

Normandy Residential 2023

Last week, our Year 6s travelled to Normandy with over 130 other Trust children to visit Normandy, learn about the D-Day landings and experience French culture.

The trip was one of the best I have ever taken part in. Not only in terms of activities, learning and experience, but also in behaviour, attitude and application. The children were brilliant and, at every stage of the trip, they represented the school and Trust wonderfully.

My personal highlights of the week were visiting the French school - watching the children interact with their French peers overcoming the language barrier, and seeing their broad smiles was joyful. And visiting the French marketplace, again children enjoying French culture, seeing, smelling, tasting and experiencing normal life in a French town. More photos have been added to the blog [HERE](#). We have already made an application for funding for next year's trip and hope to be passing on details very soon.



Stars of the Week

Joselyn – *flourishing* in maths and writing

Megan – *flourishing* in all subject areas

Mia – *flourished* at the Water Activity Days

Bentley – managing difficult situations, and showing *respect* for others

Team Points: Willow

Summer Uniform



As the weather has warmed up significantly recently, please ensure your child has a hat in school, and you apply sun cream daily to your child in the mornings. If you believe they will need a top-up, please send them in with more, which they can apply themselves when needed.

After half term children are permitted to come to school in summer uniform.

Red and white checked dresses or black/grey dress-shorts (not sport shorts) may be worn as an alternative to skirts or trousers. Open neck shirts can also be worn at this time without jumpers and ties. Please remember that we recommend closed-toe

shoes or sandals for safety purposes. Uniform details can be found on our website [HERE](#).

Year 3/4 Activity Days

On Monday and Friday of this week, Year 3 and 4 travelled to Meeth Quarry to take part in water activity days. All the children had a fantastic time and it was wonderful to see the children achieving and challenging themselves to better their own personal goals. On Monday they did paddle boarding and double kayaking. They learnt how to balance and use the paddles. They also played games while on the water and got the chance to jump in the water.



Residentials

Year 3 – 8th + 9th June, Boasley Cross camping, and Adventure Okehampton. We are looking forward to two days of adventurous activity and camping at Boasley. Kit lists and itinerary have been sent out - if you have any questions, please ask Mr Hill. Please ensure you return menu choices **by 5th June**.

Year 4+5 – 26th – 28th June, Menadue Activity Centre, Tintagel. Three days and two nights at Menadue centre in Cornwall will include adventurous activities and a beach day including approx. 2 hours of surfing lessons from Surf's Up. We are 'glamping' in fixed tents so please bring a sleeping bag and roll mat. If you have any questions, please ask Mr Hill. A reminder that there is a cost of £96.10 which can be paid in installments. The final installment is due by 31st May. Please pay via School Gateway **before** the trip.

Homework Share

Once again, the Snowy Owls did a fantastic job of presenting and sharing their home learning. The children enjoyed discussing their homework with their peers and playing a selection of Viking games. Thank you to everyone at home for supporting children in this task.



Forest School

This week in Forest School we sampled Nettle Soup! The children foraged for nettles and then Ranger Rob demonstrated how to pick them safely without getting stung. The nettles were carefully washed, added to vegetable stock and vegetables, and cooked over a stove. Although the soup didn't look very appetising, it was really tasty! Children finished off this impromptu meal with chocolate-coated bananas over the fire.

Forest School Changes: Due to residentials and Bikeability training, changes have been made to the following Forest School dates:

Current dates - Year 3 Wed 7th June and Year 4 Wed 14th June

New dates - Year 4 Wed 7th June and Year 3 Wed 14th June

Treetops Garden

Bridestowe Primary recently donated a number of bags of compost to Treetops Pre-School to enhance their outdoor area. Children helped move the compost into raised beds in after school club. This is a great example of our community links and how we work together.



Singing with Mr Arnold

Mr Arnold has been a regular visitor into school since before Christmas, using his expertise and experience to encourage and lift our singing. We are very grateful to him for giving his time so willingly. We have started to learn songs for the end of term Leavers' service and will soon start learning songs for our end of term production.



Words of the Week

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

Owlets - fair (being fair)

Tawny Owls - important

Snowy Owls - callous

Barn Owls - courageous



Time to Talk

As part of our school focus on getting children talking and improving their Oracy, we have a topical, weekly question and picture for you to discuss as a family:-



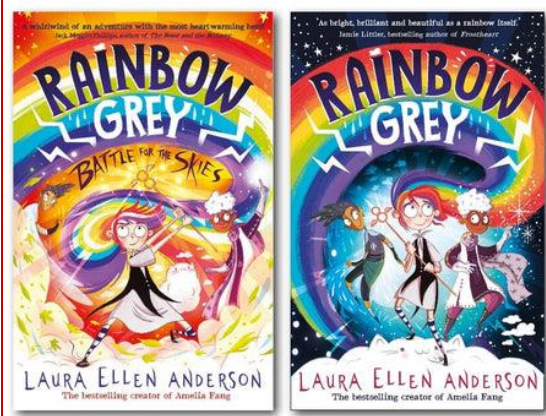
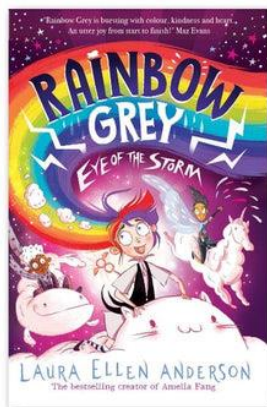
With the half-term holiday upon us, knowing what the different coloured flags at a beach mean could help save lives.

If you get into trouble in the water, what should you do and how could you attract attention?

After your discussion, watch the following short video clip to help you further.

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=AZJ1EnoOTFK>

Book Review by Mr Hill



Rainbow Grey, by Lauren Ellen Anderson

Suitable for: KS2

Ray is 10 and lives in the magical kingdom of The Weatherlands. She wishes she had weather magic, just like all her friends... and a forbidden trip to Earth turns everything Ray thought she knew about herself upside down. Ray has to dig deep to battle new enemies and let her true colours shine!

This is a fantastic story for KS2, especially Year 3 and 4. It is magical, relatable and filled with wonderful characters like 'Nim' the cloud cat. Lauren Ellen Anderson is a brilliant storyteller and illustrator. Her detailed pencil pictures and intricate world maps bring the story to life.

The text is understandable and achievable for KS2 readers, but complex enough to excite and engage. My daughter, who is Year 3, loved this book and the 2 sequels 'Eye of the Storm' and 'Battle of the Skies'.

Lauren Ellen Anderson also wrote the 'Amelia Fang' series about a young vampire – another amazing read.

Click on the link below to hear the author, Lauren Anderson talk about how she created the characters for her Rainbow Grey series and listen to her reading the first chapter.

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=ajsxdu-Boo>

Clubs after Half Term

We are pleased to offer the following clubs after half term:

DAY	CLUB	YEAR GROUPS	RUN BY	TIME
MONDAY	Mindfulness	Years 1-2	Mrs Brendon	3.15-4.00pm
MONDAY	Athletics	Years 3-6	Mrs Reid	3.15-4.00pm
TUESDAY	Photography	Years 1-2	Mrs Lammas	3.15-4.00pm
WEDNESDAY	Running Club	Years 3-6	Mrs Harris/Mrs Sharland	3.15-4.00pm
THURSDAY	Cricket Club	Years 3-6	Brenden Worth Sports	3.15-4.15pm
THURSDAY	Cheerleading Club	Years 3-6	Miss Spooncer	3.15-4.15pm

Children must be booked into club sessions via School Gateway in order to take part.

Mr A. Hill – Principal
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Whole School Attendance

95.4%

Diary Dates

29 th May – 2 nd June	May Half Term
June	
5 th	Start of Summer Term 2
6 th	Y6 Okehampton College Transition Meeting with Parents, 4.30pm at Bridestowe Primary FoBS Fundraising Meeting, 8pm at The White Hart
7 th	Forest School, EYFS, Y1, Y2 and Y4
8 th – 9 th	Y3 Residential @ Boasley Cross Primary
9 th	Football Workshop
w/c 12 th	Bikeability, Y6 and Y4 children
13 th	September Intake Transition Afternoon, 1.15-3.05pm
14 th	Forest School – EYFS, Years 3, 5, and 6
15 th	Wildlife Conference @ Meeth Quarry – School Wildlife Champions
16 th	Open the Book Assembly Football Workshop
21 st	Summer Reading Challenge Assembly
22 nd	Class and Leavers' Photos September Intake Transition Afternoon, 1.15-3.05pm
23 rd	Rainbow Day Football Workshop FoBS Rounders Evening, 5.30-7.30pm
26 th – 28 th	Y4/5 Residential @ Tintagel
27 th	September Intake Transition Afternoon, 1.15-3.05pm
27 th & 28 th	Y6 Holsworthy College Transition Days
29 th	Y6 Okehampton College Taster Day
30 th	Football Workshop
July	
5 th	Sports Day
6 th	September Intake Transition Afternoon, 1.15-3.05pm
7 th	Open the Book Assembly FoBS Summer Fair, 3.30-6.00pm
10 th	September Intake Transition Afternoon, 12.00-3.05pm
12 th	Forest School, EYFS, Y1-3 KS2 Summer Performance, 1.30pm
13 th	September Intake Transition Afternoon, 12.00-3.05pm
14 th	Football Workshop
17 th	Forest School – EYFS, Years 4-6 Y6 Meet The Tutor Evening @ Okehampton College
18 th	September Intake Transition Day
19 th	Circus in a Day – Whole School
20 th	Leavers' Assembly Last Day of Term

FAMILY SERVICE

Sunday 28th May
9.30am – 10.00am

St. Bridget's Church,
Bridestowe

Songs with Mr. Higbee
refreshments Bible story

All Ages Welcome

What Parents & Carers Need to Know about INFLUENCERS

In today's digital age, social media influencers play an increasingly significant role in shaping the opinions, interests and behaviours of our children. While many of these individuals can have a positive effect, influencer culture can also present certain risks – such as encouraging consumerism, affecting self-esteem and blurring trustworthiness. To help ensure a safe online environment for young people, it's vital to maintain open communication, set sensible boundaries, promote a healthy self-image and teach digital media literacy. Our guide delves deeper into all of these.

WHAT ARE THE RISKS?

HEIGHTENED CONSUMERISM

A major way that influencers make money is through brand partnerships and sponsored content. As a result, children who follow them may be exposed to a steady stream of advertising; this can lead to materialistic attitudes, unrealistic expectations and an increased desire to have the latest products. Many influencers have built huge brand empires around their large, impressionable following.

THE SOFT SELL

Some influencers aren't always transparent about the motivations behind their posts, blurring the lines between genuine recommendations and paid-for promotions – and young people sometimes find it difficult to distinguish authentic content from advertising. Many major social platforms have taken steps to make sponsored content and ads easier to identify, but it remains an area of concern.

PRIVACY CONCERNS

Inspired by their favourite influencers, children may start sharing more of their own lives online – which could reveal personal information or details about their daily routine. This openness can put them at risk of cyberbullying or even predatory behaviour. This is exacerbated by live streaming, which gives young people no time to consider the potential consequences of saying too much.

UNDERMINING SELF-ESTEEM

Many influencers share images and videos of themselves and their activities, which are often painstakingly curated and edited to present an idealised version of their life. Children who follow these influencers may develop distorted expectations about body image and the concept of beauty, which can potentially lead to negative self-esteem and even mental health issues.

Advice for Parents & Carers

KEEP TALKING

Chat to your child about the content they consume on social media and the influencers that they like. Encourage them to think critically about what they see and hear online, and listen to any concerns they might have. Maintaining this line of open, honest communication can help your child to make informed decisions about which individuals they follow and what content they engage with.

SET SOME BOUNDARIES

Agree age-appropriate boundaries for your child's social media use, including time limits and privacy settings (the two major operating systems on mobile devices, Android and iOS, have these controls baked in). Try to keep an eye on your child's online activity and discuss it regularly with them – including reminding them of the potential risks that can arise from following influencers.

SUPPORT A HEALTHY SELF-IMAGE

Reinforce your child's awareness that real life isn't usually as picture perfect as it may appear on social media – and how some content (particularly that of influencers) is often curated, staged or edited to look more glamorous. If possible, highlight examples of other influencers who share authentic, relatable material which acknowledges their imperfections and struggles as well.

PROMOTE MEDIA LITERACY

Talk to your child about the concepts of sponsored content, advertising and potential influencer bias. Teach them to critically evaluate the information they're presented with online and to consider the possible reasons behind content creation. This can help young people develop the skills to make healthier decisions about the influencers they choose to follow and the content they consume.

Meet Our Expert

A former director of digital learning and currently a deputy headmaster and DSL, Brandon O'Keefe's experience and expertise give him a clear insight into how modern digital systems impact the experiences of children, staff and parents – and which strategies help to ensure that the online world remains a useful educational tool rather than a minefield of risks.



National
Online
Safety

#WakeUpWednesday