



# Notes from the Vale

Friday 24th November 2023

Volume 22, Issue 5

## Welcome from Mr Lewis-Cole

We are just over half way through this term (and coming up to completing a third of the school year already! Where has that time gone?) and our weeks continue to be packed full of exciting opportunities for our pupils. This week alone, Year 4 have been out exploring all things recycling at the recycle centre in the city, the grass has gone in for the Year 1 garden, and we have received some gorgeous plans for the outside area development. As well as this, classrooms are continually filled with the sound of Christmas as we ramp up our preparations for concerts and nativities. It really is such a busy time!

### **Mental Health First Aiders**

We have been very fortunate to have had the opportunity to train around 10 members of staff as mental health first aiders for children and a further 10 for adults. We have been thinking a lot about mental health and wellbeing over the last year and Mrs Stephens has been working incredibly hard behind the scenes to create a school wide approach to support everyone with their mental health and wellbeing. This training, which Mrs Stephens was able to secure through funding by a charity, was delivered by Mental Health First Aider England over 2 days. The very detailed training has prepared adults from across the school to further understand the signs and symptoms of poor mental health and were trained on specific strategies to use with children and adults. Thank you to Mrs Stephens for bringing this excellent training and support into our school community.

### **Individual and Sibling photos**

You will remember that the last date for the photographer was cancelled. We booked in a new date straight away and this will now take place next Tuesday (28th November). We will confirm the arrangements with you all by text message and email. However, please remember to send your child into school in full uniform (even if they have PE on the day) so that you can all have photos of them looking really smart.

### **Children In Need**

Thank you for taking part in our Children In Need 'Spotacular' day last Friday. The school was awash with vibrant colour and, of course, spots! Together we raised an enormous £349.63 for the charity which we know will be used to continue the amazing support that they offer communities all over England.

### **Christmas Events**

We have lots of exciting events coming up over the next few weeks. All of the key dates are included on our school calendar which can be accessed through our website. However, to keep things simple for you all, we are putting together an overview of all of the key dates for Christmas - all in one place. This will be sent out to you soon and shared on our Facebook page. Keep an eye out for these and make sure that you add them to your diaries.

Wishing you all 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  
Oscar Slater



McIver Cup  
Caleb Jenness



'H' Cup  
Violet Hird

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	90.3
Coral	92.1
Seahorses	98.2
Oysters	97.4
Mussels	95.4
Starfish	94.0

### Key Stage 2

Turtles	84.8
Sunfish	96.9
Otters	97.2
Dolphins	95.8
Anglerfish	98.3
Orca	92.7
Angel Sharks	95.9
Rays	89.7



## Attendance Matters

Every student. Every day.

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

**Seahorses** in FS/KS1

**Anglerfish** in KS2

# GREAT ATTENDANCE



**On Time Octopus**  
winning class:  
**Puffins**

**Punctuality Penguin**  
winning class:  
**Sunfish**



# celebrate

# News & Events



## Things to talk about at home...

- Do you think that robots will be used more and more in workplaces and homes? If so, what do you feel they will be used for? Why?
- Make a list of jobs that you think robots would be good at and a list of those that you think people will always be needed for.

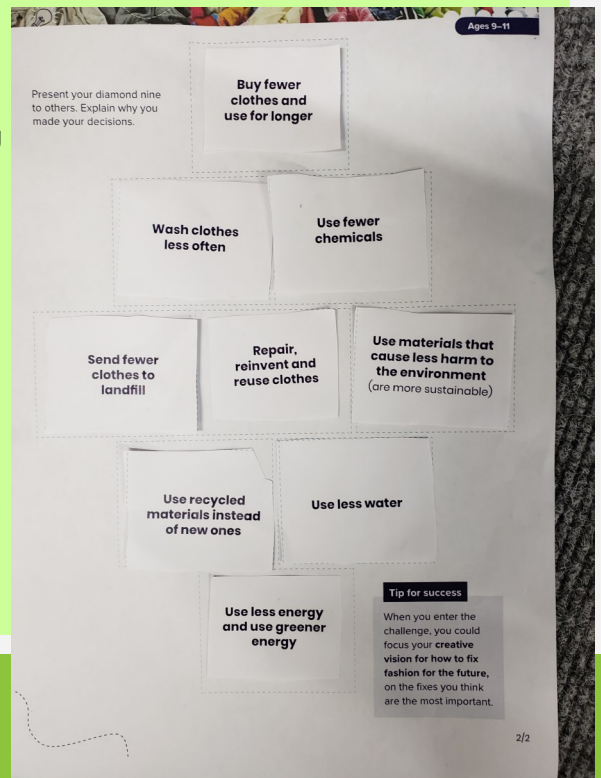


During Switch off Fortnight, the children across the school have enjoyed learning about fashion and what our clothes are made of and where they come from.

They learnt about Fast Fashion and how many clothes today can travel long distances and be made cheaply, encouraging us all to buy more. We enjoyed learning how to be a Fashion Fixer and ways to reduce our buying; such as buying from charity shops, having a clothes swap with friends and trying to

buy clothes made of sustainable fabrics.

Well done for all this great learning everyone!



# are musicians

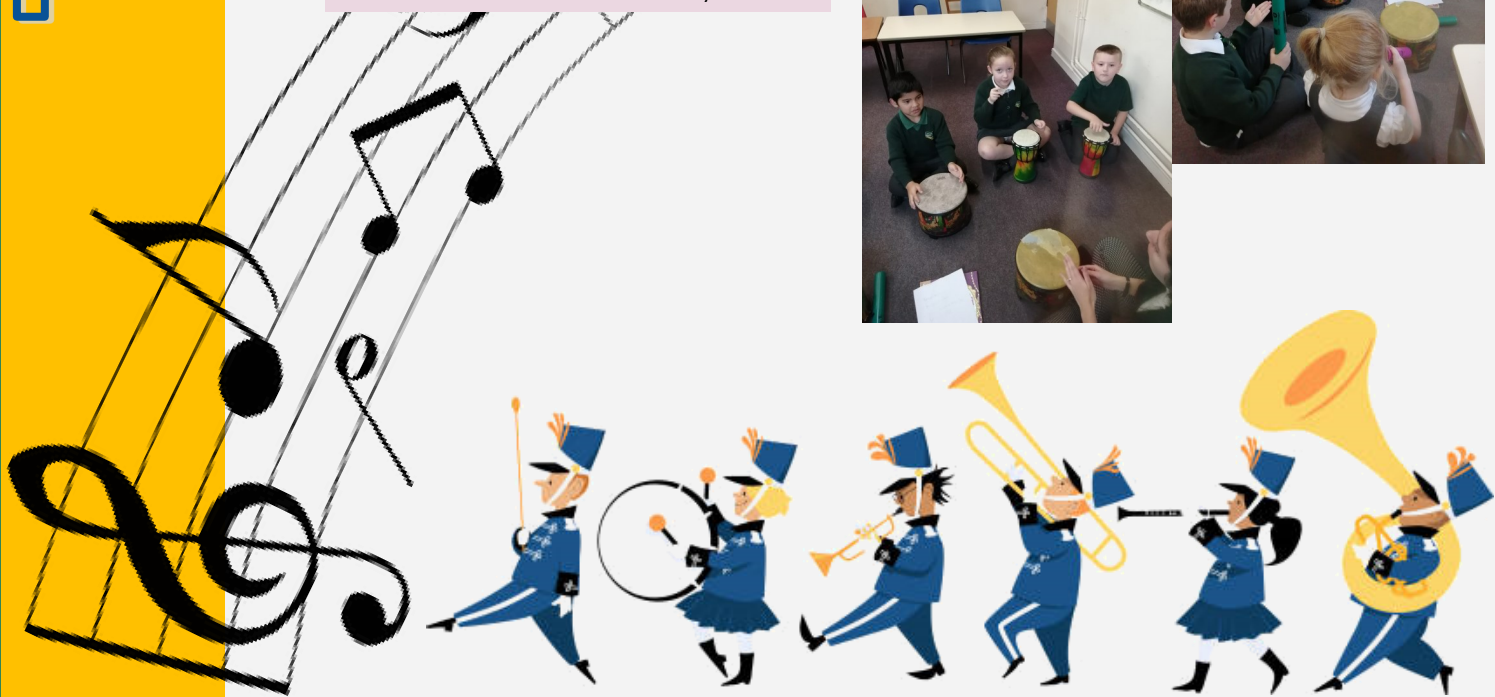
# Together we

This week Year 4 successfully read different rhythms from notation, as part of a rhythmic performance. They enjoyed the challenge of learning a new dotted bouncy rhythm alongside a steady pulse.



This week in our music assembly our flautists performed to their friends and teacher. We were delighted to enjoy seasonal performances, Hot Cross Buns and Deck The Halls. Owen and Ellie have only been learning for a couple of months and confidently played with rhythm. Isabella has been learning a little longer. We all loved the calm and bright tone you produced in your rendition.

Some of our Year 2 students practised a drumming piece in preparation for their part in the Christmas Nativity. Great audio communication today.



# Together we



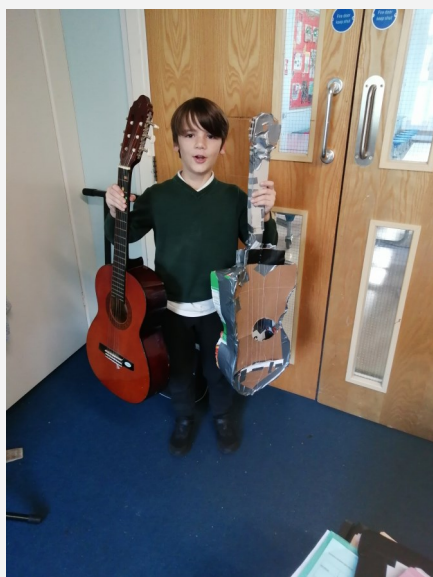
# are musicians



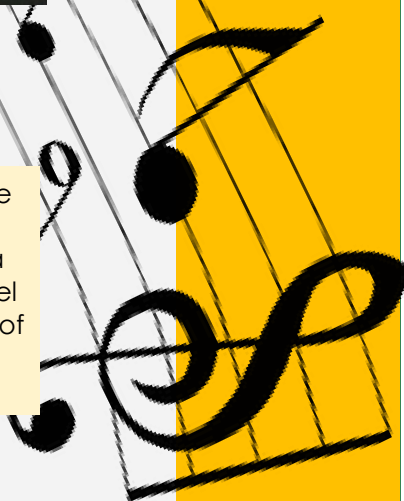
We had our first Carol Service rehearsal this week. Our orchestra and choir had the opportunity to sing and perform to each other. Fantastic effort, focus and energy everyone.



Year 6 made choices this week on their musical ensembles to perform musical phrases. After some initial rehearsing using music and leadership from our musicians, children enjoyed performing their first trial run. Next week will be about refining and planning how to put their phrases together. Super team work today.



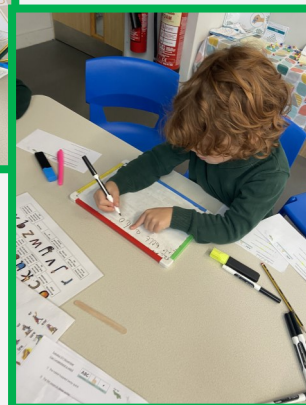
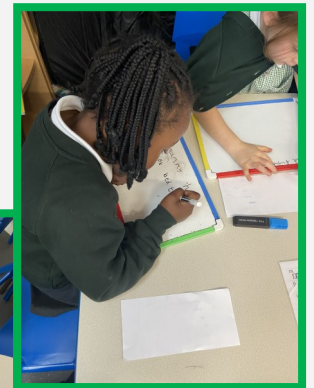
Leighton had his guitar lesson today. He played a piece in two sections, using chords and individual notes to make a melody. He brought in a fantastic model of a guitar he had made at home, out of recyclable materials. Fantastic effort Leighton.



# love to learn

Together we

Year 4 had great fun on their trip to the Energy from Waste plant in Plymouth learning some incredible facts about what happens to our waste and how to reduce our waste by reducing, reusing and recycling (the 3 R's). We learned that an amazing 245,000 tonnes of waste is delivered to the plant every year and that the waste burns in the combustion chamber at temperatures higher than 1,000 - hotter than lava!



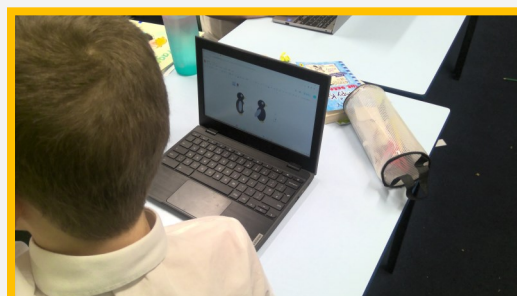
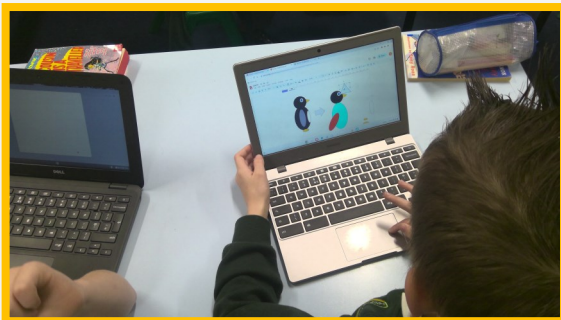
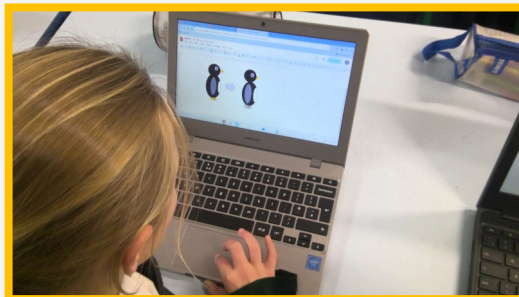
This week Year 1 have been listening to the story, The Disgusting Sandwich. They have been discussing and writing about their likes and dislikes about the story. Also, the children have been learning what a verb is - ask them. They will tell you. To learn about verbs, the children have been verb detectives and noticing verbs in sentences. They have also been writing their own sentences to see if a friend can notice the verb(s) in the sentence.

# Together we

Starfish and Mussels have had a special visitor this week come in to teach us about why Christmas is important to Christians. We all discussed what signs of Christmas we have seen and how we prepare for the day. We then listened to the Christmas story and used Christmas cards to help us learn the story and see the significance of the pictures used at Christmas time.



In Year 5, we continued with our content designing unit in computing. This week, we were given the task to draw our own penguin using Google Draw. We had to think about how to create the correct shapes and select the appropriate colours for our pictures. It took a lot of concentration but the end results were great!



# love to learn

Together we

Last week, Year 6 took part in a workshop run by the NSPCC who passed on the very important message of 'Speak Out and Stay Safe'. We addressed the importance of voicing our worries and sharing our concerns with safe adults and people that we trust. Linking it to our RSHE learning of positive relationships, the children did a wonderful job at recognising unsafe situations and were very mature when participating in discussions and group tasks.

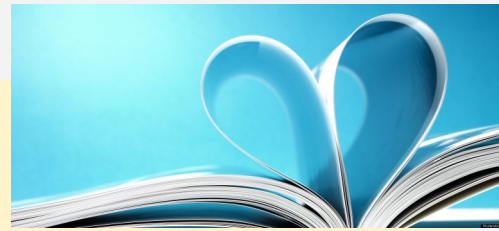




# Together we

love to learn

## We are Readers



### Please join us at our Book Fair!

Thank you to everyone who has attended our school book fair this week. Your support is greatly appreciated and will help us to earn free books for our school library.

Our last event will take place after school today:

**When:** 3.25 – 3.45pm

**Where:** In the school staff room (Please enter through the Year 6 fire exit and we can direct you from there!)

### Reading at Home

It is fantastic to see families engaging with reading at home. Well done to Seb in Turtles class for reading lots at home and regularly recording in his reading diary. We loved reading his book review of Moonshine Dragon.

### 9 Best Christmas Books

If you are looking for a story to help you get into the Christmas spirit, The Independent has handpicked some of the best reads from the countless festive filled children's Christmas books to choose from.

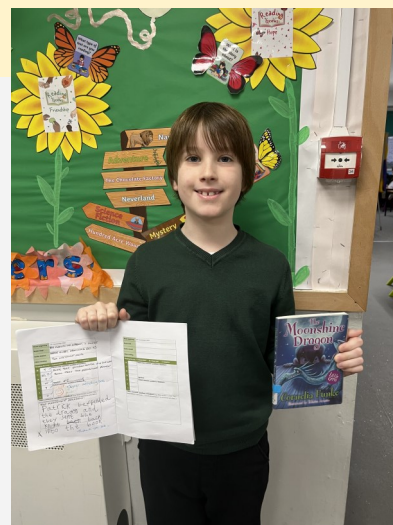
[Best Christmas books for kids 2023 | The Independent](https://www.independent.co.uk/arts-entertainment/books/features/best-christmas-books-for-kids-2023-23888888.html)

### Accelerated Readers

It is wonderful to see such fantastic reading around school! A huge congratulations to our young bookworms embracing Accelerated Reader who collectively have read nearly 10 million words so far this year! If your child is using Accelerated Reader at school, you can access information about your child's reading progress via the Home Connect feature which will enable you to see the books your child has read and their average percentage correct on quizzes. Visit our website and enter your child's username and password (Your child should know this, but please ask your class teacher if required).

<https://global-zone61.renaissance-go.com/studentprogress/homeconnect?t=1892766>

Happy reading



# News & Events

  
**GLOW IN THE DARK DODGEBALL**

MONDAY 11TH DEC  
 @LIPSON VALE PRIMARY SCHOOL  
 KS1 5:15 PM - 6:15 PM / KS2 6:30 PM - 7:30 PM  
 £7 PER CHILD / PLACES LIMITED  
 BOOKINGS ONLINE: SPORTYSTARS.CO.UK

**FACE PAINT    MUSIC    LIGHTS    FUN!**



**Plymouth Science**  
**CHRISTMAS CAMPS 2023**

FREE for children who are eligible for Free School Meals\* or  
 £22 per day (bring your own lunch)  
 £25 per day (Lunch provided)

Venue: St Peters Primary School, Brentford Ave, Plymouth PL5 4HD  
 Dates: Wed 20th-Fri 22nd Dec  
 Thurs 28th-Fri 29th Dec  
 Timings: 9am-3pm  
 Age: 6-11 years

  
**SCAN TO BOOK**

**EACH DAY WILL HAVE IT'S OWN UNIQUE THEME. SOME OF THE ACTIVITIES INCLUDE...**

  
**FOREST SCHOOLS**

  
**CRACKERS**

  
**CHRISTMAS COOKING**

  
**MAKING SNOW**


  
**STAINED GLASS**

  
**FESTIVE EXPERIMENTS**

**THE FULL EVENT CALENDAR CAN BE FOUND ONLINE AT [WWW.PLYMOUTHSCIENCECIC.CO.UK](http://WWW.PLYMOUTHSCIENCECIC.CO.UK) - PLEASE NOTE ALL ACTIVITIES ARE SUBJECT TO CHANGE.**

To book your place visit our website and click on the poster or scan the QR code above  
 For any questions, please email us (bookings cannot be done via email).  
 Web: [www.plymouthsciencecic.co.uk](http://www.plymouthsciencecic.co.uk) Email: [plymouthsciencecic@gmail.com](mailto:plymouthsciencecic@gmail.com)  
 Tel: 07933 055 506 (only during camp dates)

\* Eligibility for free places is for children who receive Free School Meals. This DOES NOT include children in Foundation/Key Stage 1 who receive Universal Free School Meals. If you are unsure of your status, enquire with your school office. Eligibility will be checked by Plymouth City Council, and full payment will need to be made for sessions if your child is ineligible for Free School Meals. Terms and Conditions apply.

  
**Christmas at the Climbing Wall!!!**

Can you find the Elf?  
 Why not come give it a try - the Elf will be hidden in several locations within the Climbing Wall.  
 A reward for those who find the Elf's!

My Elf's have gone missing in the Climbing Wall. Can you help me find them?

Come join in the fun from December 1<sup>st</sup>! Anyone is welcome to take part - just pop in! No booking required.  
 A scoresheet will be given for you to mark where you have seen the sneaky Elf's hiding!  
 Hand the scoresheet in at the end to get your reward for helping Santa!  
 Cost - Entry fee + an additional £1.50 to take part in find the Elf!

Located in the Plymouth Life Centre,  
 40 Mayflower Drive, Plymouth, PL2 3DG

**PLYMOUTH ALBION RFC**  
**YOUTH RUGBY TRAINING!**

  
**SUNDAY MORNING!**  
**START TIME 10:30**  
**PLYMOUTH ALBION RFC**

  
**RFC**

**UNDER 7 - UNDER 11 (YEAR 2 - YEAR 6)**  
**>>> GIRLS AND BOYS! <<<**  
**COME AND GIVE RUGBY A GO!**





  
**CONTACT US!**  
[COMMUNITY@PLYMOUTHALBION.COM](mailto:COMMUNITY@PLYMOUTHALBION.COM)

# Collective Worship

Thank you to Mrs Hardy and some pupils from Year 4 for leading our collective worship to start Switch Off Fortnight. They introduced everyone to 'fast fashion' and the impact that this culture has on the environment. Each class followed up in classes with some extra learning and thinking about this.

This week, we have started our yearly focus on 'anti-bullying'. We used the Anti Bullying Alliance materials to 'make some noise' about bullying and we can work together to make sure it doesn't happen. We will carry on this theme for a few weeks.

**How will you make some noise about bullying?**

## Dates for your diaries:

28.11.23	Individual & Sibling photos
05.12.23	Foundation Nativity: Performance 1 @10am
06.12.23	Foundation Nativity: Performance 2 @2pm
06.12.23	Year 2 Nativity @9:30am
07.12.23	Year 1 Nativity @9:30am
12.12.23	Carol Service @Emmanuel Church 6-7pm
18.12.23	Whole School Dodgeball
19.12.23	Last day of school & Christmas lunch
20.12.23	Christmas holidays
03.01.24	Non pupil day
04.01.24	First day of term



**School Meals**



**SCAN ME**

**CATER**ed   
FEEDING AMBITIONS

**School Money**



**SCAN ME**



**schoolmoney**

**Bernice Terrace, Lipson, Plymouth, PL4 7HW**  
**01752 224801**



[www.lvps.co.uk](http://www.lvps.co.uk)



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@LipsonValePS



Lipson Vale Primary

