

Welcome from Mr Lewis-Cole

Here we are at the end of another term. This has been a tough one too. We have been with faced lots of illness amongst our families, staff and across the community and this has made keeping the school running to the high standard you expect a bit of a juggling act (with acrobats and jugglers thrown in!). However, after we announced our significant outbreak, we felt a renewed effort from the whole community to make school a safe place to be. This resulted in us seeing a reduction in cases and many children returning back to school. Thank you for helping us to keep school open to all pupils.

No doubt there are more challenges to come with Covid. The rise in positive cases suggests that the start of 2022 might be an interesting one to navigate and may bring with it some new restrictions. We will take note of all the guidance before we return in January and I will update you all with anything that you need to know—but first I think we all deserve to switch off and rest for a couple of weeks.

Christmas Dinner

Pupils enjoyed a Christmas dinner this week. The were served by school staff at their tables (which, of course, they loved) and ate their lunches with their friends in the school hall. It has been a while since we have all been together in the hall and this made it all a little extra special. Mr Moore and the PTFA were able to get each child a cracker to enjoy with the dinner (thank you!) and these provided great entertainment through the reading of the jokes. It was a real team effort to get everyone fed and the hall reset for each year groups. My thanks go to the whole Lipson Vale and CaterEd team for making this happen.

Nativity and Carol Service

The recordings of both of these have now been shared with families. The links to watch these will be 'live' for one week. After this time they will be closed and you won't be able to access them anymore. We have loved watching them in school and hope that you can find the time as a family to sit back, relax and enjoy watching them together. They do put you in such a Christmas mood.

This is another wonderful Notes from the Vale which is jampacked with great learning from across the school. I was reflecting recently that, despite the significant challenges faced this term, pupils at this school have achieved a great deal and for that they should be incredibly proud.

I hope that you all manage to properly switch off and have a break over the next few weeks. Enjoy time doing the things that you love doing, with the people who make you the happiest. Take care. Stay safe. Wishing you a very Merry Christmas.



Together we are inspiring a community with a bright future.

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

Together we

Congratulations



Harris Cup
Ellie Warner



Reading Cup
Theo Smee



'H' Cup
Michael Karim

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



Attendance Matters

Every student. Every day.

Foundation & Key Stage 1

Puffins	64.7
Coral	68.0
Oysters	93.4
Seahorses	89.1
Mussels	92.6
Starfish	90.8

Key Stage 2

Turtles	67.0
Sunfish	91.1
Dolphins	94.1
Otters	91.5
Anglerfish	90.6
Orca	81.9
Angel Shark	81.5
Rays	88.7

The **highest class attendance** last week

Oysters in FS/KS1

Dolphins in KS2

GREAT ATTENDANCE



celebrate

love to learn

Together we

Y1 have been getting into the Christmas spirit! We have been making our own decorations, sewing and even making hats. We had a camp fire and s'mores with our friends as a very special treat! We all found a stick and roasted our marshmallows on the fire. We then squished them on a chocolate biscuit! It was very yummy and the perfect treat to end our first term in Y1!



Year 3 choir bubble were able to meet today. They enjoyed singing a range of Christmas songs. Their Christmas jumpers definitely matched their singing.



In Year 2 we have been busy learning about how to have a green Christmas. The children enjoyed learning about how to wrap presents using sustainable materials, such as brown paper and newspaper, as well as using natural resources such as leaves and flowers. We also discussed the impact of glitter and how this microplastic is destroying our ocean life. We loved wrapping up our presents!



Together we

love to learn



Joshua created this amazing piece of homework by making 'Big Ben'. This was part of our literacy unit in which we wrote non-chronological reports about London during the Great Fire of London and London now.



Year 5 have enjoyed designing and making some dips for their Christmas party this week. They were inspired by their 'Sustainable Development' topic to include seasonal ingredients and they also had the opportunity to practice their knife skills in the school kitchen.



In Year 4 we have been enjoying learning about Hinduism including Hindu deities (gods and goddesses). Saanvi has been helping us to learn about the Puja tray which is used in daily worship. She kindly shared with us the bindi, which is the red dot which is often used in worship. We all enjoyed having a bindi on our forehead, to help us to understand about the Hindu faith. Thank you Saanvi for sharing this.

Need to talk?

24/7

urgent mental health support for adults living in Plymouth

First Response 01752 434922

Livewell
Southwest

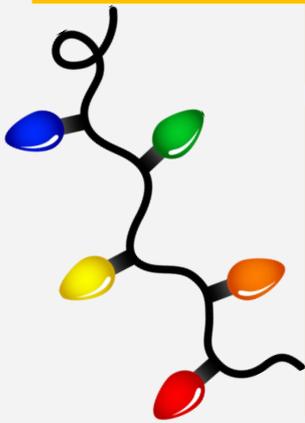
love to learn

Together we

During the last half term, Year 4 have been learning about different types of pollution and how we can minimise our waste to prevent further harm to our environment and in particular, our oceans and marine life. To help bring our learning to life, we enjoyed an educational visit to MVV Waste for Energy Plant and had great fun learning about what happens to our non-recyclable waste. During the trip, we took part in workshops learning about how the facility treats waste to generate renewable energy, the importance of the 3Rs (Reduce, Reuse and Recycle), took part in a quiz and undertook a tour of the facility.



Year 5 enjoyed accompanying a syncopated calypso rhythm in their last lesson on exploring rounds. Lots of year 5 students have been delighted that their singing skills and pitch control have improved.



Year 2 got to make some amazing moving vehicles this week. They worked in teams to design and create their vehicles. I think you will agree that what they produced was brilliant!



Together we

love to learn

Childhood and Toys

by Dexter and Riley W

TOYS

Some figurines are of men, children and animals, from elephants to turtles. Figurines of girls in dancing poses suggest that people enjoyed dancing. Some people found time to play games such as dice, marbles and board games, which have been discovered by archaeologists. Other toys made from terracotta were probably for children: miniature bullock carts, wheeled animals (some with nodding heads), rattles, spinning tops and puppets.



Childhood

Even if they didn't go to school, most children worked, even small children helped with daily tasks. Children were taught how to farm and hunt. It wasn't all work though. Children could play in the courtyards of houses, and probably on the flat roofs too. The roof could be a fun place to play. You could wave to your friends across the street. We don't know how many children went to school. A scribe would teach some children how to read and write and a priest would teach religious lessons.



The children in Year Six were challenged to research an aspect of Indus Valley life in order to discover more about the Indus Valley Civilisation (which they have been studying in their history lessons). They then created a poster/slideshow which displayed this research and was used to present their findings to the rest of the class.

★ Indus Valley Family Life

By Leila Nimmo and Lois Cunningham

The Indus people lived on the banks of the Indus river, the longest river in Pakistan. The first farmers lived near the river because it kept the land green and fertile for growing crops. These farmers lived together in villages which grew over time into large ancient cities, like Harappa and Mohenjo-Daro.

Houses

Indus people lived in comfortable houses built around courtyards. Stairs led to a flat roof where there was extra space to work and relax. Although there was not much furniture, the homes had wells for water and bathrooms with pipes that carried waste into the main drains.



Food

Wealthy Indus Valley families lived in Harappa. The Harappans grew lentils and other pulses (peas, chickpeas, green gram, black gram). Their main staples were wheat and barley, which were presumably made into bread and perhaps also cooked with water as a gruel or porridge.



Children

Children in the Indus Valley played with toys made of terracotta pottery. These toys included animals and carts with moving parts. The oldest dice in the world were found at Harappa. Archaeologists have also found grids which were used for board games and counters made of ivory.



FOOD AND FARMING

What did the Indus Civilisation grow?

The Indus people grew healthy foods such as wheat, barley and peas in the winter and rice, millet and tropical beans in the summer.



How did the Indus Civilisation grow crops?

The crops were grown by sunshine and rain but if not they used the water from rivers to moisten the plants and crops.



How long did they work for?

Being a farmer in the Indus civilisation, you would have to work 10 hours a day. Some people had to stop working due to injuries or getting ill. Even children used to take part in farming to help family members or elderly farmers.

Why did they farm?

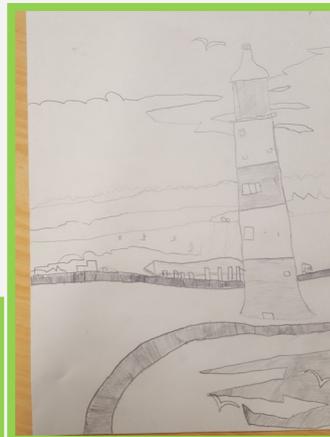
They farmed for food and to trade for money to stay alive. The Indus people traded for many other resources like lapis lazuli, colored gems, silver, gold, terracotta and beads. When they got food they thanked the earth for the seeds and would thank all the objects that helped.



BY JASMIN AND HARRISON



Year 3 have been really enjoying their art lessons this term. We have learnt about landscape art and considered the skills of line, tone and shading, as well as perspective. We looked at Plymouth landscapes and created our own fabulous pictures.



love to learn

Together we

We are Readers

This week we received a parcel of free books from Usborne Books. We were able to choose exciting new titles from the funds raised in the prize draw undertaken at the end of October. Thank you so much for generously buying raffle tickets as the books will be a welcome addition to our recently refurbished library.

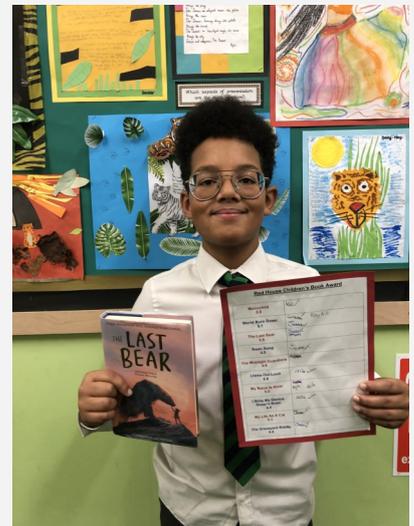
In Year 6, children have been voting on their preferred book for the Children's Book Award - the only national book award voted for solely by children. The children have loved helping to select the shortlisted books and voting on their overall preferred title. Jesse has a clear favourite and has voted for *The Last Bear* by Hannah Gold which he claims is 'absolutely amazing!'.

Year 5 have been enjoying their class story, *Who Let the Gods Out?* by Maz Stevens and we were able to capture the Orca class enjoying it being read aloud in their festive attire! Lastly, please keep encouraging your child to read over the Christmas period. Your child should have at least one book from school with them to enjoy over the holiday but you can also access free online books and audio books on these websites:

[Welcome to Open Library | Open Library](#)

[Epic | The Leading Digital Library for Kids | Unlimited Access to 40,000 of the Best Children's Books & Learning Videos \(getepic.com\)](#)

Happy Reading!



News & Events

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 issue of many which we believe trusted adults should be aware of. Please visit www.nationalonlinesafety.com for further guides, hints and tips for adults.

When parents and carers finally have the chance to spend some quality time with their child over Christmas, many face a familiar struggle to prise their young one's attention away from their phone, console, tablet or computer. Fun family bonding over the festive period, however, doesn't have to exclude devices. There are sackfuls of Christmas activities and ideas online which grown-ups and children can enjoy together. We've compiled our own 'nice list' of seasonal suggestions for how to ...

MAKE THE MOST OF THE ONLINE WORLD THIS CHRISTMAS

1 EAT, DRINK AND BE MERRY

Budding bakers will relish helping out in the kitchen with some tasty festive treats. Spend some time together researching child-friendly Christmas recipes online (the BBC Good Food site is an excellent place to start), and then you and your little elves can rustle up gingerbread bantams, marshmallow snowmen or reindeer shortbread. The only thing that's more fun is eating your creations afterwards!

WHEN THE SNOWMAN BRINGS THE SNOW...

2 THE OLD SONGS ARE THE BEST?

We've all had that Christmas compilation CD that was almost perfect, if it wasn't inexplicably missing one of your best-loved tracks. In this era of music streaming, however, your little helpers can assist you in compiling a definitive playlist of all your favourite seasonal songs – no more pining for The Pretenders or wishing for Wizzard.

3 DECK THE HALLS

There's no such thing as 'too many' Christmas trimmings! Let your child channel their excitement into some creative crafting, and you'll make memories as well as your own DIY decorations. There are loads of step-by-step guides online (including video walkthroughs on YouTube) for seasonal showpieces like paper plate angels, handprint wreaths and cupcake wrapper Christmas trees.

4 A WORLD OUTSIDE YOUR WINDOW

From turkey on the beach in Australia to roller-skating to church in Venezuela, Christmas is celebrated in a variety of ways worldwide – curious youngsters might enjoy discovering other nations' festive traditions online. Google's Santa Tracker is a brilliant (and free) starting point, with games, activities and animations to help children enjoy learning as they count down to the big day!

5 THE NEAR AND THE DEAR ONES

Between time constraints, distance, the weather and Covid precautions (or a combination of all four) for many families it just won't be possible to physically spend time with everyone they'd ideally like to this Christmas. Video calling technology, of course, takes some of the sting out of the disappointment by virtually transporting loved ones into your living room.

6 KIDS FROM ONE TO 92

If Santa's brought your young ones a console this year (or they already had one), it's a perfect excuse for some quality time while they gleefully trounce you at FIFA or Mario Kart. Digital versions of traditional board games like Monopoly and Cluedo are available on most platforms, too; get the whole household together for a modern take on some old-school family fun.

7 A WINTER'S TALE

Everyone enjoys a story at this time of year; after all, the whole celebration is based on an engrossing yarn. Sites such as Audible are an excellent way of entertaining excited young ones, with classics like Dickens' *A Christmas Carol* and seasonal short stories by Enid Blyton alongside more contemporary Christmas tales by the likes of Tom Fletcher, JK Rowling and Ben Miller.

8 CAN'T WAIT TO SEE THOSE FACES

People used to express their gratitude for a thoughtful Christmas gift with a thank you card or a dutiful phone call. Not in the digital age: now your relations can see first-hand on video calls how delighted the children are with their presents – and even how they look in that slightly questionable hand-knitted pullover.

9 BROUGHT ME SOME CORN FOR POPPIN'

Snuggling up against the winter weather with the family (and a generous helping of chocolates) to enjoy a well-loved movie is a delightful Christmas tradition. The usual streaming services have some classic candidates on offer: *Home Alone* and *The Santa Clause* are on Disney+, while Amazon Prime has *Elf* and *The Grinch*, and Netflix goes with *The Princess Switch* and *The Christmas Chronicles*.

10 GUESS WHAT I FORGOT?

Friends and family pitting their wits against each other on Zoom, Teams or Skype really took off during lockdown, so why not revive the tradition over the holidays? Your questions could be on the biggest news, sport and showbiz stories of 2021, or be Christmas themed, or you could stick to classic general knowledge. Ideal for those days between Christmas and New Year.

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News & Events



Picture News

at Home

13th December 2021

What's going on this week?



13th-19th December
Who are school performances for?

Things to talk about at home...

- Did you take part in a school play or concert this year? Was it online or in person? If you have experiences of both, which do you prefer?
- Do you enjoy performing in front of others in general?
- Do the adults you live with enjoy watching you perform?



EASY ECO TIPS



Emily and Faye have been fabulous Eco Champions in Yr4. They have been doing their own beach clean and were very surprised by all the things which they found. Well done to you both for making a difference and helping to clean our planet.

Thank you to Mrs Smith for sharing her homemade beeswax wrapping. What a great idea and so much cheaper to make it yourself. Such a great idea for wrapping up your sandwiches and fruit rather than using clingfilm.

Congratulations to Anglerfish for winning the classroom energy saving competition this term with 78 points. Also well done to Angel Sharks who came a close second with 71 & Starfish third with 63. Great energy saving everyone!

Sadly, Dartmoor Zoo are no longer able to take our crisp packets for recycling. However, the good news is that many supermarkets (Tesco & Co-op have confirmed) are now taking them along with other soft plastics. Please try to recycle these items at home.



Collective Worship

This term we will be revisiting our values of 'Collaboration' and 'Bravery'. We finished off our thinking around Anti-bullying this week by considering the difference we have made in school by being thinking deeply about what bullying is (and what it isn't) and how we can all work together to stop bullying completely.

What does school look like when it is bullying free?

Dates for your diaries:

04.01.21 Non pupil day.

05.01.21 First day back.



School Meals



SCAN ME

CATERed 
FEEDING AMBITIONS

School Money



SCAN ME



schoolmoney

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