

'A family where we flourish and learn to be the best version of ourselves'



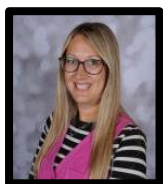
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Issue 28



Dear Parents and Carers,

I hope you all had a lovely Easter holiday. It's been lovely welcoming the children back to school this week, and we've enjoyed welcoming the sun, too! The children have quickly got stuck into their new curriculum topics this week, and have shown some good recall of their previous learning, too.

Some of our classes also got to take part in a Logging and Sawmill event at Longtimber Woods as part of the River and Moorland project. In a few weeks, Oldaport and Riverside will be taking part in the next stage of the project. We're very excited to be involved and are looking forward to taking part in the carnival on Saturday 6th June.

Our Year 3 and 4 children are really looking forward to their residential next week. You should have received a message via MCAS detailing the final arrangements, but please do contact the office should you have any questions.

I hope you have a great weekend.

With best wishes,

Mrs Penhallurick

School meal ordering - Reminder

Please remember to order your child's school meal in advance, either daily or weekly. We've recently seen an increase in pupils arriving without a pre-booked lunch. This can limit children's meal choices on the day and makes it much more difficult for us to plan and order the correct ingredients.



From Mr Jolliffe

Welcome back to school and to the start of the summer term. There are always lots of exciting events taking place in our schools during the last term of the school year, including all the rites of passage for our Year 6 leavers. Before that though, there are SATs to think about for the Year 6 children. The DfE has published some useful information about what parents need to know about the tests and answers some questions you may have, as well as giving dates for the different tests. This can be found on the DfE Education Hub by following this link [KS2 SATs 2026: What parents need to know – The Education Hub](#).

Attendance reminder

Schools are required to send a letter about attendance from Devon County Council twice a year. This letter is attached to this week's newsletter. Overall, attendance levels at federation schools have been broadly in line with county attendance but we don't want this to slip as we come into the summer term. There is a Staff Development Day on Friday, 26th June which gives families an opportunity to have a long weekend away, so please take advantage of this rather than taking days out of school.

Thank you for your support in helping us provide the best service for all pupils.

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Meadowsfoot



Meadowsfoot Class have had a brilliant start to the summer term. On Tuesday afternoon they set off on an adventure with the Woodland Trust, where they were delighted to meet Beano the horse and watch him skilfully pull heavy logs up the path. The children explored the trees up close before tackling a super-steep climb to the sawmill, showing great determination along the way. Their gentle walk back to school gave them the perfect chance to notice the

changing world around them. What a wonderful first week back!



Learners of the week

Meadowsfoot - George for building tall towers with his friends.

Mothecombe - Grace for her effort in English.

Riverside - Ella-May for her positive attitude and effort in all subjects.

Oldaport - Zoe for her deep thinking in whole class reading.

Mothecombe

Mothecombe have been delighted to welcome three new members to our class this week. We have enjoyed creating our class version of the Billy's Goats Gruff and coming up with new ideas. In maths we have explored tally's, charts and block diagrams. We have collected data about our class and presented this in all 3 ways! Who knew how popular the colour blue was! On



Tuesday we had a lovely experience at The Logging and Sawmill in Longtimber. After our walk up we learned about how trees are cut down to allow for other trees to grow larger. We learned about the numbers painted on them and how to tell how old the tree is. It was great to watch the saw in action as they turned a cylindrical tree trunk into cuboid boards. Then we walked down towards the old swimming pool and got to meet Beano and Penny the two horses who are part of the logging process. We were amazed by their strength and ease to pull the large logs through the woods. We had lots of fun trying as a class to move the log which we did manage to move just a short distance! Finally, we took part in some activities using our senses. We identified leaves and then took part in trust games! Thanks to The Woodland Trust for inviting us, we had a lovely time!

Values of the week

Meadowsfoot - Yalda for showing compassion to her friends.

Mothecombe - Tommy for persevering even when he's feeling down.

Riverside - Delilah for her perseverance in learning and being such a kind friend.

Oldaport - Perseverance to Anais for always taking on advice and applying it.

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Riverside



It was lovely welcoming all the children back on Monday and hearing about their fantastic Easter Break. It certainly sounds like they enjoyed some brilliant time with friends and family. This week, we had the wonderful opportunity to visit Longtimber Woods to work with the Woodland Trust. The children were thrilled to meet two magnificent shire horses and watch them demonstrate their impressive skills in moving logs through the woodland. Riverside then took on the challenge of working together to move a log themselves and they succeeded

brilliantly! The children also visited the sawmill, where they learned how the wood is cut and discovered how this forms part of a sustainable woodland project. In English, the children have begun planning their own stories inspired by *The Firebird*. Their ideas have been imaginative and exciting, and I am very much looking forward to sharing their finished stories with you. A big thank you to all parents who continue to support reading at home and sign the children's reading records. Each time your child reads at home, they earn a raffle ticket for our Friday draw, where they have the chance to win some lovely reading prizes.

On Monday afternoons, we have Forest School. Please ensure your child has a change of clothes, suitable footwear, a sun hat, and a coat so they are prepared for all weather conditions.



Oldaport



In Oldaport, we have begun our new English unit based on *How the Whale Became* by Ted Hughes. The children have explored the key "grammar ingredients" used to create this style of fiction and have applied rich vocabulary to describe the different characters within the story. In French, we have started our new topic on healthy lifestyles. This week, the children learned the names of a variety of foods in French and

developed a strong understanding of why these foods are important for maintaining a balanced diet. In Maths, we have been focusing on decimals, fractions, and percentages, with a particular emphasis on understanding equivalence between them.



Year 5 and 6 Residential visit

Great Western Railways have altered the times for our return to Ivybridge on 19th June and we will now be arriving at 16:21.

Reader of the Week Certificates:

Meadowsfoot	Sapphire
Mothecombe	Orlaith
Riverside	Gracie
Oldaport	Neve

Reading with your child at home is one of the simplest and most powerful ways to support their learning. Just a few minutes each day helps build language skills, confidence, and a love of books, while also creating special time together. Talking about the story, pictures, or characters makes reading even more meaningful and fun for children.

We appreciate your support with reading at home and ask that you please log any reading that you do in your child's reading log. Thank you



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Diary Dates

Date	Event	Time
Mondays	Forest School starts for Riverside	
Monday 27 th April	PTFA meeting	3:30pm
Wed 29 th – Fri 1 st May	Year 3/4 Residential to Adventure Okehampton	
Monday 4th May	Bank holiday – school closed	
Mon 11 th – Thurs 14 th May	SATs week	
Wednesday 20 th May	Bags to School – am only (NEW DATE)	9am
Friday 22nd May	Last day of term	
Monday 1st June	Children return to school	
Saturday 6 th June	Ivybridge Community Festival Parade – more details to follow	
Monday 15 th June	Sports Day – more details to follow	
Weds 17 th – 19 th June	Year 5 and Year 6 residential	

Term dates

Summer term 2026

Monday 20th April to Friday 22nd May

Monday 1st June to Wednesday 22nd July [Staff Development Day 26th June]

Autumn term 2026

Thursday 3rd September to Friday 23rd October [Staff Development Days 3rd and 4th September]

Monday 2nd November to Friday 18th December [Staff Development Day 27th November]

