

<u>Bridestowe Primary School – With Respect and Ambition We Flourish Together</u> <u>20/10/2023</u>

It was lovely to see so many members of the school and wider community at our Harvest Festival last week. The children spoke with great confidence and sang beautifully.

Harvest is one of my favourite celebrations in the school calendar because I think the message is so important. The power of giving thanks. This alone can empower people, build positive emotions, shape strong relationships, and therefore gain positive experiences throughout life. If we can be thankful of our school community, sow the seeds of friendships and nourish the bonds we have, it will no doubt see all the children become ambitious, respectful and flourish - which is our school ethos.

All the staff would like to thank you for your support over the last half term and we hope that you have an enjoyable and relaxing break with your children.

Mrs Lammas



The Food Bank have sent a message "A BIG THANKS FOR THE DONATION it was really appreciated by everyone. Everyone enjoyed the variety of fresh products too."

Mrs Lammas

Dear families,

It is with regret that I write to inform you that Mrs Lammas has decided to step down as Lead Teacher. She will remain as full-time class teacher in the Tawny Owls as well as early reading and phonics lead.

After agreeing to trial the role from September, Mrs Lammas has found it to be an unsustainable burden on her family time, which we must respect.

After half term, I will base myself at Bridestowe on more days and provide leadership until a longer term Lead Teacher can be appointed. I would like to take this opportunity to thank Mrs Lammas for her commitment to the role and the excellent work she has started this term.

If you have any questions, please do not hesitate to ask.

Mr Hill

Stars of the Week



Last week:

Travis - flourished in all areas of the learning - lots of teachers have recognised this.

Joseph - flourished in your harvest performance at the church.

Evie J - flourished in maths showing great understanding of addition and subtraction.

This week:

Millie - flourished in phonics. Applying phonics knowledge in writing.

Bella - flourished in her learning especially of place value.

James - shown ambition is his writing.

Arthur - been a great role model to younger children at breaktimes.

Oak Team (Blue) had the most team points this half term and were rewarded with a non-uniform day today.

Open The Book

Our friends from Open the Book told us a Christian story from the bible - the moral of the story was to be grateful for our family and friends. We were very proud of William who volunteered to take the role of Jesus in the story.



Attendance



On Wednesday Mr Hill had the pleasure of sharing lunch with Elsie B, Elsie Y, Winston and Jacob G as part of our attendance reward. Lunch was very enjoyable at their special table and they chatted about half term plans and upcoming activities.

> Whole School Attendance 97.6%

Attendance update

This year, we really want to work with our students and families to ensure that every child attends school as much as possible. Children with attendance over 97% will benefit emotionally, socially as well as academically.

We are committed to developing positive, open, and effective communication between home and school and providing support, advice and guidance for parents/carers and pupils when needed.

In order to do this, we will regularly be communicating with families about their child's attendance in several ways, including;

- Regular attendance focus on newsletters to share important information and updates.
- Every parent/carer will be informed about their child's attendance by email twice each half term we would really appreciate your support in talking to your child about their attendance and celebrating with them when they have consistently been in school every day, or when they have tried really hard to improve their attendance.
- Your child's Class teacher will contact you to ensure everything is OK and offer support following any unauthorised absence, after 3 days of consecutive absence or after 3 incidents of absence within a 4-week period.
- In line with our policy, parents/carers will receive letters regarding their child's attendance should it fall beneath 95%. Where attendance is below 90% and either the family or school has identified any areas that need additional support, an attendance meeting will be arranged and in partnership, personalised and achievable targets for pupils will be developed, based on their individual needs and circumstances.
- Parents/Carers will be informed twice a year about the process for requesting absence during term time and the processes involved should an absence not be considered an exceptional circumstance.

The school level appendix of the Trust attendance policy contains details of relevant staff members who you can contact to discuss any concerns you may have regarding your child's attendance, please do not hesitate to contact us so as we can support where possible.

Reminders

Now that the weather has turned colder and wetter, please ensure that your child has a warm waterproof in school every day. A spare pair of sock is also useful especially on PE days

Year 6 Secondary Applications.

Any families that still need to apply for a place at a secondary school, need to do so before the 31st October. The easiest way to apply is online by visiting <u>www.devon.gov.uk/admissionsonline</u>



Lunches

All lunches for the week after half term should be booked by midnight on Thursday next week. Please can all balances for school lunches be paid via School Gateway. Thank you.

Vacancies

We currently have vacancies for Meal-Time Assistants for further information please visit the trust website.

- <u>Support Staff Vacancies | Dartmoor Multi Academy Trust (dartmoormat.org.uk)</u>

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: -



Julia Donaldson, author of the popular children's books 'The Smeds and the Smoos' and 'The Gruffalo', developed her passion for writing at school. The first story she remembers writing was about a rabbit with orange ears that looked like carrots.

If you wrote a 500 word story, where would the story be set, who would be the main characters and what would be the main events in the story?

Our whole school 'Word of the Week' for after half-term is perseverance.

Small School Cross Country

It was a fantastic afternoon at Simmons Park Cross Country with our friends from the Moorland Hub. A brilliant effort from all the children that represented us. We won both the year 3 and 4 and the 5 and 6 cups!! Well done to all that took part and thank you to all the parents for your support!

The results were as follows-

Year 3/4 girls	Year 3/4 boys	Year 5/6 girls	Year 5/6 boys
🏅 Annie	🏅 Arthur	🏅 Lucy	🏅 Henry
🏅 Isabella	🏅 Jack	🏅 Mia	🏅 Alistair
🏅 Isabelle	🏅 Jack	🏅 Josie	🏅 Willoughby
Year 3/4 overall winners – Bridestowe		Year 5/6 overall winners - Bridestowe	







<u>Clubs</u>

After half term after school clubs will be as follows – Mondays – Cheer Club with Miss Spooncer Wednesday – Drama Club with Mrs Dewsbery Thursdays – Dance Club with Katie from Jess Squire Dance. Friday – Rugby with Tallan from Brendon Worth Academy.

Clubs will run from 3.30 to 4.30pm. Please book via School Gateway.

Spaces are limited. If your child would like to attaend a club which is full, please contact the school office and we will keep a list of pupils who would like to attend should any places become available.

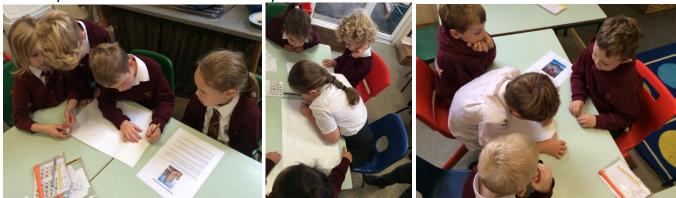
<u>Owlets</u>

The Owlets enjoyed a morning in the Forest with Devon Wildlife trust learning about wildlife and in particular, Hedgehogs. The had to find different foods hedgehogs liked to eat and then made clay hedgehogs, using sticks they found for the spines.



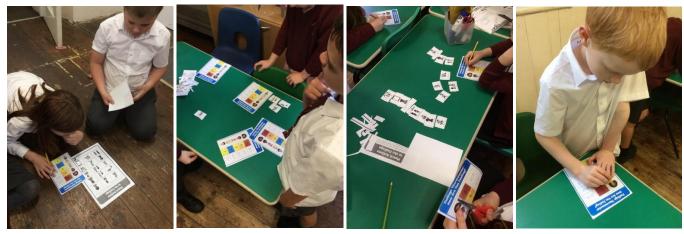
Tawny Owls

For their English unit, Iggy Peck Architect, the children in Tawny Owls have been researching famous London landmarks. They have used information sheets and Chromebooks in small groups to gather key information that they will then use to create their very own fact files next week.



Snowy Owls

As part of PSHE, the Snowy Owls explored the feelings thermometer. They discussed how it feels to be at each of the numbers and what they can do in each stage. The children discussed that if we find ourselves feeling a number 4 or 5 (flipping our lid) then we can try strategies such as reading a book, taking deep breaths, drawing a picture or asking for a hug. The children were very aware of their own and others' feelings.



Over the last few weeks in Music, children in Snowy Owls class have been enjoying learning a Roman chant spoken in three different parts at the same time and singing a 'road building song'. They have learnt what a musical 'motif' is and can recognise the use of a motif in Beethoven's 5th Symphony. This week they composed their own musical 'motif' on a glockenspiel.



Barn Owls

Tuesday 10th October was World Mental Health Day. As a school we had an assembly from Ant and Dec discussing the importance of talking to others to help with mental health - 'Get Britain Talking'. We also marked the day by wearing something yellow.



FOBS

I'd firstly like to say a big thank you to everyone that came to FOBS (friends of Bridestowe school) annual general meeting.

Kirstie has done a wonderful job as chair on the committee but has now stood down. Thankfully, she has now taken the role of treasurer so still a vital part of the fobs team. Helen Proctor remains as secretary alongside Jennie Speirs, remaining as vice chair.

I'd like to introduce myself as the new chair, Jane Easterbrook.

I must also say a massive thank you to Ali Lane, our former treasurer, for all her time in the role previously. We have our next fundraising meeting on Thursday November 9th at 7.00 in the White Hart Bridestowe. This meeting is for anyone who'd like to get involved in upcoming fundraising events or anyone that has ideas for events for next year!

With Christmas parties creeping up, helpers are always appreciated.

Please do feel free to approach any of us on the committee with questions or ideas. Fobs really appreciate everyone's support and ultimately all the funds raised, goes towards the children. This could be for extra equipment that the school has no budget for, coaches to the Christmas pantomime, so parents don't have the extra cost, book bags, and so much more!

We hope to see you at the next meeting and do keep an eye on fobs Facebook page for updates on events.

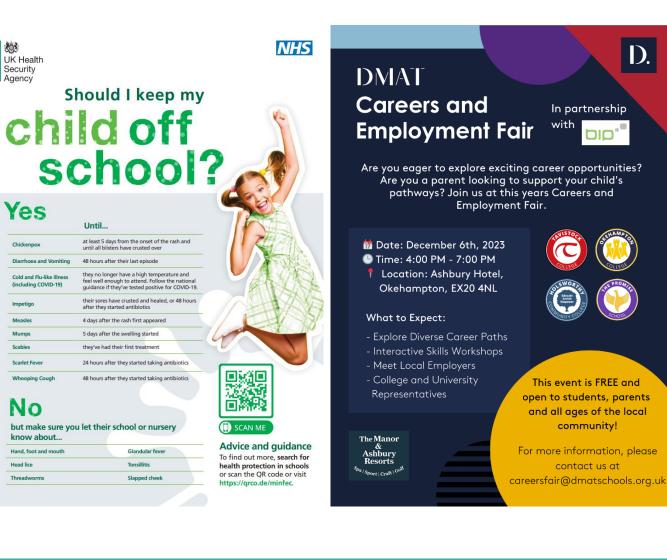
Best wishes

Fobs

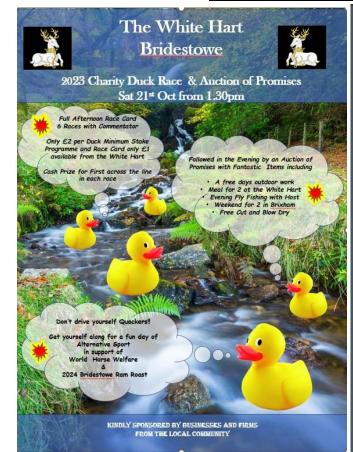
Díary Dates October			
			$23^{rd} - 27^{th}$
30 th	Open Afternoon for September 2024 starters		
	November		
9 th	Yr 5/6 Cross Country @Castle Drogo		
13 th	Book Look – 8.40 – 9am Whole School Forest School (TBC)		
17 th	Open the Book		
22 nd	Stay and Play Session		
23 rd	Bouldering Experience – children TBC		
27 th	Whole School Forest School (TBC)		
28 th	Flu Vaccinations		
30 th	Book Look – 3.15 – 3.30pm		
	December		
1 st	Open the Book		
7 th	Owlets Nativity and KS2 Christmas Carols, St Bridget's Church, 2.45pm		
8 th	Christmas Jumper Day		
11 th	Book Look – 08:40 – 9am Whole School Forest School (TBC)		
12 th	Tawny Owls Nativity, Methodist Hall, Time TBC		
14 th	Homework Share, 3.30 – 3.45pm		
15 th	Christmas Dinner		
$18^{th} - 2^{nd}$	Christmas Break		
	January		
2 nd	Non-Pupil Day		



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Community News and Information





Seasonal Stories & Paper Lanterns

Thursday 26th October 2023 2.30pm - 5pm

Family friendly event in the beautiful Walled Garden at Parke: fun paper lantern making, Dartmoor stories, pumpkin selfie station and spooky offerings at the cafe. In collaboration with Dartmoor National Park.

More info: nationaltrust.org.uk/parke















Call My Bluff Evening - 23rd November in Lydford Village Hall 19.00 for 19.30

• An evening of laughter, bluffing and double bluff in aid of Friends of Lydford School – FoLS. Call My Bluff evening kindly hosted by <u>Bearnes</u> Hampton & Littlewood Auctioneers and Valuers of Exeter. Come along and see how good you are at valuing antiques or fakes.

• Tickets £7 in advance or £8 on the night – children are free. Entry includes a plate of cheese and biscuits. Alcoholic and soft beverages available to purchase during the evening.

 Tickets from the Toy Shop in the Red Lion Yard Okehampton or call Jade on 07854 206 400.

• Everyone welcome. We look forward to seeing you for a fun evening of bluffing!

Event kindly hosted by <u>Bearnes</u> Hampton & Littlewood Cheese kindly donated by Waitrose, Okehampton





🚰 Exeter

Struggling to top up your prepayment meter?

You might be able to claim fuel vouchers

If you have prepayment meters and can't afford to top them up, we can help. We may be able to give you fuel vouchers, and our specialist energy team can help you find ways to save money on your household bills

Call 01237 879233, email fuelvouchers@ruraldevoncab.org.uk or scan the QR code to request a call back





Fundacja

🖻 Jana Palucha

OCRA's October Half Term Activity programme runs 23rd-27th.

Sport and Art multi-activity days for 6-14yr-olds will run:

- Tuesday 24 October and
- Thursday 26 October.

Sibling discounts are available for family bookings.

Don't forget <u>Breakfast and Afternoon Clubs and All</u> <u>Day</u> tickets for an 8.15-5.30 experience.

<u>Activity</u>

<u>Camps</u> include <u>Gymnastics</u>, <u>Hockey</u>, <u>Taijitsu</u> and <u>Challenge</u> <u>Games</u>.

You can book now at ocrasport.org.uk/holidays.

Book online now

Okehampton Community & Recreation Association, "...helping children, young people and adults be more active, more often. For a lifetime in sport and activity." If you have any queries, please contact holidays@ocrasport.org.uk.

*For GDPR reasons, we're again asking parents to complete a paper registration form on the day of each activity.

At National Online Safety, we believe in empowering parents, carers and trusted adults with the information to hold an informed conversation about online safety with their children, should they (see It is needed. This guide focuses on one of many games which we believe trusted adults should be aware of. Please visit www.nationalonlinesafety.com for further guides, hints and tips for adults.

What Parents & Carers Need to Know about

WHAT ARE THE RISKS?

SENSITIVE PREMISE

Among Us, up to three Among Us, up to three yivers are secretly assigned be alien imposters, tasked th murdering their colleagues life the survivors try to unmask sm. While the concept's not far noved from traditional games nk Murder or TV shows such as e Traitors, some parents may fo comfortable about their child nying a video game in which intere to faile about their child like mil lying a video game in which ception and killing are prioritised

VIRTUAL VIOLENCE

The on-screen death of characters may be fundamental to the gameplay of Among Us, but the majority of the animations depicting this are deliberately cartoonish and only appear very briefly. However, it is worth bearing in mind that the game has a PEGI age rating of 7 - meaning that certain elements (however heavily stylised they may be) could still upset some younger players.

CHAT BETWEEN PLAYERS 99

With up to 15 people participating in each game online, a large part of Among Us' appeal is speculating with fellow players who the imposters might be and making accusations. This dialogue through the in-game text chat can occasionally become heated - and could, of course, involve your child being put into contact with people (including adults) who they don't know in real life.

A multiplayer 'social deduction' game set in outer space, Among Us enjoyed a surge in popularity in 2020, and has since maintained a dedicated fan-base (globally, around 60 million regular players each month) thanks to its unique nature, simple premise and ease of access across numerous platforms. The game's on-screen action revolves around danger, disguise and deception – and there are certain parallels to be drawn with some of the real-life risks that parents and carers of young Among Us players need to be aware of.



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IN-GAME PURCHASES

Among Us is free to download on mobile devices, and costs less than £5 to obtain on console and PC. A related longer-term pitfall, though, is that the game also includes options to pay for upgrades such as removing ads on the mobile version or adding cosmetic touches to characters (such as different costumes). It's certainly possible that a child could spend a significant sum without realising it.

Advice for Parents & Carers

CONSIDER SOFTER ALTERNATIVES

nough Among Us is hugely popular with young ners, it's possible that some children might the murder themes unsettling. If so, plenty of ilar social deduction games are available (in both tal and traditional board game formats) which mplay the potentially grislier elements: some tre around undercover spies, for instance, and re's even a Marvel superhero-themed variant. 0.0

AMONG US, AMONG FRIENDS

When your child and their friends get together, they can enjoy a private game of Among Us by choosing a 'local' lobby – that is, only people connected to the same WiFi (your home network, for example) can enter. This prevents any random online users – who may be total strangers – from joining and removes the need for voice chat, as the players are all physically in the same location.

CHAT ABOUT CHATTING

You might feel it's prudent to talk to your child about the risks associated with voice chat whi but the risks associated with voice chat while ming, explaining in particular that strangers ine aren't always who they claim to be. Reeping conversation relaxed will reinforce your child's fidence that they can always come to you with online concerns – not just about Among Us, but r potential future issues as well.

DISCUSS DISCORD

In general, Discord is an excellent app for keeping online communities together because of its use of dedicated individual services which is a service of the service of th which allow who can join – and who ith the platform who - an rm, you and their a Us

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STOP SURPRISE SPENDING

If you're concerned about the possibility of your child racking up an unexpected bill on Among Us' microtransactions, you could consider using a prepaid card with a set limit. Likewise, you could specify in the game's options that adult authorisation is required for every purchase – or you could make sure that no payment methods are enabled on the device that your child plays the game on.

Meet Our Expert

💓 @natonlinesafety

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#WakeUpWednesday

National

Online Safety