



# February 2023 NEWSLETTER



## Dear Parents and Carers

We simply can't believe how quickly this half term has passed. It feels like five minutes since we returned after Christmas!

We have lots of lovely news and updates to share with you. This half term we have been scientists as well as story writers. Our value has been 'Exploration' and we've been talking to the children in our assemblies about how we can seek challenges for ourselves and show determination in reaching our goals. I'm so proud of all that the children have achieved this half term; I'm sure you will all be suitably impressed when you come into school for our 'Open Classroom' event on the 10th February.

Highlights this half term have included the Year 6 Bikeability course, Year 4's Forest School and the brilliant Children's Mental Health Awareness week, which culminates this week.

Finally, I'd like to extend huge congratulations to Miss Shimell on the arrival of her baby boy, Albie. Despite arriving earlier than expected, both mum and baby are doing really well. I'm sure Miss Shimell will be in soon to say hello to the children!

Thank you all so much for your continued support. I hope you have a well-earned break this half term and look forward to seeing everyone again when we return on Monday 20th February.

Best wishes,

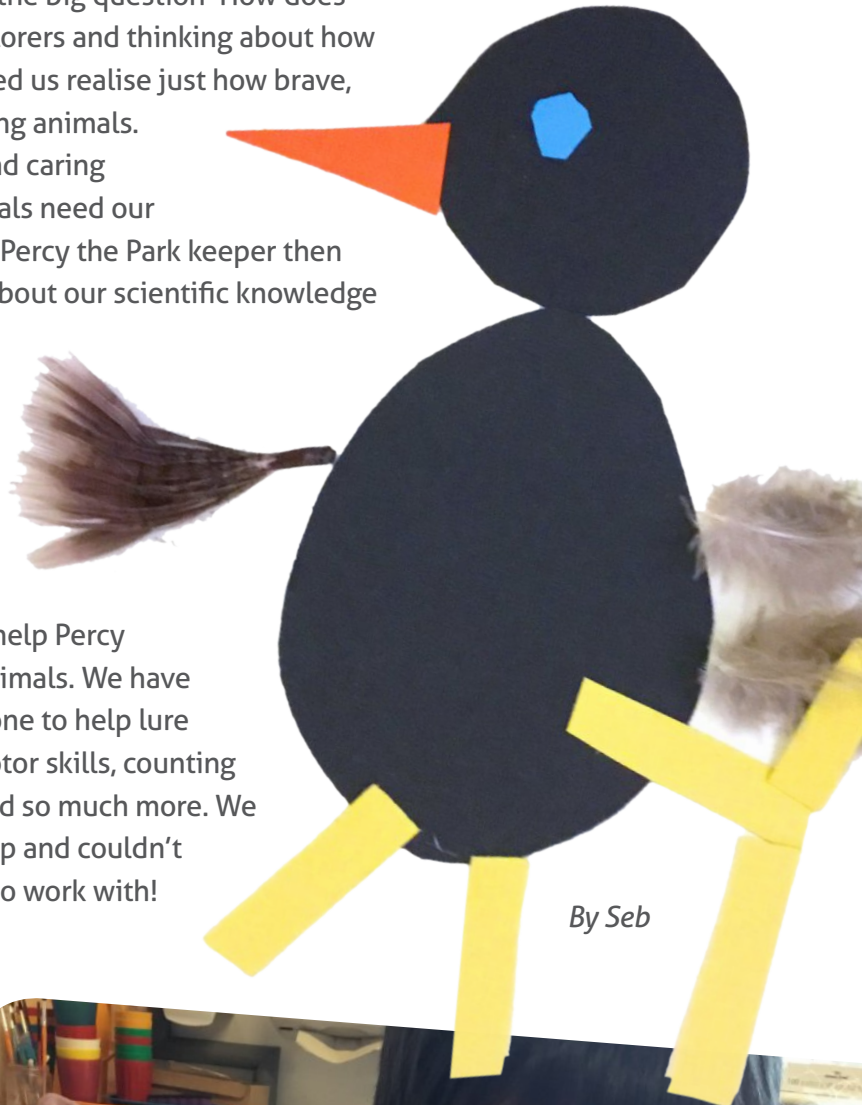
*Jenny Stewart* Headteacher



# Reception

What a busy start to 2023 for the Reception family!

We have been working as scientists starting with the big question 'How does Jane Goodall challenge herself?'. Working as explorers and thinking about how we challenge ourselves and try our best has helped us realise just how brave, resilient and amazing Dr Goodall was when helping animals. We discovered lots about Jane and what a kind and caring person she is. As a team, we agreed that our animals need our protection and we mustn't destroy their habitats. Percy the Park keeper then came along as he had heard so much great stuff about our scientific knowledge and understanding. Sadly, Percy's woodland was being chopped down for new houses – all his woodland creatures started to disappear! We needed to learn what these woodland animals were and their features and also their preferred habitat. The team thought the animals were leaving because their habitat was being destroyed – so our job, the team decided, was to help Percy plant more trees and create new homes for his animals. We have been writing letters, creating animals in the art zone to help lure them back, rescuing hedgehogs using our fine motor skills, counting the animals carefully using our maths learning and so much more. We are pleased to say, Percy is delighted with our help and couldn't have asked for a better expert team of scientists to work with!



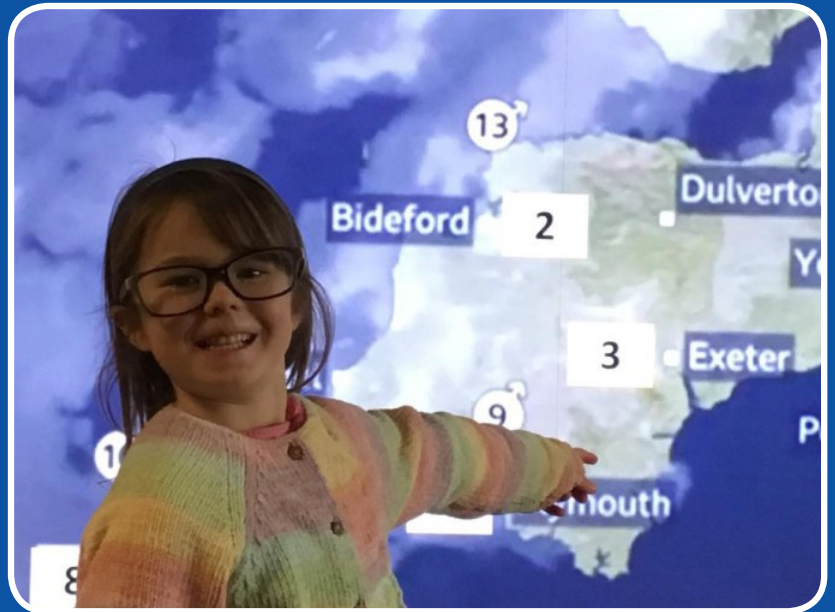
# Year 1



This half-term, the Year 1 children have been scientists, learning all about the weather. Their enquiry question was, 'How do I become a weather presenter?' This kicked off with a Zoom meeting with ITV Westcountry Weather presenter Charlie Powell. The children thought of questions they could ask him to help them understand how to become weather presenters themselves. Charlie's top tip was to think of presenting the weather like telling a story all about the weather.

Throughout the enquiry, the children have been acquiring new knowledge about how the weather is measured and what vocabulary is used to describe it. They then had a go at writing a descriptive script and finished by having a go at presenting the weather whilst being filmed.

The children did such an incredible job. Darcy's film was sent to Charlie Powell and we're awaiting feedback from him. Well done all of Year 1 for your great work this half-term.



# Year 2

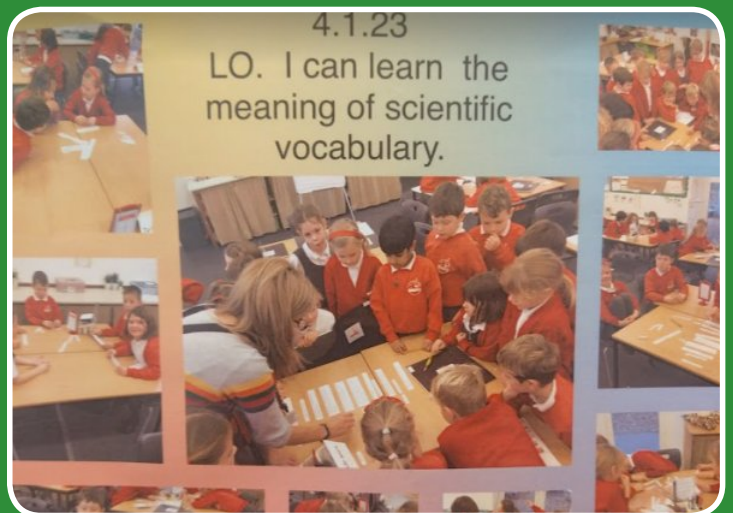


Science was the first enquiry experience of 2023 for Year 2. We learnt about animals and their habitats, food chains, how animals and plants depend upon each other and what an animal needs to survive. The children became animal habitat experts and produced a fact file about an animal from a specific region. We pondered on the question of whether animals could live anywhere. This enquiry helped to provide the opportunity to draw knowledge from the last science enquiry about animal classification, which then enabled us to tackle the question. The children worked in table teams for their learning experiences during this enquiry and channelled their character gateway of exploration when presenting researched facts to the class. The character values of seeking challenge and being the best version of themselves often meant children coming out of their comfort zones, especially when challenging the ideas of their team mates.

Our English enquiry is a writing-focussed one which has been based on Theatre Alibi's wonderful production called, 'The Parcel'. The company came to Shaldon in January and the material was thought-provoking enough to become the focus for our enquiry. The character, Kit had said she was writing a book about her adventures. She welcomed any ideas from the children and encouraged them to write to her. Well, in Year 2, the children have been keen to write the first two paragraphs of Kit's autobiography and send her their drafts! Watch this space...

We have been sharing the fabulous book, 'Charlie and the Chocolate Factory' as our class novel. The children are really enjoying this! As we are learning to use adverbs in our writing, the children are keen to magpie ideas from Roald Dahl's wonderfully crafted story.

After half-term, we are looking forward to a week of art where we will be seeing if we can bring the setting of Flotta, featured in 'The Parcel' to life in a whole class collage.



## THE PARCEL



**Year Two Mission:  
23rd January 2023**

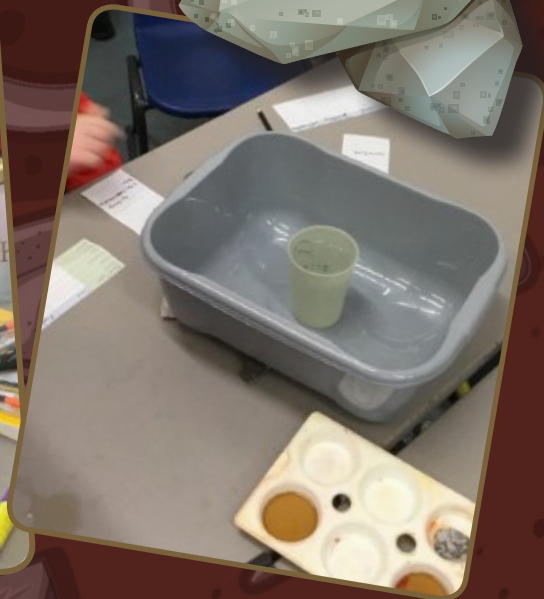
Should you accept this mission,  
this will take two weeks.

You have been asked to write two  
paragraphs for Kit and Tobin's book  
about their travels in 'The Parcel'  
This writing will be sent to Kit.

The background is a dark reddish-brown color with various scientific illustrations. At the top left is a large, detailed ammonite fossil. To its right is a large, jagged rock formation. Below the ammonite are several smaller, layered rock formations. In the bottom right corner, there is another large ammonite fossil. The overall theme is geology and paleontology.

Year  
3

# SCIENCE ENQUIRY



Year 3 have had a brilliant half term. We started with a Science enquiry, investigating the properties of rocks and soil and learning about how fossils form. Many children had excellent knowledge about some of this learning already, and it was wonderful to witness the sharing of ideas and facts.

This enquiry involved several practical investigations, including our study of rock types and how they reacted in acid and water. Following on from this, we started a Writing enquiry, based on the play that children watched in school. The quality of writing, and the creativity on show, has astounded me and I've thoroughly enjoyed reading their work. It will be lovely to round off our half term with an Art enquiry, the children will be using polystyrene printing as their medium, and we are intending to create images to illustrate the stories we've written in our writing enquiry. You are welcome to come along to our Open Classroom on Friday 10th February, to see for yourself the brilliant learning that has taken place in Year 3.

# Year 4

This half term, Year 4 have been exploring forces in our science learning enquiry. We learnt that there are different forces called contact and non-contact forces which can act on different objects. The children discovered that one non-contact force we can test is magnetism. Interestingly, we learnt that the molten metallic core of our Earth creates a huge magnetic field around our planet which helps to defend the planet from harmful radiation from the sun. Once we had learnt about independent variables in a science experiment, we had to plan and conduct our own one in order to test a hypothesis around magnetism.

During this half term, Year 4 have also been attending forest school with Mr Rees where they have learnt more about being outdoors, making fire, using tools and exploring nature safely. The children have loved this experience and have looked forward to it every week. One of the other areas that we have been learning more about recently has been music. Year 4 have been learning to play the ukulele! We've been learning different chords in order to play the song 'The Lion Sleeps Tonight' which has been thoroughly enjoyable!



# Year 5



## Spring Term

It has been a fantastic term in Year 5, filled with lots of Space-themed learning! Our character value this term has been Explorers, which is all about trying our best. In science, Year 5 had to try their best to link their scientific skills to their skills for general life. For example, ensuring they don't let bias affect their opinions.

## Science

In science, we learnt all about why planets orbit the sun. This involved learning about 2 main concepts- gravity and inertia. The children used their investigation skills to figure out the different ways in which gravity works and whether variables such as mass effect how fast something falls. They then put this into context, learning how gravity from both the sun and the other planets impacted the formation of our solar system, and still impacts their orbit.

## Writing

Having had such fun learning about space, we decided our story writing would be based in space too. The children were tasked with coming up with a destination for 'The Parcel', inspired by the Theatre Alibi production that we had the pleasure of seeing. They have been trying their best to use figurative language such as similes and metaphors to describe their story setting. Their work has been amazing!

## Art

In our final week, we have been printing using printing inks, looking at how we can create different textures for our designs. Again, these have been space themed, particularly inspired by the constellations, as these have made really effective prints.

Year  
6

# THE SCIENCE OF Light

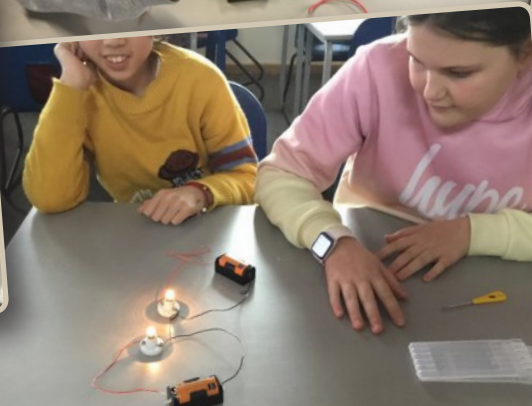
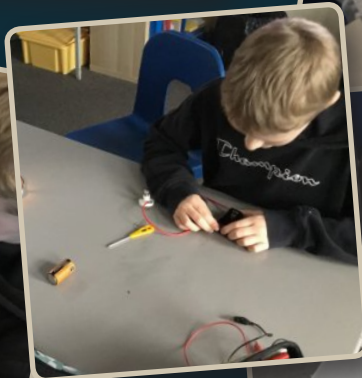
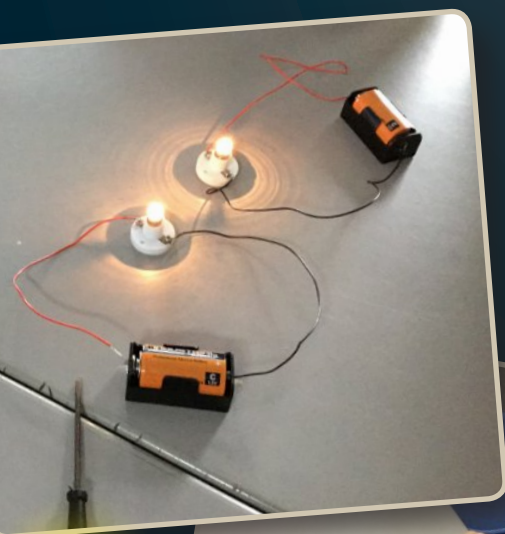
Science has been the focus of our learning this half term as the children have been attempting to understand electricity and light in order to answer the question, 'How can I see?'

Initially, the children recalled their previous knowledge on electricity before moving on and learning the key symbols that they would need to construct an electrical circuit. However, the real key piece of learning during this enquiry was about fair testing as they would use this to set up their own investigations throughout. All children understood that a fair test must have three variables: independent, dependent and controlled. Using this knowledge, they worked collaboratively to investigate how to make a bulb brighter. Some groups thought that they could decrease the length of the wires so that the current didn't have as far to travel whereas other groups considered increasing the voltage to give the bulb extra power. The children clearly wrote out their list of equipment and their method, as well as their circuit diagrams before having a go at setting up their experiments. It became apparent that making their tests 100% fair was actually a lot harder than they imagined due to other factors such

as not knowing whether the cells had been used before. Using their variables, the children were able to confirm or refute their initial hypothesis at the end.

Following this, the children went on to learn about light. They understood key terms including that of reflection and refraction. In order to investigate refraction, they used their knowledge of fair testing to set up an experiment, to see what happens when light travels through a more dense material such as water. The children were able to describe their findings clearly and explain why their images, which were put at the bottom of a glass filled with water, then appeared on the side of the glass.

Finally, we then looked at shadows and why they have the same shape as the object that casts them. After understanding that objects closer to a light source block out more light and therefore have larger shadows, the children set up their own experiments to investigate the size of shadows. This time, as they were able to measure the size of shadows, they presented their accurate and precise results in a table before drawing a line graph to consider any anomalies.





# FOSS Update



*This term FOSS have:*

- **Provided 40 more books for the book raffle**
  - **Provided 50 books for the school library**
  - **Purchased 10 Chromebooks to make a full set of 35, so no children will have to share in class.**
  - **Arranged and funded Theatre Alibi to come in to school and perform 'The Parcel' for the whole school, which received wonderful feedback!**
  - **Arranged and funded a First Aid course for all children, taking place after half term**
  - **Set up a World Book Day costume swap shop on [www.pta-events.co.uk](http://www.pta-events.co.uk)**
- We have raised money this term with a few of our usual fundraisers: Bag2School £55, Y4 Cake Sale £114.30, and Non Uniform (tbc). Behind the scenes, Your School Lottery has given us a return of £82.20 this month and easyfundraising and stikkins.co.uk give us small returns. You could help boost these numbers, with these suggestions:
- **Play the school lottery ([www.yourschoollottery.co.uk](http://www.yourschoollottery.co.uk)) for £1 a week and you could win a cash prize (specific to our school only, the more who play, the bigger the prize fund!) or a national prize. The national prize changes monthly - currently it's a year's supply of HelloFresh.**
  - **Use easyfundraising to generate cashback. You shop as normal (after finding the retailer and clicking through from easyfundraising) and the retailer give us a %. It really is straightforward to use and the small amounts of cash back add up quickly! [www.easyfundraising.co.uk](http://www.easyfundraising.co.uk)**
  - **Use Stikkins name labels - they stick in and stay in with no ironing or sewing required. They stick in clothes, on lunchboxes, drinks bottles, bags... no more rummaging in lost property!! FOSS receive a commission for every purchase, please use code 17729 when ordering. [www.stikkins.co.uk](http://www.stikkins.co.uk)**

*Thank you for your continued support!*

**Scouts**  
River Teign Sea Scouts



**Click Here**  
for further information

River Teign Sea Scouts (1st Shaldon), are looking for adult helpers who can commit to supporting Beaver, Cub and Scout groups on a weekly basis. Are you a carer, parent or grandparent who would be interested in helping out? We are heavily subscribed and are able to offer the children of any of our weekly helpers a place in one of our groups. Please contact us on the email address above if you would like any further information.

# DATES FOR YOUR DIARY

## **Friday 10th February**

FOSS Non-uniform Day  
(£1 suggested donation)

Open Classrooms from 2pm  
Last day of term

## **February Half Term**

## **Monday 20th February**

Return to school

## **Thursday 23rd & Friday 24th February**

FOSS sponsored Mini First-Aid Courses

## **Saturday 25th February**

Mrs Stewart, Mr Claridge & Mrs Betts  
joining Year 6 at Teignmouth Park  
Run to help fundraise towards Year 6  
Sailing Lessons

## **Friday 3rd March**

FOSS World Book Day

## **Friday 17th March**

FOSS Mother's & Other's Day Shop

## **w/c 20th March**

Parent/Teacher meetings  
in school hall

## **Friday 24th March**

FOSS Year 3 Cake Sale

## **Friday 31st March**

1.15-2pm KS1 Easter Concert  
2pm-3pm KS2 Easter Concert  
Last day of term

## **Easter Holidays**

## **Monday 17th April**

Return to school