

Notes from the Vale

Friday 14th January 2022

Volume 20, Issue 8

Welcome from Mr Lewis-Cole

HELLO! Although it seems like we have already been back a while now, as this is the first Notes from the Vale of the year I would like to take the opportunity to wish all of our families a 'Happy New Year'. I really hope that your new year has started positively and that you enjoyed the Christmas and New Year break and celebrations with those you love.

We have already had so many exciting things going on in school with multiple visitors to launch new learning, trips out of school to enrich learning and many in depth conversations with teachers about how we can further support our learners to make great progress this term. This newsletter is a celebration of some of the wonderful things going on across the school and I trust that you will enjoy this snapshot into school life.

Extra bank holiday and term dates

As you will know, there is an extra bank holiday next year to celebrate the Queen's Jubilee. As the official bank holiday falls within May half term, the Government have said that schools should identify an alternative date for school staff to have this day paid back to them. The Governors of Lipson Vale have agreed this date and I would like to give advanced warning to families that the school will be closed on **Friday 27th May** - the Friday before the half term break.

The Governors have also approved the term dates for the next academic year and we will make these available on our website shortly. We will, of course, let you know when these dates are ready to be viewed.

The Bus

Thanks to the continued generosity of local businesses and Mr Moore working his magic, the bus project is now racing towards completion. This has been a huge task and I am so grateful to Mr Moore for coordinating the extensive and substantial works that have been completed since July to make this happen. Mrs Fice is looking forward to moving her music provision on to the bus and starting to use this amazing new space as an exciting music classroom. I know that our pupils cannot wait to jump on board too!

Polling Station

Advanced warning to families that the school will be used as a polling station again this year on 5th May for local elections. As with last year, we will be keeping the school open to pupils during this day so that no learning time is lost. More details will follow nearer the time.

Liz Farmer

I had the pleasure of introducing Liz Farmer to you all earlier this week. I know that she has already made contact with many of our families and is very much enjoying to get to know you all. Liz's hours in school are spread across the week which means she is available to families as and when you need her.

Have a wonderfully restful weekend. Take care and stay safe.

Together we are inspiring a community with a bright future.

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

Together we

Congratulations



Harris Cup
Jackson Sims



McIver Cup
Oliver Garghouthi



'H' Cup
Dianna Taylor

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	91.7
Coral	97.8
Seahorses	92.9
Oysters	94.9
Mussels	85.8
Starfish	94.8

Key Stage 2

Turtles	91.7
Sunfish	98.3
Otters	96.8
Dolphins	94.0
Anglerfish	94.8
Orca	93.6
Angel Sharks	93.9
Rays	100.0



Attendance Matters

Every student. Every day.

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

Coral in FS/KS1

Rays in KS2

GREAT ATTENDANCE



celebrate

love to learn

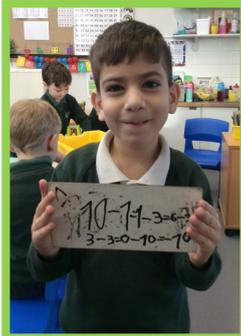
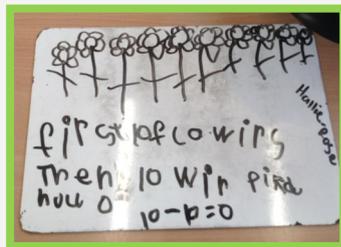
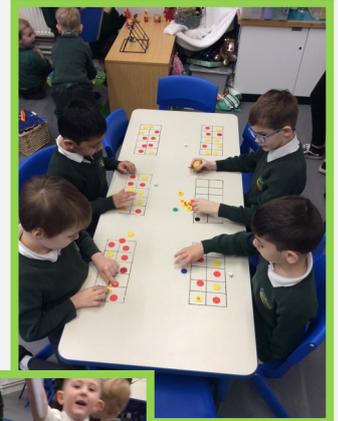
Together we

It's hard to believe we have only been back in school for just over a week!

In maths, Year 1 have started learning about subtraction. We have been playing lots of games racing to 0! Now we are learning how to make number sentence stories and our own subtraction sentences.

In science we have started learning about different materials. We went on a hunt around the classroom and identified different materials. We have a lot of plastic and wood in school.

Our topic this term is 'Influential People' and we are very excited to be learning about Florence Nightingale and her incredible work. Our role play area has been turned into a hospital and the children have even been making their own traditional nurse's outfits!



In their first gymnastic lesson, Year 6 used a series of shapes and balances to practice control and tension. The lesson also allowed them to support and encourage their partner. Great team work Year 6.



Together we

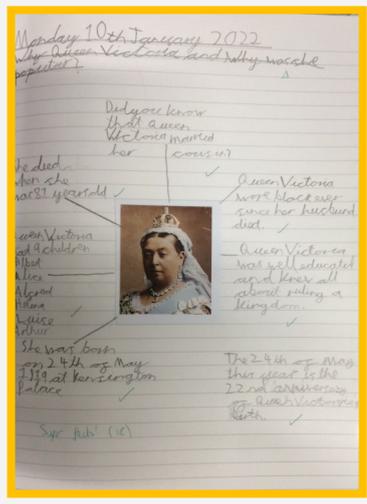
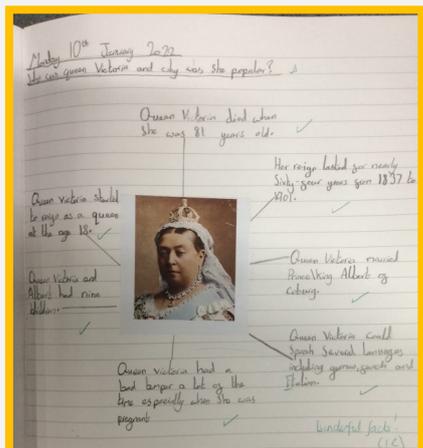
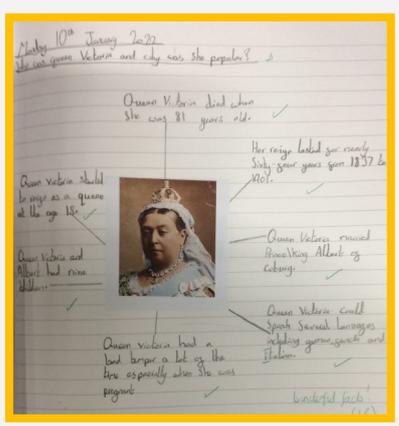
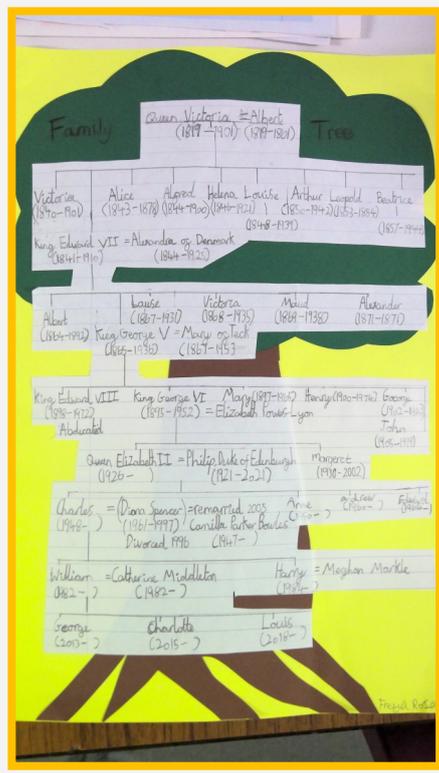
love to learn



Last week, Year 5 had a frightening start to the term when they encountered a Viking in the school hall! The excited children were fortunate enough to receive another visit from former secondary school teacher, Mr Chapman. Throughout the Viking themed day, the children learned about the attack of Lindisfarne, how to play Viking board games and they even made a human Viking longship! As always, this was a fantastic introduction to our jam-packed Viking topic and as you can see in the pictures below, the children had a brilliant day!



Freya in Otter class created this wonderful family tree showing the lineage from Queen Victoria to the present day royal family. It was great to see such wonderful home learning appearing so early in the term and we can't wait to see what else the Y4 children bring in to share.

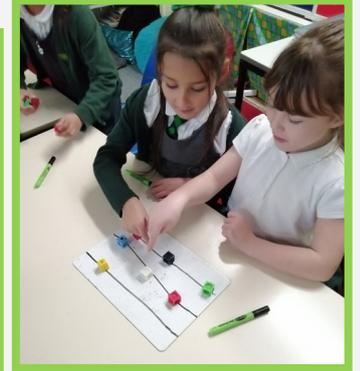


Year 4 enjoyed learning about Queen Victoria in our history lesson this week and created some fantastic mind maps to record their learning which helped them to understand why she was such a popular monarch.

love to learn

Together we

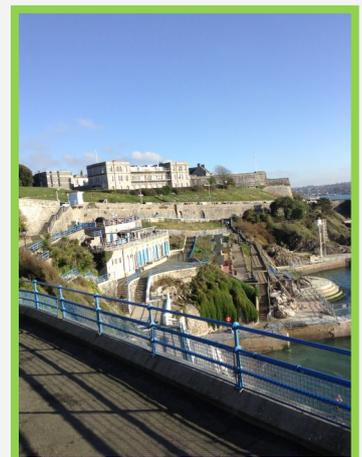
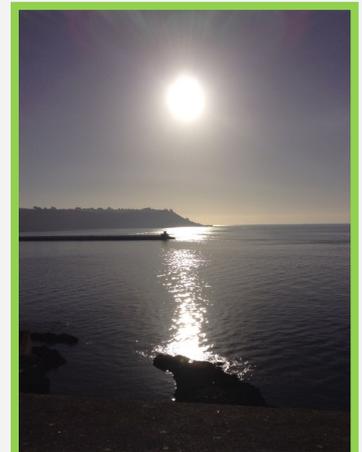
This week children in Year 2 have been focusing on pitch. They used cubes and whiteboards to notate a simple melody. Great listening, everyone.



Year 3 enjoyed accompanying songs with a pulse and rhythm in their first music lesson of the new year.



On Thursday, Year 3 walked to Plymouth Hoe to carry out Geography field work as part of our 'Where We Are in the World' topic. They walked through the Barbican and around the waterfront, stopping to complete maps and discuss human and physical features. Some of the children had the opportunity to take photographs and short video clips of the local Geography. We are looking forward to using our Vlogging skills to create virtual maps of Plymouth. We are incredibly proud of the children for having walked so far and they were a credit to the school. We would like to say a huge thank you to all of the adults that supported the trip.



love to learn

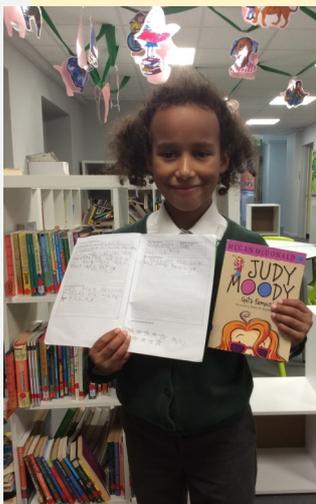
Together we

We are Readers

Johan in Offers Class has become our first Word Millionaire by reading an impressive 1,083,607 words this year which is an incredible achievement.

Overall, as a school we have taken over 3,200 Accelerated quizzes and read 20,979,876 words since September.

In Sunfish class, Nini enjoyed reading Judy Moody so much over the Christmas holiday that she wrote a short book review in her reading diary.



If you are looking for a children's book recommendation, there is a fabulous selection of books for primary age children as voted for by primary teachers, TAs and librarians on this website: <https://www.booksfortopics.com/books-of-the-year>

Happy Reading!



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News & Events

Introducing our new School Governor, Mr Bruce Robinson

Hello, I am Bruce Robinson, one of the new governors at Lipson Vale Primary, a role I hope will enable me to positively contribute to the learning, understanding and continued safety of the children at the school.



I started my teaching career back in 1978 and have taught Chemistry and Science in Basildon and Grays Thurrock in Essex, North Andros High School in the Bahamas, before serving as a Meteorology and Oceanography Officer in the Royal Navy for 16 years. After 4 years working as a management trainer with ATCI in the UK and Eastern Europe. I re-joined mainstream teaching in 2005 as a science teacher, retired from mainstream education in 2014, following a rewarding career as Head of Chemistry and STEM Coordinator at Ivybridge Community College and UTC Plymouth.

My desire to keep engaged with STEM activities continued after I retired, and I came to realise that children of all ages, love to learn about how stuff works; hence I created Wonder Workshops; a Science Activities company taking practical science to primary and secondary science to schools all over Devon and Cornwall.

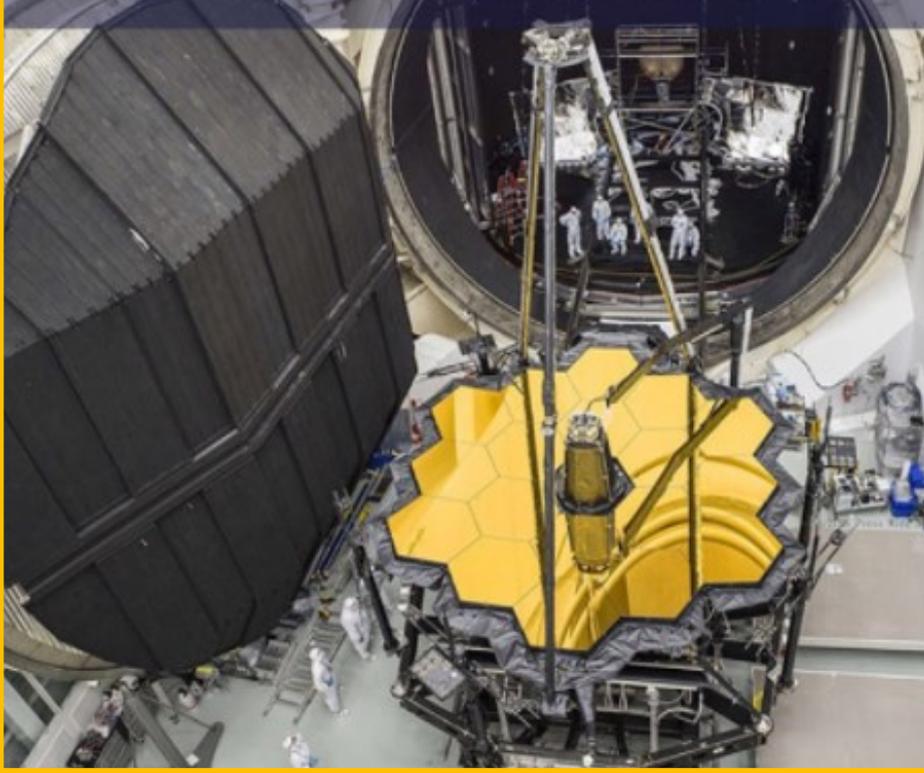
I am a STEM Ambassador and ENTHUSE Coach with STEM Learning and Careers SW. This enables me to support Primary and Secondary schools in their projects for [Big Bang South West](#) and STEM ENTHUSE Partnerships.

More recently I have been working as a project consultant with the Prince's Teaching Institute, Greenpower, STEM Learning, IMechE, Science Learning Partnership, Aardman Animations, Plymouth City Council, Plymouth Science and Engineering UK, developing materials and CPD programmes to help teachers and children engage confidently with Creative Science, Technology, Engineering and Maths in primary schools in the SW, London and beyond via Zoom Webinars.

I am very much looking forward to this new role as a governor at Lipson Vale Primary, so I can help the children, their families, and the school community, enjoy learning, and enable the children to benefit from the opportunities their learning brings throughout their lives. I am very proud to part of the Lipson Vale team and will do my utmost to be a positive contributor to the success of the children and school's community.

News & Events

Do you think it is important for us to know the history of our universe?



Things to talk about at home...

- Have you ever used a telescope? If so, what did you see?
- Does space and the wider universe interest you?
- Do you think it is important for us to learn more about the university?

Parent Governor Vacancy

We are still accepting nominations/applications for the Parent Governor vacancy.

Please contact the office if you would like a paper copy of the application form.

Collective Worship

It is the start of a new term and we have started a new focus in our weekly collective worships. We going back to explore **resilience** and through specifically about our 'Circle of Support' that we can refer to when faced with a challenge and needing to boost our resilience. We will be continuing to explore the theme of resilience as we move through this term.

How can we work together to become more resilient?

Dates for your diaries:

- 18.02.22 Last day of school before half term break.
- 19-28.02.22 Half term holiday.
- 28.02.22 First day of new half term.
- 08.04.22 Last day of school before Easter break.
- 25.04.22 Non pupil day
- 26.04.22 First day of summer term.



School Meals



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Lipson Vale Primary

