



# October 2021

# NEWSLETTER



Dear Parents and Carers

I hope you enjoy reading our Autumn Term newsletter. It's been such a busy half term, and there are so many wonderful moments to share with you. I would also like to extend a very warm welcome to our new Reception Class parents, for whom this is their first school newsletter!

One of our highlights so far has been the Year 5 residential, although I'm delighted to say that all of our classes have enjoyed a wide range of exciting experiences. From Year 6's trip to the Royal Albert Museum to the Teddy Bear's Picnic in Reception class, I'm sure you'll agree that our children have all had a terrific start to the year.

We are delighted to be welcoming Jackie Staines as our new office administrator. Jackie brings with her a wealth of experience from working in further education, and so it is great to have her onboard!

We also welcome Jane Bruce, as our new Ethos and Distinctiveness governor. Recently moved to the area, Jane has an impressive background in education, and will be a huge asset to our team of governors.

Many thanks to FOSS, for their on-going support of the school. They have kindly funded the refurbishment of our library, which we hope to have finished shortly after half term. Bag2School has raised an impressive £90, and we have been really excited for the Spooky-Costume Dress-Up day on Friday 22nd!

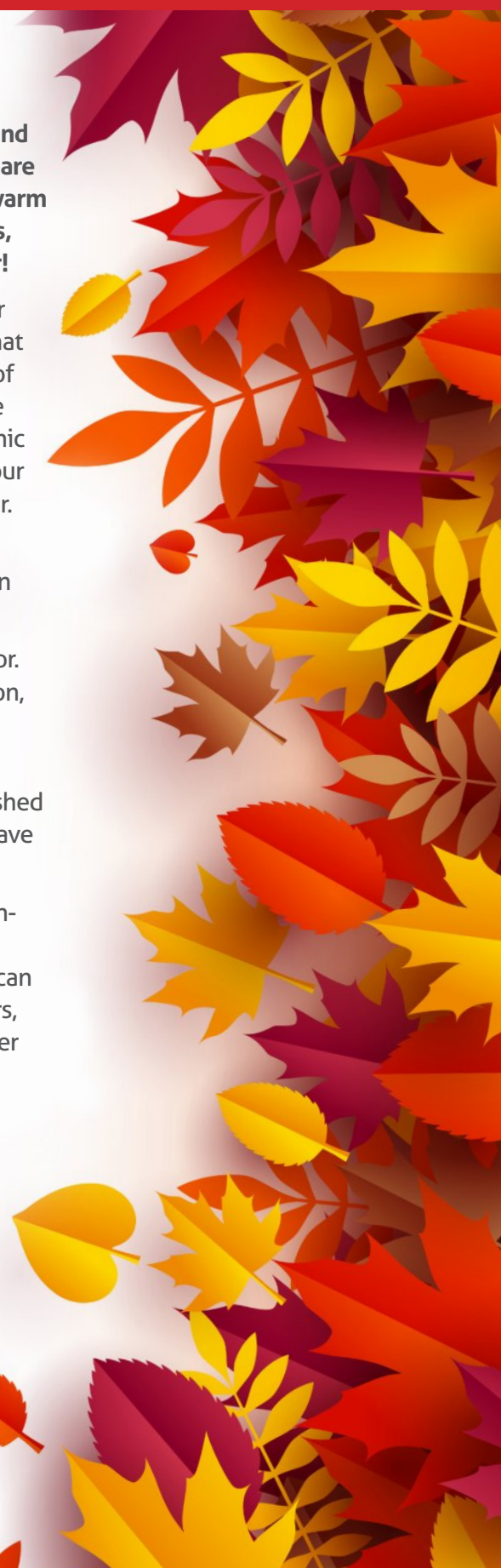
Finally, I am delighted to announce that we will be repeating our charity fun-run next half term. On 10th December, all of our children and staff will be completing the 'Rudolph Run' for Rowcroft, by seeing how many laps they can complete of our daily mile circuit. Rowcroft will be supplying us with antlers, but we would be delighted to see any children who would like to add further accessories to their reindeer-themed running outfit! Last year, we raised an impressive £5,000 for Great Ormond Street Children's Hospital, and so we would really love to be able to do similar for a local charity, that is so close to our hearts.

I hope you all have a brilliant half term holiday and thank you all so much for your support.

Best wishes,

*Jenny Stewart*

Headteacher





# Reception Class



## Teddy Bear's Picnic



Welcome to our wonderful new Reception class. What a journey they have been on over the past 6 weeks and how amazing they have been. They have settled in so well and are learning the rules and routines of their new school. They have spent time finding out about each other and it has been wonderful to see new friendships blossom. They are an absolute credit to our school and are already showing what fantastic learners they are going to be!

Well done to all the children in Reception.

As a treat for doing so well in their first weeks of school, Reception class were given a special treat for filling up their class marble jar. They chose to have a teddy bear's picnic

which was a huge success. Each child brought in a teddy of their choice and we were lucky enough to be blessed with glorious sunshine too. The children enjoyed introducing their teddies and had great fun playing with them at break times and lunch time. After reading the popular story, 'we're going on a bear hunt,' they were able to go on their very own. The children hunted around the school to see if they could find more bears to join us on this special day. We found another 40! We all sat in the sunshine eating our favourite snacks and singing our favourite songs and games.

Great fun was had by all...especially our special visitors, the teddies!





# Year 1

## Learning how to be the best learners

In Year 1 this half-term we have been thinking about what it means to be a great learner. We talked about what school means to us and why school is important. We set long-term goals and medium-term targets and agreed, collectively, that we wanted to be the very best we could be, in all that we do this year.

As part of this learning, we used our metacognitive (thinking) tool to create a Good / Bad Plan, listing all of the things a great learner would do, and over the course of the first few weeks we tried so hard to put that plan into practice.

We also looked at how we could make changes to our work to make it better and how we can use feedback from our friends to move our learning forward. Already we can see this quite sophisticated learning having an impact, and the progress is clear to see!

So, as we approached the latter part of the half-term,

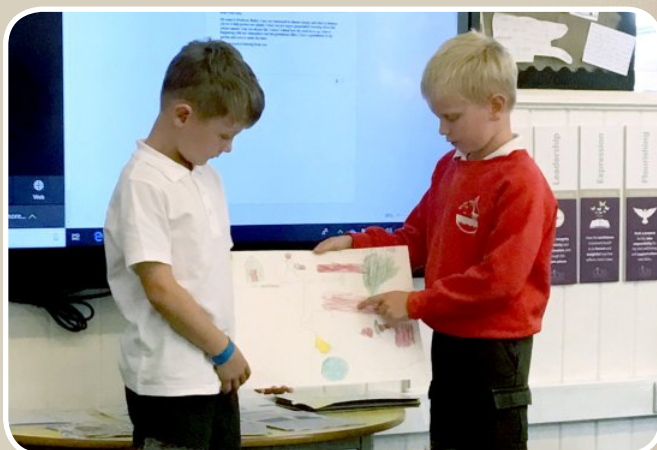
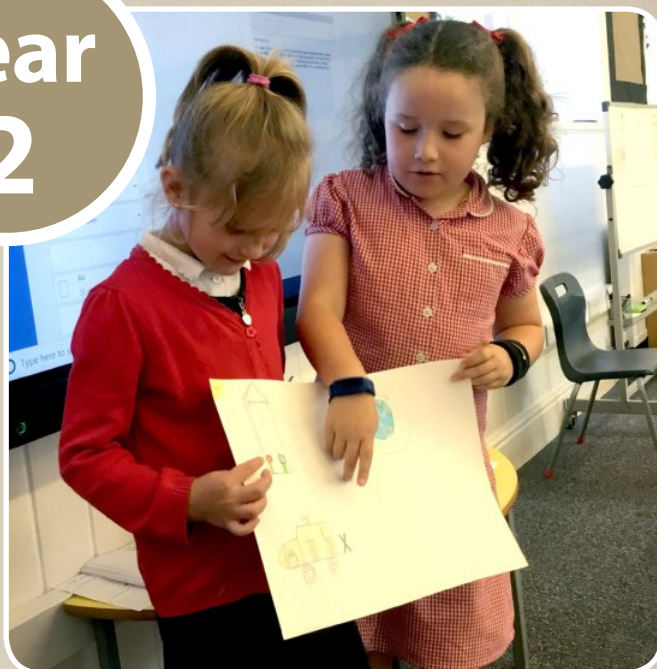
we applied this initial work to art and worked towards producing a printing masterpiece, inspired by Andy Warhol's 1964 hibiscus flower piece. We decided that colour played a big part in making Warhol's work special so we looked at how primary colours can be mixed together to create bright, bold secondary colours that reflect positive feelings. We then looked at how we can use the skill of printing to replicate the grass-like effect Warhol created in the background of his famous piece, along with four striking coloured flower prints.





Year 2 have been expert geographers exploring the enquiry question – has climate change got anything to do with me? In order to unpick this line of enquiry successfully, we needed to develop our geographical skills of asking and answering questions about our precious planet – and wowsers, did the children succeed! Year 2 have shown great knowledge and understanding of what climate change is and how we all play an important role in looking after our Earth. Once we became familiar with the 7 continents and 5 oceans, we headed to the Arctic and saw how the polar bears are losing their habitat due to the ice melting because of the Earth heating up. We explored the consequences of this, such as polar bears exploring nearby towns to search for food. We then needed to present our knowledge of Greenhouse gases to Professor Bailey, who was wondering how the Earth was heating up and what the description 'greenhouse' actually meant? The children discussed how "fossil fuels, fumes, pollution are getting trapped in the atmosphere – keeping the World hot". Greta Thunberg became a source of inspiration as we reflected on her thoughts and ideas of how to protect our Earth. We discovered so much! Inspired by this and her emotive speeches to world leaders, the team of Year 2 geographers then wrote, rehearsed and performed a podcast to share with families. They spoke with knowledge, understanding and passion. The feedback they received was absolutely incredible and demonstrated that their podcasts made an impact and helped to protect our precious planet. What an impressive team of expert geographers!

## Year 2





# Year 3

This half term, Year 3 have been working on a couple of different enquiry questions and have been discovering first-hand how different rocks can be classified as well as how they can use charcoal to capture a 3D image.

In our science, the children had to learn how to observe similarities, differences and

changes between different rocks in order to classify them by their properties. At the beginning of the enquiry, the children were sorting rocks by their shape, colour and even smell! However, by the end of our enquiry, children in Class 3 had learnt how to test the permeability and the durability of the rocks alongside being able to classify them based on their formation.

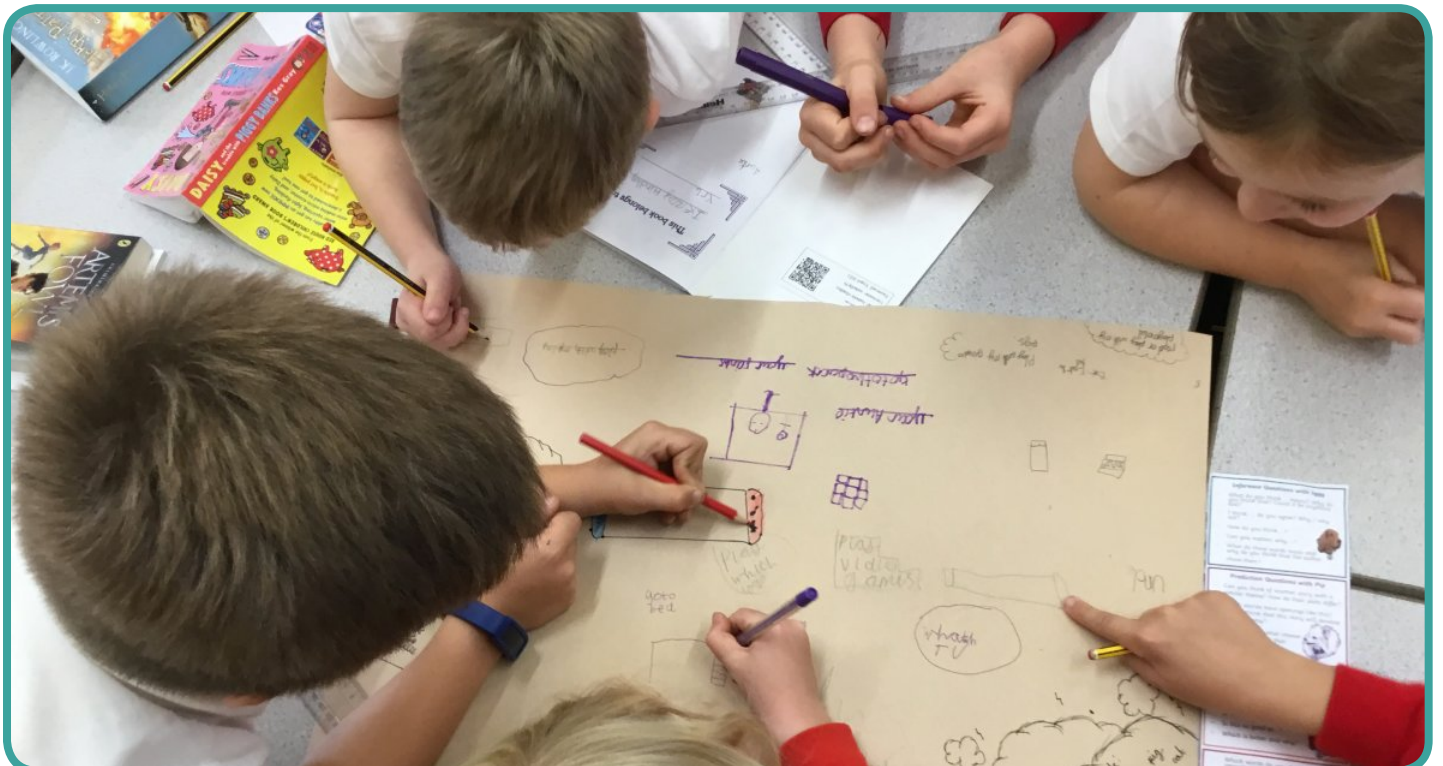
In art, we have been studying how to vary tone by using charcoal. The children have learnt to smudge, create shapes without outlines, show light and dark and use a rubber to create highlights. Half way through the enquiry, we were visited by Mrs Spires who spent an afternoon with us on the field teaching us how to make our own charcoal! It was a brilliant afternoon and it was fascinating to learn how the charcoal we were using in our art was made in the first place.





# Year 4

We have just completed our history enquiry 'Was Alfred the Great a Democratic Leader?'. The children have acquired so much knowledge through collaborating with their friends and independently researching. They have just created a non-chronological report on the Anglo Saxons, Alfred the Great's life, and their own opinions on the enquiry question. Mrs Geeves and Miss Stevens are so proud of everything they have achieved this half term, and the children are too!





# Year 5

The children in Year 5 have really enjoyed starting to learn how to play the pBone. It has been incredible to watch their skills developing and their excitement and engagement bloom each week! We are very much looking forward to the next lessons after half-term, and show-casing their learning in an informal performance at the end of the 10-week set of lessons.



Year 5 has had a fantastic residential trip to Pixies Holt! The children were brilliant, displaying our school values and becoming even closer friends to each other. They have learnt not only about the geography and history of Dartmoor, but also about themselves. It was impressive to see the children showing drive and determination to carry on and to their best during the team tasks, weaseling and climbing activities. They also had lots of fun and were able to enjoy a dip in the river!





# Year 6

## Royal Albert Memorial Trip

As part of our Year 6 enquiry about the Second World War, we travelled up to Exeter by train to visit the Royal Albert Memorial Museum. While there, we had the chance to dress up in authentic home front clothes and investigate artefacts from the time - gas masks, ration books, bomb casings. We then learnt about living through the Blitz and experienced what it was like to squeeze into an Anderson bomb shelter. What an amazing day!



## Year 6 Sports Crew

One of the responsibilities that children take on as they move into Year 6 is to become members of the Sports Crew. They help set up games for younger year groups to take part in, demonstrate excellent behaviour and hopefully

become role models for these children. Children are also in charge of keeping the PE shed tidy - a particularly daunting task! They have done brilliantly so far and have shown the drive to give something back to the school community.





## BeeNetball

The BeeNetball Festival run by Dartmoor School Sport Partnership took place at TCS with a rotation of activities where the children developed new skills and played non-competitive games.



## Forest School

Forest school started up again this week and children have enjoyed going up to the Ness woodland and being part of nature. We played some games, explored the woodland and learnt how to build shelters. As we continue learning about survival skills, we will look at fire-lighting, water purification and basic camp cooking.



## The Helen Foundation

Our Year 2 children were lucky to work with MED Theatre developing their skills in drama and performance. The workshop was supported by The Helen Foundation.

The drama workshop focused on a story relevant to the local area of Shaldon based on the The Earl of Totnes. A story that involves a race on horses, a crashing sea, a feast, a devil and people being turned to stone, and includes locations very close to Shaldon such as Haccombe. Using this local story as inspiration, MED Theatre took the children on a journey of exploring the different elements within the story, and how to turn these into performance - the different characters, the plot and how to create a sense of the space were explored.

The children had a fantastic day and thoroughly enjoyed working with MED Theatre developing their performance skills. It was wonderful to welcome theatre practitioners into school and to see the children working collaboratively.







# FOSS Update

The first half of the Autumn term has been busy for FOSS. We've had a Sponsored Read going on, and we'll be eating Krispy Kreme doughnuts in fancy dress on the last day of term! We had a really successful Bag2School collection too. We are on course for this first half term of the school year raising approximately £350 for FOSS, thank you for your support!

We have been planning for the next half term too:

- The Christmas Cards which the children have been designing at school need to be ordered online and returned to the office by 2nd November.
- Join us for the FOSS AGM on November 3rd at 8pm via zoom; hear about what we've done, what we plan to do next and how you can get involved!
- We'll be running our hugely popular Christmas present shop during December, dates tbc, so the children can shop independently.
- Christmas Party day on the 15th December
- Discount panto tickets for Cinderella at the Princess Theatre in Torquay.
- For details for all of our events and for reminders, you can find us on Facebook!

## School Council

This term "The School Council" have been meeting and discussing how they can promote E-Safety within school. They have decided to put together a leaflet which will be accessible to all year groups. For the last few weeks they've been researching and starting to design their own leaflet. I for one can't wait to see the final outcome.

*Lisa Betts*

## Well – Being

This term we've been concentrating on relaxation. Relaxation in any form helps us regulate and focus on our own Well –Being. We've shared some beautiful stories and shared some lovely ideas on how we can relax and look after ourselves.

## World Mental Health Day

Can I start by saying a HUGE thank you to our amazing children and families for supporting our Mental Health Day, they all looked absolutely awesome wearing their green accessories.

We raised a staggering amount of £65.00 for our chosen charity "Mind"

*Lisa Betts*





# DATES FOR YOUR DIARY

## **Tuesday 2 November**

Deadline for FOSS Christmas card orders.  
Please order online and bring named artwork to the school office.

## **Tuesday 2 November**

Parent Consultations 3.30 – 6pm  
Teachers will send out calendar invites

## **Wednesday 3 November**

Parent Consultations 3.30 – 6pm  
Teachers will send out calendar invites

## **Wednesday 24th November**

Dartmoor School Sport Partnership whole school Impact Day

## **Thursday 25 November**

### **Flu vaccinations**

Forms will be emailed from school after half term  
when received from the Virgin Healthcare Team

## **Friday 10 December**

Rudolph Run for Rowcroft  
Please see letter dated 20 October

## **Wednesday 15 December**

Christmas Lunch and FOSS Christmas Party Day