



Dear Parents,

The children all looked super smart for their individual photographs last week, thank you. We have had a busy first two weeks of the term and the children have settled really well into their new classes.

"I cannot live without books."

"I have always been a reader; I have read at every stage of my life, and there has never been a time when reading was not my greatest joy. I still believe in stories. I still forget myself when I am in the middle of a good book. Books are for me, it must be said, the most important thing."
The Thirteenth Tale, Diane Setterfield

"The books transported her into new worlds and introduced her to amazing people who lived exciting lives."

"Books are the quietest and most constant of friends; they are the most accessible and wisest of counsellors, and the most patient of teachers."

"I would be most content if my children grew up to be the kind of people who think decorating consists mostly of building enough bookshelves."

"Fill your house with stacks of books, in all the crannies and all the nooks."

"Some books are to be tasted, others to be swallowed, and some few are to be chewed and digested."

"I have always imagined that paradise will be a kind of library."

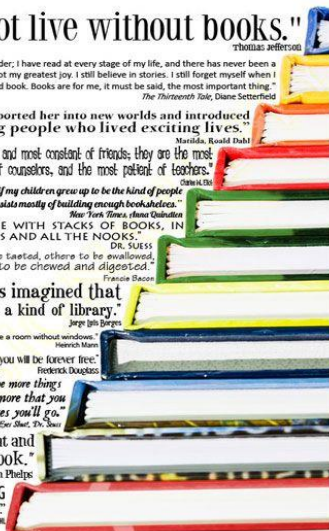
"A house without books is like a room without windows."

"Once you learn to read, you will be forever free."

"The more you read, the more things you will know. The more that you learn, the more places you'll go."

"Wear the old coat and buy the new book."

"I'M WONDERING WHAT TO READ NEXT!"



At the start of every term it is essential to highlight the importance of daily home learning, especially reading. Supporting your child to read by listening to them read everyday has such an amazingly positive impact on not only their academic progress across every subject, but their understanding and love of language.

Reading opens the door to a world of possibilities because -

1. Reading significantly improves children's vocabulary and helps develop communication skills.
2. Reading stimulates your child's imagination and imagination creates wonder in so many different areas. From art to science, no subject is left without some touch of creativity.
3. Reading improves concentration and discipline.

Reading everyday builds your child's ability to concentrate for longer, little by little, this will build and you'll be able to recognise the

difference in your child's attitude and concentration. Along with concentration, comes self-discipline through deliberative practice. A child who gets used to reading, comprehends more and more, listens longer, and builds self-discipline through the daily reading habit.

Along with daily home reading, it is also important to practice maths skills on a daily basis. Practising these mental maths skills is essential because it lays the foundation for more complex maths. Mental maths takes a lot of practise, and the more you can do with your child at home, the better you will prepare them for the maths they will encounter in everyday life. We teach our maths through our topic contexts to ensure we are making children's learning relevant and to support their



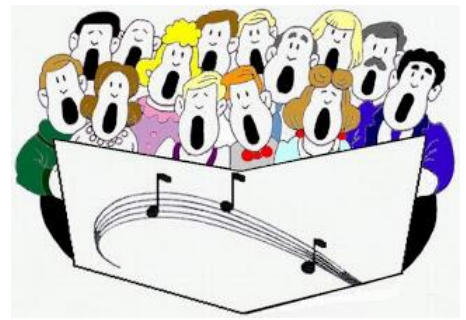
understanding on how they can apply their Mathematic skills through all areas of their learning. Please use the 'Off by Heart' maths booklets for ideas to support with daily maths. It does not need to take a long time – it only takes 5 minutes to play a number bond game or times tables' game. Please record any daily home learning, reading or maths in your child's contact diary. Regularly supporting your child at home makes such an incredible difference to their progress and development. By working together, we can ensure the best possible outcomes for our children.

Curriculum and Topic



HISTORY - In our 'Harmony and Conflict' topic this term, we are looking at what life would have been like for children living here during the Second World War. The children in Year 2 will be taking part in a dramatic re-creation of a World War 2 Evacuation and will be experiencing traveling on the Woody Bay steam train! They will return to Morteheo Village Hall, which will be set up as a 'Billeting Hall' to receive our evacuees!

MUSIC - We have a wonderful opportunity for our Year 5 children to take part in the Chorister Outreach Programme. The programme aims to instill and develop the joy of singing among children, by offering specialist teaching input, continuing support and high-quality performance opportunities. It also aims to raise levels of access, achievement and aspiration, and to encourage and develop collaborative projects for singing for both pupils and staff. Over the 1st half of the Autumn Term the children will receive three outreach workshops delivered by Chorister Outreach practitioner, Andrew Downton. Each outreach vocal workshop will usually last for approx. one hour starting next week. The programme will culminate in a large scale, transformational performance at **Exeter Cathedral on Saturday 14th October, 2017.**



SCIENCE – On Friday 22nd September our Year 3 children have the fantastic opportunity to participate in the Bioblitz based at Lee Bay. The Bioblitz is run in partnership with the Marine Biological Association and Coastwise North Devon. The children will participate in a bug hunt around the village hall, woodlands and stream, a rocky shore ramble and additional activities including scientific drawing and learning how to use large microscopes.

European Languages Day – Tuesday 26th September



As a whole school we will be celebrating European Languages day. The European Day of Languages is a time to celebrate the 6,000+ languages spoken around the world, promote language learning and have some multilingual fun! Children will be working across the school learning about the geography and culture plus experiencing the food, dance, music and languages from a range of different European countries.

National Poetry Day – Thursday 28th September

National Poetry Day will take place on Thursday 28 September 2017 and this year's theme is "Freedom", which links in very nicely with our topic 'Harmony and Conflict'.

It also allows children to listen to, enjoy, discuss, respond, read, write and perform a range of poetry in many different forms.



Woolacombe School Values - BELIEVE, BELONG, BECOME

During the first half of the Autumn term our focus through our whole school SMSC – Spiritual, Moral, Social and Cultural education, will be - To ensure all children have an understanding of what it means to **believe** and the ability to build positive relationships through **Compassion** and **Tolerance**.

This term we are focusing on '**Believing**' from our school values and linking this with the British Value - **Tolerance** and a core value of **Compassion**. This will be delivered through whole school assemblies, daily class collective worship and PSHE/SMSC lessons.



To develop the children's understanding of compassion we are supporting the local food bank for this year's Harvest festival charity. Our school councilors from Year 4, 5 and 6 will visit the Ilfracombe Food Bank to understand the work the charity does to support families in our local community. The children will bring back the information to their classes and each class will receive a letter with further information about how we will be supporting this charity as a whole school for harvest.

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Class News



Reception – the children have settled into school really well. They have been working on their fine and gross motor skills and exploring their classroom environment. To start the term off they have been exploring 'Super Heroes', linking this to understanding 'Super Learner' behaviours and thinking about people who help them. Reception have a 'Super Hero' dressing up day on **Thursday 21st Sept.**



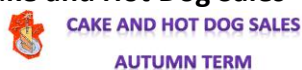
Year 3 – Year 3 learnt about 'democracy' and showing 'respect' to select their new class school councillors.

Year 6 – On Friday Year 6 focused on collaboration to help solve their weekly Maths quiz. 'Together, they are more than the sum of their parts.' They weren't given any answers - did they manage to solve every question between them?



Parents – PTFA and Parent Workshops

Cake and Hot Dog Sales



Class	Date	Cake/Hot Dogs
Class 6	Friday 15 th September 2017	Cake Sale
Class 5	Friday 22 nd September 2017	Hot Dogs
Class 4	Friday 29 th September 2017	Cake Sale
Class 3	Friday 6 th October 2017	Hot Dogs
Class 2	Friday 13 th October 2017	Cake Sale
Class 1	Friday 3 rd November 2017	Hot Dogs

Year 5 and 6 will be starting us off this week with a cake and hot dog sale on **Friday 22nd Sept.** More information will be sent out this week with the class rota for each Friday.

PTFA Meeting

We had a very successful PTFA meeting last week. We discussed what we would be spending our fundraising on – new playground equipment for the adventure trail and Woolacombe

Nursery's outside area. Parents looked at the equipment we are hoping to purchase to improve and enhance the adventure trail and the Nursery plans for their outside area.



We also discussed the upcoming fundraising events for this term, please see below.

- **4th October – TBC** – a Christmas craft workshop for parents
- **13th October** - At Sea - the Beaford Arts performance in the Village Hall –7pm
- **4th/5th November (TBC)** - Fireworks evening on the Meadow
- **16th November PTFA Christmas Gift Evening** - Twitchen. Helen Gray is organising the Gift Evening this year. If you are able to help in anyway please email Helen directly on the email below.
Helen Gray - helen@woolacombeatchristmas.co.uk.

Parent Workshops

We have some Literacy based parent workshops and open mornings coming up. The workshops enable us to share how we teach reading, phonics and spellings so you are able to support your child at home better. This is then followed up by observing the teachers teach these sessions so you can see the theory put into practice. The workshop and open morning will help you understand more about how your child learns, which will enable you to support them better at home. Please see the workshop dates below –

Wednesday 27th Sept – KS2 Parent Reading, Spelling & Grammar Workshop and open morning –9-10.30am

Tuesday 3rd October - KS1 Parent Phonics, spelling & reading workshop and open morning – 9-10.30

- Reception Class Parents – Phonics and Reading Meeting – 6pm

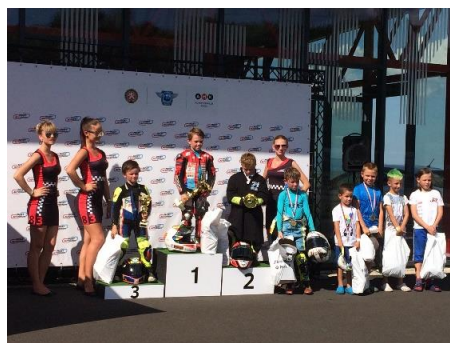
Wednesday 4th October – Reception Class Parents Open morning – 9 am

Congratulations

Johnny Garness – Congratulations to Johnny Garness - He has had



an amazing summer taking part in the European, Czech and British Championship. He has done really well, winning both races in the Czech Republic and he came 2nd overall in the European Championship which took place in the Czech Republic and Italy. Johnny also came 1st overall in the last round of the British Championships. He has now been



invited to race for one of the Italian teams at the end of this month which is a great opportunity. Well done Johnny, we are incredibly proud of you!

Congratulations to our Sports Personalities of the Month



James

James has had a fantastic start to the year. James constantly helps around school tidying up resources and looking after school equipment. He always tries his best at all sports and collaborates fantastically with all his peers. Amazing effort James!

Kara

Kara always has her PE Kit in school. She always listens to the teachers and puts into practise what she has been taught. You get the award Kara for great listening and exceptional behaviour every lesson.

Randall

Randall has had a brilliant start to the term. He joined in all the activities and tried his hardest. He also helped another teacher to pump up new balls and keep our PE Shed tidy. Great effort Randall

Daisy

Daisy had an impressive start to year 5. Daisy decided that she hadn't tried her best in one of her PE Lessons. She decided to try the activity again and scored even higher than before. Great resilience and determination Daisy; a wonderful start to the year.

A few Reminders

After School Clubs Deadline – Monday, 18th September

Further to our recent email regarding the After Schools Club booklet, please remember to sign up over this weekend as the deadline is the morning of this Monday, 18th September.

Attendance Letters

Attendance letters are sent monthly to parents if a child's attendance is below 95%. One day absent from school due to illness in the first few weeks may cause a child's attendance to fall below 95%, so please do not be alarmed if you receive a letter. It is important we make you aware of your child's attendance, whatever the reason for the absence, especially if it falls below 95%.



On line Ordering

We will be moving to online ordering for school dinners and morning and after school club provision but we are not quite ready to roll this out yet. We will inform you when we move across to this sometime over this half of term.

Lunchboxes



Please make sure children collect their lunchboxes every day after school and especially on a Friday so lunchboxes are not left out over night or across the weekend.

Mornings

All teachers are involved in briefing meetings each morning in the staff room until 8.40am. Children can come into classes before this time but as the classroom will be unsupervised can we please ask that you stay with your child until the teacher arrives from the staff meeting. You are welcome to bring your child into the classroom at the beginning of the day as it is an important part of transition.

Harvest Festival

Please note change of date for our Harvest Festival – it will be **Tuesday 17th October at 1.30pm** – not 28th September.

Finally – if you do have any problems or you wish to ask a question, please do not hesitate to speak to us. We are here to help you and your family and by working together we can ensure the very best for your child.

I am looking forward to another great year ahead. Please look at the diary dates below to keep up to date with events over the year. The online website calendar will be updated regularly.

Gail Holmes

Gail Holmes

Headteacher – Woolacombe School and Teaching School

Dates for your Diary

SEPTEMBER

Monday 4th Sept

– Term Starts

- Meet the teacher meetings all week

11th - Individual and Class Photographs

15th - PTFA meeting – Teaching School Room – 9.15 am

21st - Cornwall Trip Parents Meeting – 3.20pm

22nd - Year 3 – Bioblitz – Lee Bay

26th - European Languages Day

27th - KS2 Parent Reading, Spelling & Grammar Workshop and open morning –9-10.30am

- Year 2 trip to Woody Bay

28th - National Poetry Day

OCTOBER

Oct 3 – Oct 6

- Yr 3 – Residential Trip to Cornwall

3rd - KS1 Parent Phonics, spelling & reading workshop and open morning – 9-10.30

- Reception Class Parents – Phonics and Reading Meeting – 6pm

4th - Reception Class Parents Open morning – 9am

6th - Year 6 ‘Big Bang’ at Great Torrington School @ 8:45 am – 3:00 pm

12th - Heart Start Training- Village Hall – TBC

13th - Parent Voice – 9.15am – Teaching School Room

- PTFA - At Sea – Beaford Arts and Choir performance – 6.30 for 7pm start

16th – 20th - Parent Consultation Week

17th - Harvest Festival – 1.30pm St Sabinus Church

18th - KS2 Stephen Shield Cross Country

- Year 3&4 Mini Red Tennis – Tarka Tennis

20th - **Break up for Half Term**

Oct 23 – Oct 27 - **Half Term Week**

Monday 30th Oct - **Professional Day**