



# Notes from the Vale

Friday 2nd May 2025

Volume 23, Issue 13

## Welcome from Mr Lewis-Cole

Welcome back to the summer term. How quickly is this year going? I do hope that you have a wonderful Easter break and were able to find time to relax and unwind after the busyness of last term.

It has been great to welcome everyone back and see them settle back into school routines quickly. We have already seen an exceptionally busy start to the new term with year 5 being out on residential, visitors in classes and sailing trips - to name a few. A huge thank you to the staff that went of the year 5 residential for looking after our pupils so brilliantly. The busyness is not likely to ease up either so please keep an eye out for messages about events involving your child. A big one for your diary is sports day. The letter sent out to families can be found [here](#) if you need more information about it.

### Spring fair

A huge THANK YOU to the wonderful PFTA for organising the Spring Fair which took place on the last day of term. It was great to see so many families supporting by coming along and visiting the external stalls and stalls organised by the PFTA. Keep an eye out on their Facebook page for other events coming up soon. I know that the PTFA would also love some extra volunteers: you can find out how to get involved by checking out their notice board at the front of the school.

### Class photos

Next Tuesday (6th May), we have Tempest visiting school to take class photos. Please ensure that all pupils come to school in full school uniform on the day. If it is a normal PE day for them, please bring PE kits into school.

### Statutory Assessments

As we enter the summer term, we complete our final preparations for the statutory assessments that take place over the coming months. The first is the year 6 SATs which take during the week of 12th May. The year 6's have been working exceptionally hard to prepare for these assessments and have made amazing progress. This is the final push now (with one week to go) so please ensure they are in school on time everyday and that they are well rested. Coming up afterwards, we have the year 1 Phonic Screening Check and the year 4 Multiplication Tables Check. Adults working within these year groups have been carefully preparing the children to coming these assessments and will continue to support them throughout. Whilst we understand that these may bring a little extra stress for pupils, they are an opportunity for them to demonstrate all that they have learnt. Please provide encouragement to read at home and be on TTRS regularly to ensure they are continually practising.

Remember that it is bank holiday Monday next week so school is closed. We look forward to seeing everyone on Tuesday 6th May.

**Together we are inspiring a community with a bright future.**

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

# Together we

## Congratulations



**Harris Cup**  
Isla



**Reading Cup**  
Mikey



**'H' Cup**  
Lakshit

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 regular and punctual attendance to school has a significant impact on a pupils life chances. Pupils that are well enough should be in school at 8.45am every day.



**Attendance Matters**

Every student. Every day.

### Foundation & Key Stage 1

Puffins	91.4%
Coral	94.5%
Seahorses	95.0%
Oysters	96.9%
Mussels	95.9%
Starfish	100%

### Key Stage 2

Turtles	94.4%
Sunfish	91.2%
Otters	92.9%
Dolphins	93.9%
Anglerfish	99.0%
Orca	96.9%
Angel Shark	96.8%
Rays	94.0%

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

**Starfish** in FS/KS1

**Anglerfish** in KS2

**GREAT ATTENDANCE**



**On Time Octopus**  
winning class:

**Oysters**

**Punctuality Penguin**  
winning class:

**Orca**



celebrate

# News & Events



Should music be part  
of every school day?

## Things to talk about at home...

- What type of music do you like to listen to? Ask someone at home—do you listen to the same type of music?
- How do music lessons make you feel? What parts do you enjoy/not enjoy?
- Do you think enough time at school is spent on music lessons?
- Have you ever learned, or would you like to learn to play an instrument?

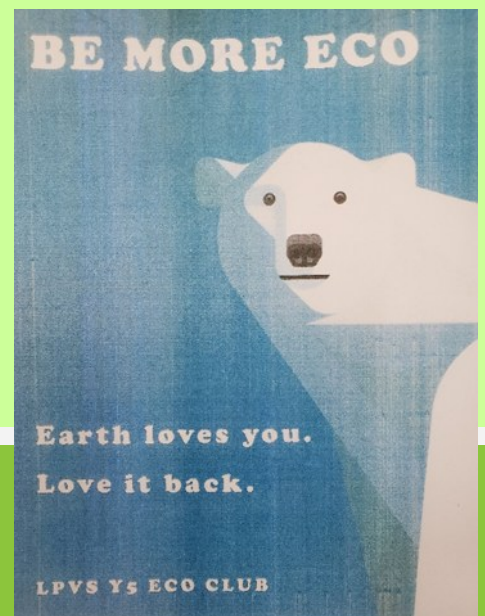


PLEASE, PLEASE, remember to put your litter in the bin and try not to accidentally drop it.

Despite our fabulous team of litter pickers, we are disheartened by all the litter that is still littering our school grounds and local community.

Thank you to all the amazing voluntary litter pickers across the community who go out and pick up litter and to our fabulous children who are working so hard to try and keep our school litter free. We want our community to look lovely and to keep our animals safe from consuming poisonous plastic wrappers.

Thank you for your support.





# Together we

# are musicians

Today we enjoyed using our new school piano in our orchestra practice. Thank you to our school community and our PTFA, who contributed greatly, allowing us to purchase this beautiful instrument.



The intermediate recorder group met this week to rehearse a piece ready for our weekly music assembly. Their performance was lively and used a new tricky rhythm pattern.



Austin performed a piece he has been learning on his violin, to his class this week. He has worked hard at making new notes by pressing down on the strings.



# Together we

This week in Year One, the children have been learning all about length and height. The children have enjoyed using rulers, blocks and rulers to measure different objects and themselves! They've done a fantastic job comparing items, using language like longer than, shorter than and taller than.

In English, the children have just completed their final piece of writing based on the book 'The Woolly Mammoth'. They've worked hard to create imaginative and descriptive pieces, using everything they've learned about writing instructions!

In geography, we've been discovering hot and cold deserts. We've explored both the Arctic and Antarctic, learning about the polar regions, as well as the Sahara Desert to explore what life is like in the heat. The children particularly enjoyed learning about the characteristics of different animals and how their special adaptations help them survive!

love to learn





# love to learn

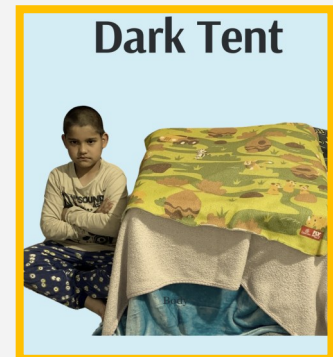
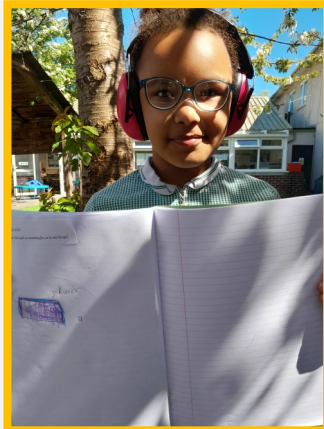
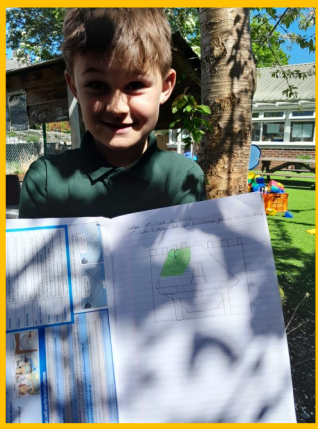
Together we

Year 3 kicked off their brand new science unit on light this week!

We began by discovering a fundamental fact: we need light to be able to see. To test this out, the children got creative and designed their very own dens to block out all light and create complete darkness.

Once outside, they explored what it's like to navigate using only their sense of touch and hearing—a fascinating challenge that really got them thinking about how much we rely on our eyes every day.

The children were then challenged to build their dens at home to see if they could block out all of the light there too.



Dark Tent

# Together we

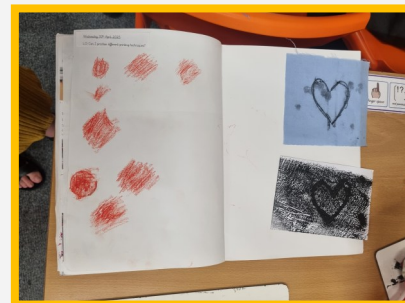
# love to learn

There was great exciting in Foundation this week as Keith (the tortoise) had a great adventure. Pupils have loved engaging in new learning linked to our topic this term 'Great Gardeners'.



This term's art is all about printing. Monoprinting to be precise!

This week we explored how well different surfaces would be if we printed on them. A firm favourite was fabric and we had some amazing pictures on them! Next week, we'll be looking at William Morris as our inspiration for our final project. We wonder what ideas will form from his artwork.





This half term, Year 4 started a new science unit learning about sound and how sounds are made.

We discovered that sounds travel through any medium containing particles, such as solids, liquids and gases but that sounds travel more efficiently through solids than the air around us. We then tested this idea by creating paper cup telephones using paper cups and string.





# love to learn

Together we

## We are Readers

### Author Visit for Years 3, 4 and 5

We're excited to welcome author **Joffre White** to our school on **Wednesday 21st May** for a special visit with our Key Stage 2 children. Joffre will be speaking about the importance of reading, literacy, and creative writing, aiming to inspire a lifelong love of words. Throughout the day, he'll lead a fun and engaging workshop designed to spark imagination and creativity. The visit will conclude with a **book signing session**, giving children the opportunity to meet the author and take home a signed copy of his work.

Further details will be shared with families next week. [Joffre White](#)



### Free online reading magazine - WRD

WRD is a fantastic free magazine for children aged 8–14, designed to spark and support a love of reading. Each issue is packed with book extracts, author interviews, engaging features, and fun activities—all tailored to young readers. It's a great way for children to discover new books and deepen their interest in reading.

The latest issue is available to read online for free here: [--// WRD Magazine //--](#)

### Children's Books Celebrating Neurodiversity

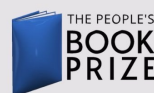
Veronica Price, a former school librarian and now a health librarian, has curated a thoughtful selection of children's books that explore themes of neurodiversity or feature neurodivergent main characters. Many of these books are written by authors with lived experience of neurodivergence. Each title has been personally read and reviewed by Veronica, making this a trusted and valuable resource for families looking to broaden their bookshelves with inclusive stories.

[Children's Books on the subject of neurodiversity or featuring neurodivergent characters – V'sViewfromtheBookshelves](#)

### Book recommendations

We're passionate about encouraging a love of reading and want every child to find books that truly interest and inspire them. Thanks to feedback from our pupils and the thoughtful choices of our school librarians, our library is now stocked with a wide range of exciting new titles. If you're looking for book suggestions—whether for your child to enjoy independently or to read together at home—please don't hesitate to speak with your child's teacher. We're always happy to help!

Happy reading.

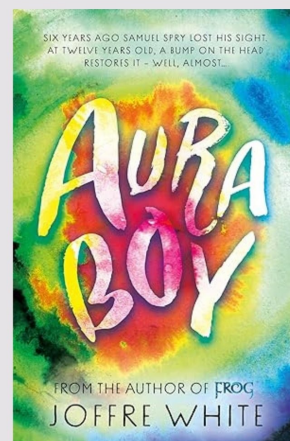


2024/2025

View the  
CHILDREN'S books  
in the 2024/2025  
collection  
on our website -  
and vote for  
your three  
favourites.

YOU are the judges!

Voting ends  
on the  
30th April 2025



# News & Events

Sponsored by:



children's hospice  
SOUTH WEST

The brightest fun  
run for everyone!

Saturday 21 June 2025  
RAF St Mawgan, Newquay

Sign up today!  
[www.chsw.org.uk/rainbow](http://www.chsw.org.uk/rainbow)

Raising vital funds for babies, children and  
young people with life-limiting conditions

Register early for up to 30% discount

rainbow  
RUN



Making the most of short and precious lives across the South West  
Registered Charity No. 1003314





# News & Events

**Plympton Academy**  
Inspired. Your World.

**NEW FOR 2025**

## PLYMPTON ACADEMY OPEN MORNINGS

Scan the QR code, Call or email to register your interest for:

Tues 29th April	Wed 21st May	24th / 25th June Open Days	Sept Open Day TBC	Tues 14th October	Scan to Book
09:15	09:15			09:15	
10:15	10:15			10:15	

0333 360 2220 | [www.plympton.academy](http://www.plympton.academy) | [Office@plymptonacademy.org.uk](mailto:Office@plymptonacademy.org.uk)

## UPDATE YOUR DETAILS



If you have recently changed any contact information (phone number, address etc) please let the school know so that we can update our records. We have added a simple online form to our website which you can complete (in seconds) to notify us of any changes.

my **child** at **school**.com



Scan the QR code to be taken to our MCAS launch page. Reset your password to activate your account.

## Military Family Fun Day!

**SAT 7TH JUNE**  
**10.00-15.00**

**Open to all military, veteran and current FF Junior Field Gun families.**

**£3 Entry Per Family**

**School Field Gun Friendlies: Practice runs ready for Armed Forces Day. To book your school's place email:**

**[tab.hunter@futurefitjuniorfieldgun.co.uk](mailto:tab.hunter@futurefitjuniorfieldgun.co.uk)**

Hele's School,  
Sports Dome  
Seymour Road  
Plymouth  
PL7 4LT

- Bouncy Castle
- Face Painting
- Aggies
- We Do Football
- AND MORE!

**BYO Picnic**

**For more information email Lily at [INFO@MKCHEROES.ORG](mailto:INFO@MKCHEROES.ORG)**



[www.mkcheroes.org](http://www.mkcheroes.org)

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

# Collective Worship

The first week of this term had a 'eco' focus. Collective Worship was led by Mrs Hardy who extended our thinking about how we can all work together to help our planet by making small changes in our every day lives.

This week, we focused on what we mean by perseverance and motivation. We consider how we might demonstrate perseverance and how we can be intrinsically and extrinsically motivated to achieve things that we might find challenging.

**What motivates you?**

## Dates for your diaries:

5.5.2025	Bank Holiday
6.5.2025	Tempest Class Photos
12.5.2025	KS2 SATs week (Mon - Thurs)
16.5.2025	Wonder Zoo Racism workshop
21.5.2025	KS1 Sports Day
	KS2 Author Visit
22.5.2025	KS2 Sports Day
23.5.2025	PTFA Mufti
WB 26.5.2025	Half term
2.6.2025	Non Pupil Day
WB 2.6.2025	MTC assessments (Year 4)
WB 9.6.2025	Phonic assessments (Year 1)
16.6.2025	Year 3 Roman Day
Wb 16.6.2025	Year 6 Residential
25.6.2025	Year 6 Charles Darwin Day
27.6.2025	PFTA Mufti Day & Festi-Vale
14.7.2025	Whole School Cricket Event
23.7.2025	Last day of academic year



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



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



[lipson.vale.primary.school@plymouth.gov.uk](mailto:lipson.vale.primary.school@plymouth.gov.uk)

Lipson Vale Primary

