



‘Nurturing brilliance to catch our dream.’



01.03.24



Attendance

94%

Dear Parents,

What a tricky time with illness! I realise that many of you are having to make challenging decisions regarding whether your children are well enough to attend school and dealing with pressure from us about attendance. To give colour to the issues, we have attendance targets to meet, but our focus will always be wanting the best for the children. We know that being in school can have a positive impact on children, but we also aim to balance their physical health with their mental health, social well-being, and academic success.

Managing weaker attendance puts a strain on school systems due to our policies, forms, catch-up meetings, re-cording missed work, and government expectations. That is why I continue to focus on improving attendance. From personal experience, I recognise the tough choices being made at home. Currently, our attendance rates are below the Devon and National averages. I am aware that our data has been affected by some severe viruses and term-time holidays.

To clarify my message regarding unauthorized medical appointments (thanks for feedback from a parent) - I do recognise that doctor and hospital appointments are sometimes necessary to schedule at any time. However, if possible, please try to schedule dental, opticians, and non-urgent medical appointments in the afternoon, early evening, or during school holidays to minimize disruptions for pupils. Pupils will not be able to catch up on missed work. The curriculum moves on. However, the missed work will be visible in their books and we will try to fill in any gaps if it impacts their sense of safety in learning. Thank you for your understanding.

We continue to use cleaning, hand washing, and alcohol gel regularly to ensure the safety of everyone.

Stronger Together

Once again, we have been supported by the Trust in our day to day running of the Academy . We have had visits from the maths lead at Dartington to ensure the quality control of our maths provision. Additionally, we have received support from Sendco's in Dartington and Warberry to support me in my new role. We are collaborating with Dartington once again, with one of their champion teachers supporting us in implementing our optimal learning approach. This brings all the best research and practice into one place and it will form the foundation of how we ensure that your children receive the best education.



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Removing Barriers

We have listened to feedback from some parents regarding children feeling emotional or sad when coming to school, which may be due to solving problems with peers. We have addressed this in assemblies and by using our Zones of Regulation to map how pupils are feeling. The Nursery class has dedicated a week to teaching about emotions and how to recognize them in others. We will be working on how to solve our own problems with support to empower children to solve problems safely and kindly. We hope you will talk about this to your children too.

Sense Of Belonging

I am sure you have noticed the increase in Seesaw posts with students showcasing their work. There are numerous posts in Willows and Maples. We have also supported pupils who are focussing on sound gaps with some Read Write Inc videos. if you have not yet signed up, please let us know so you can celebrate at home like we do in school. There has been incredible progress and some very proud pupils as I walked around the Academy this week.

Event	Class/Year	Date	Contact
World Book Day	All	Thursday 7th March	Mrs Wood
Barn Owl Trust Workshop	All	Friday 8th March	Office/ Mrs Balfour
Red Nose Day	All	Friday 15th March	PTFA/Office
SCARF Workshops	YR—Y6	Friday 15th March	Office
Cedars Class Performance	Cedars	Wednesday 27th March	Mrs Baker
An Afternoon of Music at Dunsford	All	Thursday 28th March	Mrs Wood
Last Day of the Term	All	Thursday 28th March	Office



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MAPLES

This week in Maples, our learning focus has been on understanding how others and ourselves might be feeling and how we all experience many different emotions throughout the day. We have been listening to *The Colour Monster* by Anna Llenas, the story of a colour monster who is feeling mixed up. This book explores colours and feelings in a fun and gentle way using colours to express different emotions. The children have been learning that however we feel is OK, and there are many different things we can do to help when we or others are experiencing uncomfortable emotions and what we might do to help.

- Can we think of a time when we have been kind to somebody?
- How can we show kindness to others?
- How can we show kindness to each other at school/nursery?

Through characters in other different books, we have used the stories to explore their different emotions and how they are feeling too.

We hope you have a lovely weekend.





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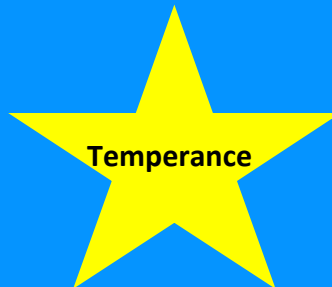
WILLOWS

Attendance

88%



Clara



STAR of the WEEK



SPORTS STAR:

Flora M.

This week we have started learning about the Great Fire of London – we know the fire started in a bakery and that in those days there was no fire brigade. We’ve also learnt that a lot of houses were made of wood and were very close together so the fire could easily spread. Wilbur reminded us of the song ‘London’s Burning’ and at Forest School we burnt our own ‘houses’ and learnt how to put-out a fire.

In Maths, Year 1s have been using numbers up to 50 and have found it easier to count a large number when items are in groups of tens and ones (do practise counting in 10s at home!). Reception have been looking at partitioning 5 and seeing which numbers go together to make 5.

We are having a strong focus on handwriting at the moment (starting our letters in the right place to help with joined up writing later on) so don’t be surprised to see that we are practising most mornings, after we have washed our hands.

Seesaw is where we post photos of your children’s learning and ‘phonics’ videos which will support reading and writing development. You can post comments and photos of any home-learning – we love to see photos of Willows children reading, exploring, and being busy, so do post an update. We even received an post from our friend in New Zealand this week! If you don’t have a login please contact Mrs Clayburn.

World Book Day takes place on Thursday (7th March), children are invited to dress up as a character to a book they would recommend. Don’t forget, we have our book character parade at 3:15pm that you are all invited to.

Parent’s Evenings will take place on Monday 11th and Wednesday 13th March – we look forward to seeing you then.

Have a lovely weekend from Mrs Clayburn, Mrs Wilson and Mrs Tong (Fridays).

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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Olive

CEDARS



STAR of the WEEK

Attendance

97%



SPORTS STAR:

Angus

This week in Cedars, we've been busy tracking rainfall and temperature to learn more about our weather. We've also been exploring different climate zones around the world and understanding how invisible lines around our globe help us identify these zones.

In writing, we're diving into our next unit of learning, "The Colour Collector" where we're crafting a poem together as a class. We're learning about rhyming patterns and making sure each line flows smoothly into the next.

In math, it's all about fractions! It's been awesome to see so many kids using fractions to solve real-life problems. The children have been getting plenty of exercise in our science lessons this week. We have been learning about our pulse and learning how to take it either on their wrist or neck. They found out that doing lots of exercise raises their beats per minute!

And don't forget our class performance! We're practicing every day for our Bee Musical. It'd be great if the children could practice their lines at home too. If they've got a script, they've got a few lines to nail down. We're super excited for the show!

World book day – Thursday 7th March!

Children are encouraged to dress up as their favourite book character, and it would be fantastic if they could also bring in the book their character is from. This way, we can share their favourite stories with their peers. **Don't forget, we have our book character parade at 3:15pm that you are all invited to.**



Concentrating on counting each beat!



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Elva

OAKS

Jake

STAR of the WEEK

Attendance

96%



SPORTS STAR:

Eva

Another busy week here in Oak class with the children working incredibly hard in all their lessons.

In whole class reading, they have begun reading a new book, ‘Fankenstiltskin’ by Joseph Coelho. The children began to explore this book by studying the cover, the dedications and the chapter contents to see if they could predict what the story was about and how it linked to the fairy tale Rumpelstiltskin.

In writing, the children have begun their new unit of writing to entertain. They are using the story ‘Varmints’ as their inspiration and have created some very atmospheric sentences this week.

In maths, the children have continued working with decimal numbers, making links to their understanding of fractions. The year 5/6 children have also been looking at making links between decimals, fractions and percentages.

In the wider curriculum the children have been studying trade, life cycles (huge thanks to Jessie and family for donating some frog spawn to support this learning) and the work of the artist Frida Kahlo. We will continue looking at these topics throughout the rest of half term.

A massive congratulations to the children who participated in the Torbay Music Festival on Friday afternoon. The children have worked so hard to prepare for this performance and were truly amazing. They received the ‘Sainsbury Shield’ for the second year running! Congratulations! A massive thank you to parents, the children would not have been able to take part in this event without your incredible support.

World Book Day takes place on Thursday (7th March), children are invited to dress up as a character to a book they would recommend. Don’t forget, we have our book character parade at 3:15pm that you are all invited to.

Life cycle of a frog in action!

