

Notes from the Vale

Friday 13th May 2022

Volume 20, Issue 15

Welcome from Mr Lewis-Cole

This term is whizzing by! I can't believe that we are over half way through it already. Needless to say that we have been incredibly busy in school with some great learning going on. You will see from this NFTV that pupils are engaging in a broad curriculum and the focus of topics is definitely inspiring them to learn more. It is always really pleasing to see examples of learning in a wide range of subjects and this week you get to see examples from geography, science and art (to name a few). Please do ask your child about their current learning in school and what they have been up to. I am pretty sure you will be surprised by what they are achieving each day.

Myself and Mrs Stephens have had a pleasure and privilege to spend time with teachers over the last few weeks discussing the progress that pupils are making in core subjects and conversing about what has been done in school to ensure every child is able to succeed. We have planned, with teachers, the next steps to continue this progress and meet the learning needs of each pupil so that they continue to make great progress in their learning. What is always evident during these types of conversations is how well the team here at school know each individual child and how they continue to go the extra mile to support them.

Jubilee Celebrations in school

In the last week of this term, as I have previously mentioned, we are celebrating the Queen's Jubilee across the week by collapsing our curriculum. Each class has a special project to complete connected to the Queen and her reign which will form part of the final celebrations on the Thursday of that week. Parents/Carers are invited into classes on the morning of 26th May from 8.45am to complete a Jubilee related activity with their child which will form part of our whole school celebrations. All pupils are encouraged to wear 'red, white and blue' on this day and will be taking part in the whole school picnic lunch on the field (please note the change to the school menu on this day). I will send reminders about this information nearer the time.

Year Six SATs

This week our wonderful Year 6 pupils all took part in their SATs tests. These are statutory assessments that all Year 6 pupils across the country have taken this week. As always, these tests were challenging and demanding but, just as we expected, all pupils approached these with determination and resilience. A huge **well done** to all Year 6 pupils for the effort they have shown in these tests. You have all done yourselves proud!

School Diary

Mrs Coomber and Miss Marsh, in the school office have been hard at work putting a real-time diary on the front page of the website. This diary holds essential dates for our families about school events that are coming up soon, as well as those that regularly happen. I am sure you will all find this incredibly helpful (especially with events like the choir and orchestra that alternate weekly). Please check out this diary for all essential school dates. Thank you to the office for your hard work on this.

Reminder: School is closed to all pupils and staff on 27th May.

Have a wonderful weekend

Together we are inspiring a community with a bright future.

Resilience, Collaboration, Responsibility, Bravery, Communication, Self-belief

Together we

Congratulations



Harris Cup
Kayden Harte



McIver Cup
Dianna Taylor



'H' Cup
Isabelle Cook

Each of you are excellent role models for your peers and have shown significant determination and effort to your learning.

to our weekly cup winners.

Attendance

We know that we are all having to be a little more cautious at the moment; however, for those pupils well enough, we still have high expectations for daily attendance.

Foundation & Key Stage 1

Puffins	94.6
Coral	91.7
Seahorses	91.4
Oysters	96.7
Mussels	85.8
Starfish	98.8

Key Stage 2

Turtles	95.5
Sunfish	90.5
Otters	93.1
Dolphins	93.6
Anglerfish	92.9
Orca	84.1
Angel Sharks	86.1
Rays	98.3



Attendance Matters

Every student. Every day.

The **highest class attendance** last week goes to...

Starfish in FS/KS1

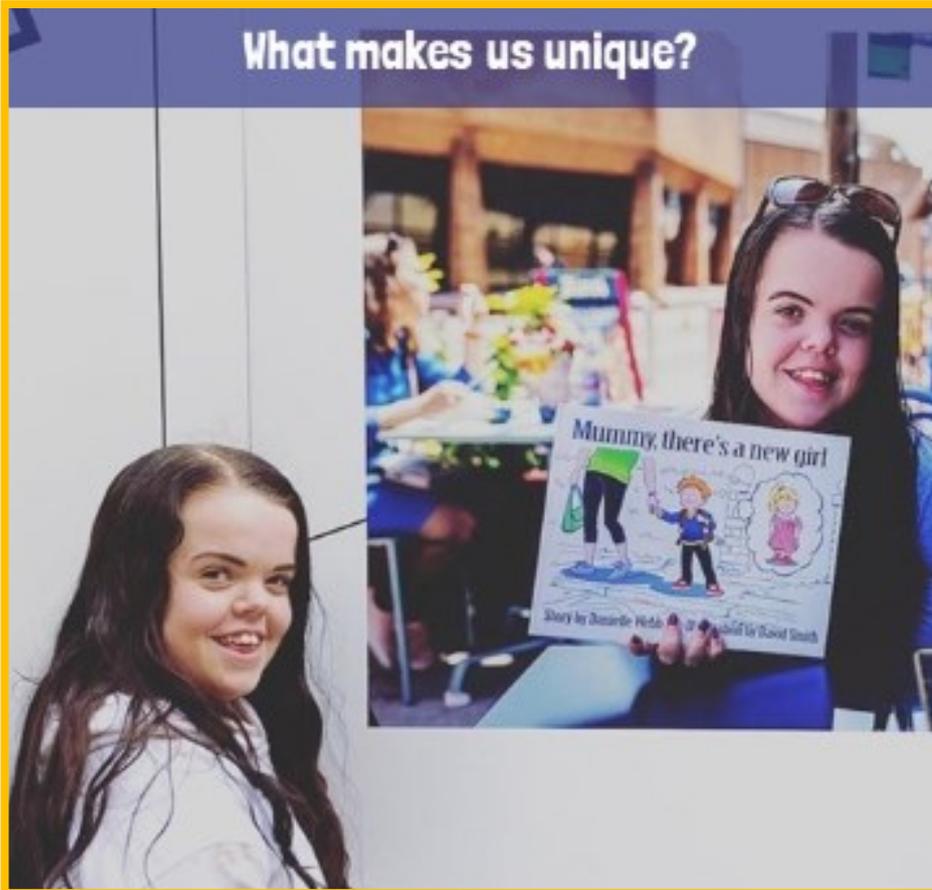
Rays in KS2

GREAT ATTENDANCE



celebrate

News & Events



Things to talk about at home...

- Why do you think Danielle decided to write the book? How do you think Danielle's book might help people understand differences?
- Discuss the phrase 'never judge a book by its cover'. What do you think this means and do you agree?



Congratulations to Anglerfish and Orca for their fabulous letters to local MP Luke Pollard about the problems of plastic pollution. Their letters have helped our school achieve one of the 5 objectives required for gaining 'Plastic Free Status' from the Surfers Against Sewage campaign. SAS were very impressed with our letters; so much so that they have added Hermione White's letter to their May newsletter. Thank you Year 5's for this great work and well done Hermione!

Please try to reduce your use of single use plastics to help our oceans and seas. After ending up in a landfill, a single plastic water bottle can take up to 1,000 years to decompose. Some types of plastic never fully disintegrate at all. As if that weren't bad enough, while slowly going through the process of degradation, plastic actually aids carbon emission. Thus, it contributes to global warming and climate change. Swapping plastic bottles with reusable ones is a great choice to make.

DEAR MR POLLARD,



I WOULD LIKE TO RAISE THE ISSUE OF THE INCREASING DAMAGE WE ARE DOING TO OUR OCEANS. THIS IS AN IMPORTANT PROBLEM IN PLYMOUTH AS WE ARE SURROUNDED BY THE SEA. I IMPORE YOU TO TAKE ACTION TO SAVE OUR OCEANS.

WE MUST ACT NOW. WE MUST CHANGE. WE MUST WORK TOGETHER.

- PUPIL AT LIPSON VALE

THE BIG PLASTIC COUNT!

Help your school and the planet by joining the Big Plastic Count and tell the Government it is time to commit to reducing the UK's use of single use plastics.

We would LOVE you to take part in this plastic investigation. Please follow [this](#) link and send your photos FAO Mrs Hardy to lipson.vale.primary.school@plymouth.gov.uk We can all make a difference!

JOIN THE UK'S BIGGEST PLASTIC INVESTIGATION

151,671 PEOPLE AND YOU!

Count your plastic for one week - 16-22 May 2022.

Across the country, households of all shapes and sizes, schools, community groups and businesses, will gather new evidence. How much plastic are we really having to throw away, and what happens to it?

We'll show the government it's time to commit: reduce single plastic use by 50% by 2025 by switching to reusable options that work for everyone - and ban sending our waste to other countries.

love to learn

Together we

Year 4 used shells and pebbles in their recent lesson on their focus on Andy Goldsworthy. They thought of texture, light and shade to give some depth to their sculptures.



Year 4 have been investigating sounds; what they are, how they travel, and which mediums they can travel through. We discovered that sound travels much more efficiently through a solid than a gas and proved this by making paper cup telephones to hold long(ish) distance conversations. We then looked at what happens in our ears to allow our bodies to process the sounds we hear and dramatised the movement of vibrations as the sound waves moved through the middle and inner ear.

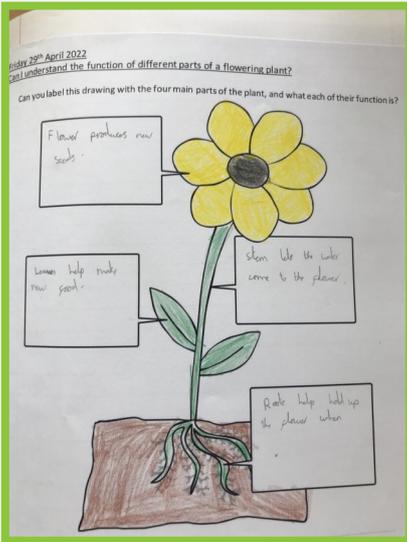


Year 2 Recorder group had their lesson on the music bus today. They have learnt a new note which they were to build into a new piece.



Together we

love to learn



Science learning this term in Year 3 compliments our geography rainforest topic - we are learning about plants. We began by labelling parts of a plant and considering the function of the roots, stem, leaves and flower. In our last lesson, we found out about different types of roots and looked closely, using magnifying glasses, at the fibrous roots of a flowering plant and the taproots of carrots. Remember to plant your sunflower seeds and watch them grow!



Year 1 had their second music lesson using symbols to guide them through their performance. They selected carefully instruments to accompany a song about a grasshopper.



Exciting news...

Congratulations to the children in both our Year 5 classes!

We are working our way towards achieving plastic free schools status have achieved objective 3 of the Surfers Against Sewage Plastic Free Schools .

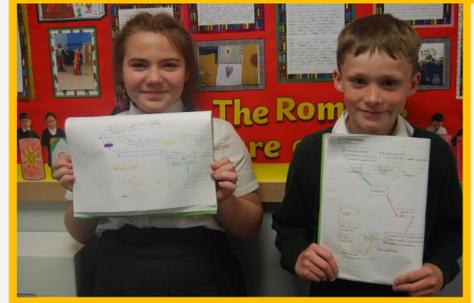
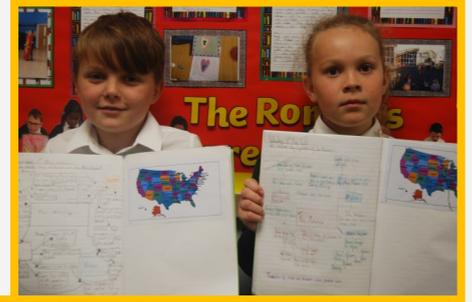
Lipson Vale Primary School received a special mention in the Surfers Against Sewage newsletter. You can check it out [here](#).

love to learn

Together we

This week, Year 5 have created some exceptionally creative and insightful concept maps to show their understanding of the Mississippi River in North America.

The children researched and recorded information including features of the river and its journey from source to sea. Moreover, in our Art lessons, the children have been exploring photography and they have been discovering the difference between taking pictures in both artificial and natural light. They will use these skills to create an art project at the end of term.



At National Online Safety, we believe in empowering parents, carers and trusted adults with the information to hold an informed conversation about online safety with their children, should they feel it is needed. This guide focuses on one of many issues which we believe trusted adults should be aware of. Please visit www.nationalonlinesafety.com for further guidance, icons and tips for adults.

LONELINESS ONLINE: What Causes It and Ways to Feel Better

Have you ever been online and felt a little bit lonely? In a recent study, 14% of 10–12-year-olds said they often felt lonely, so you're not the only one who sometimes feels that way. We spoke to a group of children and teenagers, who told us some of the things that make them feel isolated when they're online.

CAUSES OF LONELINESS ONLINE

- Seeing photos or videos of friends having fun without me
- Being excluded from group chats or games with friends
- Friends or family not replying to texts or answering my calls
- #16* People being unkind to me online
- When friends leave my group chat

WHAT CAN YOU DO?

So if these things happen to you and you start to feel down, what can you do? The same young people also told us how they make themselves feel less lonely when they're online – and we've collected some of their advice to share with you.

- ✔ Tell a friend or a trusted adult that you feel lonely
- ✔ Watch funny videos of cats and pandas
- ✔ Watch yoga videos and do some exercises
- ✔ Play single-player games you enjoy
- ✔ Listen to happy music
- ✔ Listen to your favourite audiobooks
- ✔ Send nice messages to your friends and family
- ✔ Play games with friends who you trust, if they're online too

TAKE A BREAK

Sometimes the best thing you can do is to take a break from technology and do something offline that makes you feel happy. Here's what our group suggested!

- ✔ Paint or draw pictures
- ✔ Play with a pet
- ✔ Write about your feelings
- ✔ Hang out with your family
- ✔ Get outdoors & enjoy nature

FURTHER SUPPORT

Remember, it's normal to feel a bit lonely sometimes – but if it's really upsetting you, and you have no-one to talk to, you can call Childline for free on

0800 1111

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#WakeUpWednesday

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Together we

love to learn

Year 1 are loving the sunshine. Especially as this means that they have been able to get out in our garden to explore and play. We had a wonderful time on our Burrator trip this week.

Check out our Facebook post about this.

In maths we have started looking at grouping and arrays. This is preparing us for multiplication!

In art we have been focusing on Brian Pollard. We looked at his work and discussed what we liked about it before creating our own pieces. We then peer reviewed our work and talked about how we could make it even better!

In geography we have been learning about the 4 nations of the UK. Last week we got to taste test all of the traditional foods from each Nation. We were all very brave and gave each food a go - even the boiled potatoes!

The phonics screening is coming up, so we have been working on our 'alien hunting'! In words (and nonsense words) we can spot the 'special friends' that help us to read the words. We will be teaching our adults how to help us with these words at our meeting on Thursday 26th May!



In Geography, Year 2 were researching facts about climate change and the impact of global warming on Earth. After talking about the facts they had found the children agreed that the increase of global warming, caused by humans, is like a warm blanket around the Earth. A blanket that can't be removed easily. Unless, we start to make changes to the way we live.



love to learn

Together we

We are Readers



Word Millionaires

A huge congratulations to Jacob in Orca class and Ashton in Rays class who have joined the prestigious word millionaire club! Impressively, Jacob has read 1,001,556 words and Ashton 1,005,990 words this year which is a fantastic achievement.

Reading Vipers

This year, we introduced Reading VIPERS into our whole class reading sessions to support children with their reading comprehension skills. VIPERS is a fun acronym to help children recall the vital reading skills needed to improve their understanding of texts. It stands for:

Vocabulary
Inference
Prediction
Explanation
Retrieval

Sequence (KS1) or Summarise (KS2)

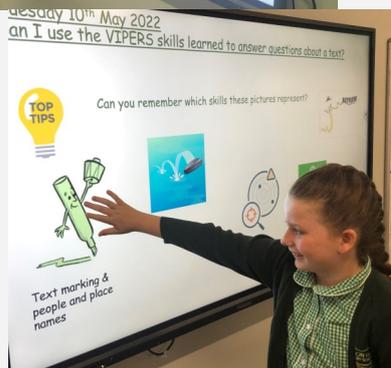
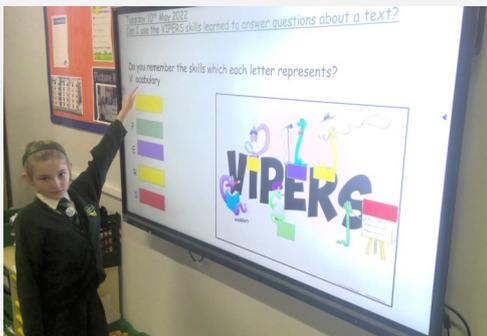
Using VIPERS helps to ensure children are familiar with a range of questions and allows teachers to track the types of questions asked and the children's responses. We have been delighted with how children have engaged with VIPERS and would love you to refer to VIPERS when you listen to your children read at home. There are a range of VIPERS question stems on our website [here](#).

Book recommendations

If you are looking for great book recommendations then you may be interested to browse the collection of the best new children's and teens books by the Guardian:

[Children's and teens roundup – the best new picture books and novels | Books | The Guardian](#)

Happy reading!



News & Events

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ONLINE SAFETY FOR UNDER 5s

10 Top Tips for Parents and Carers

According to Ofcom's most recent research, a significant proportion of children are already online by the time they start school, with 17% of 5-year-olds owning their own mobile phone and 50% using messaging platforms. As becoming familiar with technology is generally encouraged in younger children – and has been essential for education during the pandemic – it is crucial that trusted adults recognise both the benefits and the risks of infants and toddlers using digital devices. We've compiled our top tips to help the under-5s start their online safety journey.

1 USE DEVICES TOGETHER

This lets you monitor and control what your child is using the device for. It also provides the interaction that supports children's understanding of what they're seeing – allowing them to ask you questions, and so on.

PARENT CODE:

6 BLOCK IN-APP PURCHASES

If your child uses a device that's linked to a payment method (such as a bank card), use the parental controls to block buys from app stores, as well as in-app purchases. That will prevent your child from accidentally spending money while on your device.

2 ACTIVATE PARENTAL CONTROLS

Most digital devices have built-in parental controls that can limit the type of content children have access to. If your little one uses any device (even borrowing yours), it's a good idea to explore what controls the device has and enable them whenever they have access to it.

7 CHOOSE SAFE APPS AND SITES

There are some fantastic apps and platforms that are specifically designed to be safer for children. Always check the PEGI age rating before downloading an app, and test it yourself before allowing your child to use it.

3 MANAGE SCREEN TIME

This can be tricky, especially if your child is interested in a certain video, app or game. Try to agree on some ground rules and get your child into a routine which includes certain times of the day when they go without devices.

8 INVOLVE THE FAMILY

If your toddler has older siblings, it's likely that their rules for device use will be different – and that they'll access content that isn't appropriate for younger ones (a particular worry if they share devices). Encourage the whole family to be good role models and help little ones stay safe online.

4 TALK ABOUT BEING SAFE ONLINE

Just like we teach children about being safe in the real world, we need to educate them about how to stay safe online. Use age-appropriate language to help them understand, and plenty of hand gestures can reinforce what you're telling them.

9 IF IN DOUBT, ASK

The easiest way to find out what your child is doing online is usually just to talk about it with them. Developing an open dialogue at an early age helps them grow up feeling able to talk to you about their digital life – providing opportunities to intervene if you're concerned.

5 SET A GOOD EXAMPLE

Children often learn by watching and copying those around them, and using digital devices is no exception. When you're around your child, try to follow the same rules that you've set for them. Let them see you balancing your time online with interacting with people in real life, too.

10 SUPPORT CREATIVE & ACTIVE PLAY

Physical and creative activities are important for a child's wellbeing, and there are plenty of ways to incorporate technology into that. For example, you could encourage games that require physical movement; dance and sing along to songs your child loves; and follow step-by-step crafting videos.

Meet Our Expert

Konstantina Moustaka is a professional development and EYFSP coordinator at an 'outstanding' nursery school in London. She has been working as a nursery and early years practitioner, both in the UK and internationally, for the past 16 years.



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Source: <https://www.ofcom.gov.uk/consult/condocs/children/children-media-user-and-attitude-report-2022.pdf>

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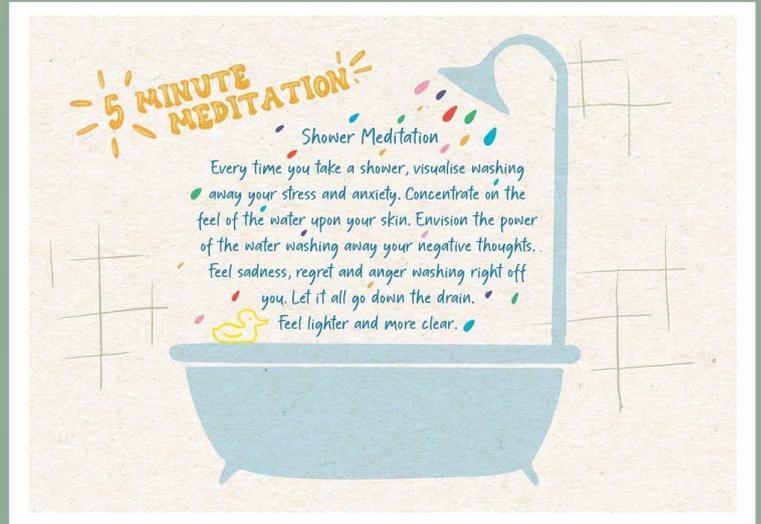
News & Events

Exim Dance Company is proud to be supporting Mental Health Awareness Week and this year the theme is Loneliness which affects millions of people across the UK.

Further information and advice is available [here](#).



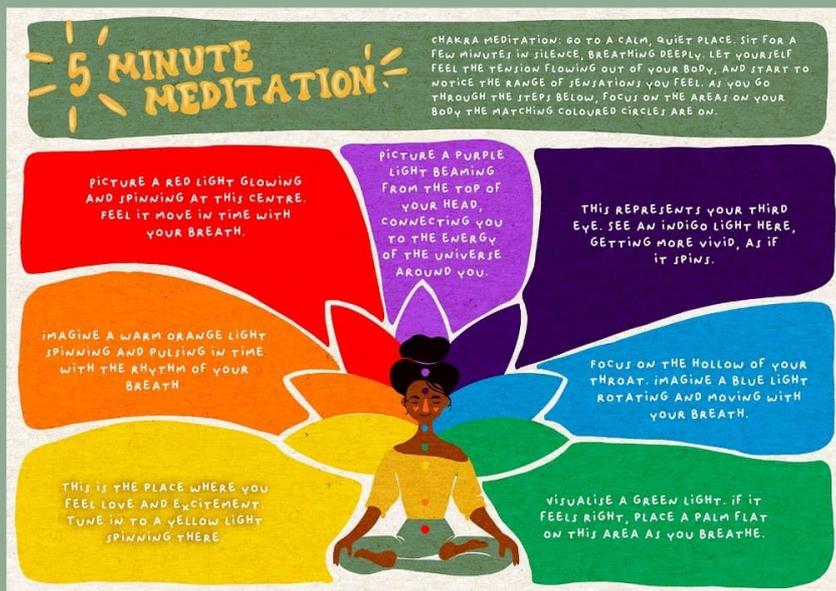
Positive Wellbeing Resources



This way you catch up on your favourite tasks, or ones you may have missed!



Positive Wellbeing Resources



Our Positive Wellbeing Resources can be found over on our website!

MENTAL HEALTH AWARENESS WEEK



TACKLING LONELINESS



IT'S OKAY TO ASK FOR HELP



Collective Worship

This term has taken us back to think about our school value of **Self-belief**. This is a vital value throughout that year, but feels more relevant when thinking about this term ahead and beginning the preparations to move on into the next year group or school.

We have reminded ourselves of what 'self-belief' is and have begun to consider how this links to the 'learning pit'. Starfish class said that these linked because 'If you have a fixed mindset, you won't get out of the pit'.

Do you have positive self-belief? What does this help you to achieve?

Dates for your diaries:

- | | |
|----------------|---|
| 16.05.22 | Residential Information Meeting @6pm. |
| 19.05.22 | Tempest Photography-class photos and year group photos for Year 6 and Foundation. |
| 26.05.22 | Year 1 Phonics Screening meeting @3.30pm. |
| 27.05.22 | School closed |
| 30.05-03.06.22 | Half term holiday. |



School Meals



SCAN ME

CATERed 
FEEDING AMBITIONS

School Money



SCAN ME



schoolmoney

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Lipson Vale Primary

