, 15.00, Lydford Primary

11<sup>th</sup> May, 18.00, Bridestowe Primary

24<sup>th</sup> May, 08.00, Lydford Primary

### **Team GB Athlete Visit**

We are delighted to be welcoming Team GB athlete Kirsty Way to the school on Wednesday 29<sup>th</sup> March.

We hope your quests for sponsorship are going well!

If you would like more sponsor forms, please ask the school office or your class teacher.

**As a cashless school, we would prefer monies be paid straight to the crowdfunding page,**

**here:** [Bridestowe & Lydford Primary School's](#)

[Fundraiser - a Sports crowdfunding project in Okehampton by Sports For Champions UK \(CIC\) \(crowdfunder.co.uk\)](#)



### **Charity Pub Walk**

This year's Charity Pub Walk in aid of Treetops, Lydford and Bridestowe Primaries will take place on Saturday 22<sup>nd</sup> July - details attached. The organisers are looking for volunteers to help with various tasks on the day, from marshalling to helping with refreshments and lots in between! If you feel you can help in any way, please speak to a member of FoBS.



### **Tawny Owls**

The Tawny Owls had a great DT session this week, learning about the differences between fruit and vegetables. They got to sample some foods that they may not have previously tried, which they all enjoyed! This learning will lead on to them designing, making and evaluating smoothies.

### **Uniform Reminder:**

A reminder that school uniform is an important part of identity and belonging to school. It is an important physical marker for children to signal that they are now in school and are ready to learn. As such we request you ensure your child has the correct uniform each day.

A note: PE hoodies should **only** be worn for PE/Sport/Swimming and should not replace jumpers/cardigans on a daily basis.

Our uniform expectations are on the website here: [Hub - Parents - Carers - BRIDESTOWE PRIMARY SCHOOL \(bridestowe-primary.devon.sch.uk\)](http://Hub-Parents-Carers-BRIDESTOWE-PRIMARY-SCHOOL(bridestowe-primary.devon.sch.uk))

Uniform can be ordered online here: [Bridestowe Primary School - Schoolwear Direct](http://Bridestowe-Primary-School-Schoolwear-Direct)

It is also acceptable to buy non-branded uniform in the correct colours from any retailer.

A reminder than FoBS hold a large range of second-hand uniform that can be purchased for a donation – please ask a member of FoBS. If you need any support in purchasing uniform, please ask at the school office.

### **Chicken Pox**

There have been cases of Chicken Pox in school and in the community. Please be vigilant for symptoms: [Chickenpox - NHS \(www.nhs.uk\)](http://Chickenpox-NHS(www.nhs.uk)) If your child has chicken pox they can return to school once all the spots have dried and crusted over.

### **World Book Day Book-Sharing**

Barn Owls children spent time reading with Owlets on Thursday. The children enjoyed the stories and talking about them afterwards – another example of our school community!



## **Next week**

Monday	*RRR Club, Y6 only 3.15-4.15pm, *Forest School Club 3.15-4.00pm
Tuesday	*Film Club 3.15-4.00pm Festival Of Hope Indoor Athletics @ HCC – selected children
Wednesday	Potential Industrial Action *OCRA Club 3.15-4.15pm; *Board Games 3.15-4.00pm Owlets Tea Party, 2.30pm
Thursday	Potential Industrial Action *Cheerleading Club 3.15-4.00pm; *Recorder Club 3.15-4.00pm
Friday	Red Nose Day Barn Owls trip to Plymouth Recycling Centre EYFS and KS1 Swimming

\*Your child must be booked into after-school clubs via School Gateway in order to take part

# Diary Dates

## March

### 6<sup>th</sup> – 31<sup>st</sup> March – Festival of Hope

21 <sup>st</sup>	Forest School – EYFS, Years 4-6 Odd Socks Day for Down Syndrome
22 <sup>nd</sup>	Parents Maths Workshop, 09.00am
23 <sup>rd</sup>	Seal Sanctuary Virtual Workshop – Tawny Owls
24 <sup>th</sup>	Open the Book Assembly EYFS and KS1 Swimming
27 <sup>th</sup>	Parental Book Look – 09.00am Cross Country @ Sourton – selected children
28 <sup>th</sup>	South West Water Workshop – KS2
29 <sup>th</sup>	Sport 4 Champions Athlete Easter Service – 2.30pm, St Bridget's Church
30 <sup>th</sup>	Earth Energy Workshop – Barn Owls
31 <sup>st</sup>	EYFS and KS1 Swimming – final session Last Day of Term

## April

3 <sup>rd</sup> – 14 <sup>th</sup>	Easter Holiday
17 <sup>th</sup>	Start of Summer Term
18 <sup>th</sup>	Y6 French Residential Meeting, 4.00-5.00pm at Bridestowe school
19 <sup>th</sup>	Forest School – EYFS, Years 1-3 Y3 Residential Meeting, 5.00pm at Boasley Cross Primary

## May

1 <sup>st</sup>	May Day Bank Holiday
3 <sup>rd</sup>	Forest School – EYFS, Years 4-6
4 <sup>th</sup>	Y4/5 Residential Meeting, 4.00pm at Boasley Cross Primary
8 <sup>th</sup>	Bank Holiday for the Coronation
10 <sup>th</sup>	RNLI Assembly – Whole School
11 <sup>th</sup>	STEM Coding – selected Y5 children Parents Maths Workshop, 6.00pm
15 <sup>th</sup> – 18 <sup>th</sup>	Y6 Residential to Normandy
17 <sup>th</sup>	Forest School, EYFS, Y1-3
22 <sup>nd</sup>	Y3/4 Activity Day
24 <sup>th</sup>	Forest School, EYFS, Y4-6
26 <sup>th</sup>	Y3/4 Activity Day Last Day of Term

Mr A. Hill – Principal

[ahill@dmatschools.org.uk](mailto:ahill@dmatschools.org.uk)

01837 861361

**Whole School Attendance**

**95.5%**





# Pub Walk



SATURDAY 22nd JULY 2023 EVENT  
BEGINS AT 2pm

Under 18s must be accompanied by an adult

## The Route

Register at Bridestowe Village Hall



White Hart



Cross Roads (pop up tent with pints  
and pasties)



The Fox and Hounds



Lydford House



The Castle Inn



To finish at Lydford Sporting Green for  
an after party



MUSIC

£5 per adult  
£2 per child  
Under 5 free

Pushchair and  
dog friendly

BBQ  
&  
Bar

Ice  
Creams

## The after party

5.00pm - 11.00pm

Can't make the walk?

Come and join us after!

Free entry



All profits to Treetops Preschool,  
Lydford and Bridestowe Primary  
Schools



# What Parents & Carers Need to Know about iPADS

Apple debuted the first iPad in 2010, kickstarting the tablet market, and it remains the best-selling tablet to this day. Although Apple doesn't offer a child-specific version, iPads are hugely popular with youngsters due to their ease of use and endless choice of apps. There's a selection of models, with different-sized screens and distinct features – including the standard iPad; the iPad Air; the iPad Pro; and the iPad mini. Thankfully, they all offer parental controls so you can regulate how your child uses the device ... and how long they spend on it.

## WHAT ARE THE RISKS?

### PHYSICAL DAMAGE

While some tablets (such as the Amazon Fire Kids editions) come with rugged shock-proof cases, iPads aren't built for rough and tumble. They're also more expensive than most other tablets, and any damage your child's iPad suffers could be costly to repair. Buying a child-friendly case and screen protector for the device could be a wise move, especially if it's being used by younger ones.

### SCREEN ADDICTION

Like most digital devices, tablets have the potential to become quite addictive. You might find your child spending too long staring at their iPad, which could lead to irritability, mood swings and a loss of interest in more important tasks. If this happens, be sure to visit the built-in screen time settings and ensure you limit how long they're able to spend on the device each day.

### INAPPROPRIATE CONTENT

18  
CENSORED

Even if it would never occur to your child to go searching online for age-inappropriate sites, apps or information, there's always a possibility that something unexpected – perhaps a video that auto-plays or content incorrectly suggested by an algorithm – could appear on their tablet and upset them. You can help prevent this by adjusting the content settings (see our 'top tips' section below).

### SIRI SUGGESTIONS

The parental controls built into iOS (the fundamental operating system of Apple devices) enable you to block access to most age-inappropriate content – but your child could potentially still bypass these restrictions (either accidentally or deliberately) by using Siri, Apple's voice-activated digital assistant. To avoid this, toggle the 'Ask Siri' functions to 'off' in the iPad's settings menu.

## Advice for Parents & Carers

### ENABLE FAMILY SHARING

Before letting little ones loose on an iPad, it's a good idea to set up Family Sharing, as this lets you utilise the parental controls to manage exactly how your child is able to use the device. You can do this fairly easily by going into the iPad's settings; once there, you'll be able to add an existing Apple account (if your child already has one) or set one up from scratch.



### APPLY SOME LIMITS

The 'Downtime' function allows you to tell the iPad to lock itself at certain periods (at mealtimes or before bed, for instance), while 'App Limits' removes access to certain apps once they've been used for a specified length of time each day. The iPad can display a reminder when these limits have nearly been reached, letting your child mentally prepare for the end of their gaming or viewing time.



### STOP ACCIDENTAL SPENDING

To empower your child with an increased sense of freedom on their device (without giving yourself something else to worry about in the process) you could enable the iPad's 'Ask to Buy' feature. Whenever your child tries to download or buy an app, game or product, the iPad sends you a request to approve (or deny) it. This option only becomes available if you've set up Family Sharing.



### SET CONTENT AND PRIVACY RESTRICTIONS

The parental controls can stop the iPad from displaying explicit or age-inappropriate content (in apps like iTunes and Safari, for instance) when your child is signed into their account. You'll also be able to restrict the capacity to download and install apps, and you can specify permissions which prevent children from changing the iPad's privacy settings once you've selected them.



### TRACK IT DOWN

Just like the iPhone, Apple's iPads have 'Find My' software to help you locate your child's iPad – or indeed, any linked Apple devices that have gone AWOL, including phones, watches and AirPods. If you enable 'Find My' in the settings menu, it will display the last known location of an iPad that's been mislaid, as well as giving you the option to lock a missing iPad that you suspect has been stolen.



## Meet Our Expert

Carly Page is an experienced technology journalist with a track record of more than 10 years in the industry. Previously the editor of tech tabloid *The Insider*, Carly is now a freelance technology journalist, editor and consultant.



**National  
Online  
Safety**

#WakeUpWednesday



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