



‘Nurturing brilliance to catch our dream.’



02/02/2024

Dear Parents,

We are incredibly excited to share the huge contributions the PTFA is making to the Academy. In a small school, there are things that we simply could not do without the support of this committed group of people. I kindly request that if you are able to support them and us in any capacity, even in the smallest way, you please do so. They are the driving force behind numerous experiences, and we are extremely fortunate and grateful for all their contributions.

I would like to share with you the impact their efforts bring to the Academy, making a difference in the lives of your children.

- **Buddy Bench** – The school council was desperate to purchase a buddy bench to provide support for anyone struggling with friendship. Thanks to the PTFA, they will have a bespoke one made.
- **16 Glockenspiels** — Our music budget is small, but our music offer is huge and growing. We want all pupils to have the chance to play instruments. Thanks to the PTFA, we will be purchasing new Glockenspiels to support Cedar class in playing an instrument.
- **Maypole** — Small village schools are renowned for their country cuteness, and thanks to the PTFA, we will be bringing back a maypole! We are excited for dancing displays at the Dunsford show.
- **KS1 Choir** — A choir will be put on for our younger pupils, to match our older pupils' choir. We all recognise the incredible impact singing can have. Thanks to the PTFA's funding, we can continue to ensure our commitment to offer experiences to support learning.
- **School/Class Trips**—As you can imagine, coach prices can be a significant barrier to offering school trips and visits. However, thanks to the breathtaking funding and hard work of the PTFA, we can offer more trips and experiences than ever before. These include beach trip, Otter Sanctuary trip, Barn Owl experience, Teignheritage trip, Exeter RE trip, Sciencedipity visit. Thanks to the Trust we have also gained funding to take pupils to the Bristol Science Museum, alongside our Hub buddies in Dartington and St Michaels!

In short, please do anything you can to support the incredible people behind and alongside our PTFA. They are truly remarkable and are an invaluable asset in enticing pupils to our fabulous Academy.

Read Write Inc.

Pupils are making fantastic progress in this, and it's amazing to see how quickly they are learning. Next week, we will be doing our half termly sound checker to support groups and assess the progress pupils have made. If you do get books or speed sounds to learn (including some on Seesaw), please invest your time in helping your child. Reading with automaticity helps pupils read, allows them to access more reading material, and develops their love of reading. The programme is designed with the science of reading in mind and is specific in its progression for understanding and wiring the brain for reading. The more fluent the children are, the better they comprehend and can engage with the text. We will be purchasing a wide range of new books very soon. Don't forget - books come back every day!



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Attendance
94.6%

Attendance

You may have noticed, our attendance has been quite low in recent weeks due to a high number of children being unwell. By taking all the necessary precautions, such as implementing increased cleaning measures throughout the school, reinforcing good hygiene practices such as hand washing and the use of hand gels, and ensuring proper ventilation at all times, we are ensuring the school's safety and well-being. We would like to express our gratitude for your trust in us and for sending your children to school, even when they are not feeling their best. Rest assured, we will always reach out to you if necessary.

Event	Class/Year	Date	Contact
PTFA Big Brunch	All	Saturday 3rd February	PTFA
Oak Class Bake Sale	Oak Class	Friday 9th February	Office/Mrs Wood
Half Term Break	All	Friday 9th February	Office
First Day Back	All	Tuesday 20th February	Office
Oak Class Ukulele Band Performance at the Torbay Festival	Oak Class	Friday 1st March	Mrs Wood
KS2 choir performing at the Torbay Music Festival	Choir	Friday 1st March	Mrs Wood
World Book Day	All	Thursday 7th March	MRs Wood



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MAPLES

This week in our Communication and Literacy class, children in Maple class have been creating a forest-themed small world using natural materials such as logs, plants, and pieces of bark. We added three baby owls from our Owl Babies story: Percy, Bill, and Sarah. Together, the children retold the events and key phrases from the story as they played.

In our PSHE, we have been discussing how to ensure our own safety and how to communicate with trusted adults. The children have been reflecting on the emotions felt by the young owls in the story Owl Babies - fear and worry - and how they provided comfort to one another. Additionally, we explored their excitement upon their mother's return.

Additionally, we discussed the fact that bay owls are nocturnal and have a sleep routine opposite to ours. We also talked about the importance of a good night's sleep and the children shared their strategies for getting a restful sleep.

In Mathematics, we have been studying colors and shapes. The children in the Maple group have been identifying, naming, and sorting shapes, as well as playing board games to help them with color identification and matching. We hope that all of you have a lovely weekend, and perhaps you will even have the chance to hear some owls outdoors!





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WILLOWS

Attendance

93%



Rowan



STAR of the WEEK



SPORTS STAR:

Lex

It might seem early, but we are starting to look for signs of Spring. Have you spotted any snowdrops or daffodils? Are the birds thinking about nesting? If you see any signs of Spring - please take a photo and post it on Seesaw: Signs of Spring.

It's been hard to choose a 'Reading Star' this week as the children are impressing us with their hard work at school and their reading at home. It makes everything work so smoothly when bookbags come in everyday - new books will go home on different days for different groups.

We've been reading Mog the Forgetful Cat by Judith Kerr- Mog forgets lots of things including how to use the cat flap! But a big MEOW saves the day - can you guess how?

We're nearly half way through the year and as the children grow in confidence we'd like to prepare the Year 1s for Year 2 - in the lead up to Half Term please say your 'goodbyes' to Year 1 children at the gate near Mr Grimley's Office, then they can bring their belongings in independently. We hope you will support us in this small step.

REQUEST FOR VOLUNTEERS: We are planning a trip to the Butterfly Farm and Otter Sanctuary on Thu 18th April. If you are able to come along as an adult helper, please let Mrs Clayburn know. Thank you!

Wednesday: PE - please come in PE kit for the day

Thursday: Forest School - please bring the following to change in to: wellies, waterproof coat & trousers, hat & gloves

Friday: PE - please come in PE kit for the day



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Jacob

CEDARS



STAR of the WEEK

Attendnace

93%



SPORTS STAR:

Harper & Florence N

The NSPCC Number Day was absolutely fantastic! Pictures will be up on social media and the website very soon! The children loved all the maths challenges and the TTRS competition. The winner will be announced next week for the in-class competition!

This week, the children have been finishing off the interior of their houses in Design and Technology. Next week, we will be evaluating their designs.

In Maths, the Year 2 students have been learning about position and direction. To further their learning, it would be wonderful to talk about anticlockwise and clockwise, and for them to learn their left and right.

In Year 3, they have been learning how to measure the perimeter. We have been using the example of fencing a field to bring their learning to a real-life problem.

Our final week of this half term has arrived and it feels as though time has flown by! We will be concluding our History lessons by studying Malala Yousafzai and her campaign for girls' education. Additionally, in Maths, we will be progressing onto fractions, specifically exploring fractions in relation to shapes, amounts, and numbers.

In our Writing lessons, the children will have the opportunity to create a persuasive advert for a product of their own design. Once they have completed and edited their pieces of writing, they will be shared on Seesaw.

Please note, after the half term break, Cedars will resume Forest School on Thursday afternoons. To participate, your child must have waterproof overtrousers, a waterproof coat, gloves or a hat for colder weather, warm socks, and wellies or walking boots. It is essential that all of these items are clearly named! As we will be spending the entire afternoon outdoors, please ensure that your child is equipped with sufficient clothing suitable for the weather conditions.

PE kits should be in school during the week for the children to change into when we have PE as a class (Wednesdays & Fridays).



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Arlow

OAKS

Year 6

STAR of the WEEK

Attendance

98%



SPORTS STAR:

Henry G

It has been a lovely week in Oak class with lots of learning across the curriculum. The children have been working hard in all their lessons as they come to the end of their current units of learning. In Maths, the year 4 children moved away from their learning on fractions and have begun a new unit on money. The children have begun this unit by converting between pence and pounds and were able to compare and order money. The year 5s and 6s have continued their work on fractions with learning how to multiply fractions and mixed numbers by a whole number.

This half term, the children's DT and Computing lessons have been combined into a unit where they will plan and design an item to be printed in a 3D printer. The children really enjoyed beginning this project with Mr Grimley this week.

The children also enjoyed dressing up for number day and helped raise much needed money for the NSPCC.

At the beginning of the year, the PTFA generously donated money to each class to support developing the classroom environments. After discussions with the class (and some very persuasive letters!) I have decided to use the money to buy a class pet. After much careful research, and speaking to experts, I have decided to purchase a bearded dragon for the class. The children found out this week and are incredibly excited. We will be carrying out some fundraising to help purchase the correct set-up for the bearded dragon beginning with a bake sale on the last Friday of this half term.

Please ensure that children have appropriate clothing in school for Forest School on a Thursday. It will be their last session of Forest School until after Easter.

PE kits should be in school during the week for the children to change into when we have PE as a class.

Please support our fundraising by donating cakes and biscuits for the children to sell on Friday 9th February. All money raised will go towards purchasing everything needed for the bearded dragon.

