

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



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Issue 30



Dear Parents and Carers,

We hope you all enjoyed the bank holiday on Monday. In yesterday's assembly, we celebrated Sir David Attenborough's 100th birthday, reflecting on who he is, why he is considered a national treasure, and the many ways he inspires people to care for our planet. The children also shared some of their favourite things about him. Happy birthday, Sir David Attenborough!

This week, our pupils have been working incredibly hard as we prepare for SATs week. We know they will give their very best next week, and we are so proud of their effort, determination, and positive attitude. We wish them all the very best of luck.

With best wishes,

Mrs Penhallurick

SATs Don't

SATs don't measure sports
SATs don't measure art,
SATs don't measure music,
Or the kindness in your heart.

SATs don't see your beauty,
SATs don't know your worth,
SATs don't see the reasons,
You were put upon this earth.

SATs don't see your magic,
How you make others smile,
SATs don't time how quickly,
You can run a mile.

SATs don't hear your laughter,
Or see you've come this far,
SATs are just a tiny glimpse,
Of who you really are.

So sitting at your table,
With a pencil and your test,
Remember SATs aren't who you are,
Remember you're the best!

Haydee Waldron Jones- 11/05/2018

Absences calls reminder

If your child is absent from school, you must contact the school on each day of their absence to inform us of the reason. When your child is absent, please call 01752 892247 and press 1 to leave a message or 2 if you would like to speak to the office.

Please ensure that you call the school office as soon as possible each morning your child is not attending. Providing a clear reason for the absence helps us maintain accurate attendance records and ensure the safety and wellbeing of all pupils.

Thank you for your cooperation.



From Mr Jolliffe

Many thanks to all the parents who responded to the parent survey last term. We had a total of 142 responses, which gives a really strong guide to what is going well and what to focus on for the coming year. A short summary of the parent survey is attached to this week's newsletters and will be used to help shape the focus areas for next year's development plans.

Learners of the week

Meadowsfoot - Bertie for enthusiasm when writing.

Mothecombe - Meadow for her amazing use of money.

Riverside - Jaxon for his wonderful story based on the Firebird.

Oldaport - Davyd for his excellent language used in our shared story.

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Meadowsfoot



EYFS have been revisiting the number 5 this week, working on recalling the different parts that make 5 and challenging themselves to be super speedy with their number facts. In the afternoons, the children have been thinking about trees and why they are so important, spending time observing the trees around our school and noticing how they change through the seasons. On Friday, we also celebrated David Attenborough's 100th

birthday by reading about his incredible life, watching some classic Planet Earth clips and sharing lots of fascinating animal facts - a perfect end to a nature-filled week.



PTFA – Ice lollies

The PTFA have stocked up on ice lollies and will be selling them on the playground on Friday afternoon at home time. They plan to do this where possible every Friday if our weather allows them too. Lollies will be 50p each and this will be payable with cash only please.



Mothecombe

It may have been a short week but Mothecombe have achieved so much. In Maths we have been exploring money, we can identify different coins and investigate their value. At first this was tricky as we overcame that a tiny coin can have a larger value than a large coin. We had great fun in Mothecombe's shop taking on the role of shop keepers and customers. It was interesting to see the different ways that customers can use to make the same payment! We even counted out one hundred pennies to show how many are in a pound! In English we have started our new text 'Sylvia and Bird'. We explored the friendship issues within the book and started to think about our likes and dislikes. We have also concentrated on handwriting and they have impressed me so much. Some year 2s have begun to join their writing now with increasing confidence and year 1 are working hard to keep their letters a consistent size and with the correct formation. We had a fun PE lesson exploring cannons in dance. We felt it would be a missed opportunity to not do a party dance to warm up and cool down!



Our Green Schools –14th May- Meeting Link

Join parents and teachers from across the federation to share ideas on making the most of the landscapes that surround us, increasing outdoor learning, and becoming greener schools. This parent-led session, supported by Mr Jolliffe is a chance to hear about national developments, celebrate what's already happening, and explore future ideas.

No further commitment required. Sign up will help give us an idea of interest but the link to join the meeting is here: meet.google.com/kyt-pwuq-sfo

Sign up:

<https://forms.office.com/pages/responsepage.aspx?id=5IEenRCy2p0W1WtFjIJvYhUeuJ7LqcbtMqssEGaoZ7NVUOUU0VVcyUVQ3OU00Nkg2M1paSkozWkQyUi4u&route=shorturl>

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Values of the week

Meadowsfoot - Roo for his perseverance in maths.

Mothecombe - Violet for her resilience using money.

Riverside - Harrison, for showing fantastic perseverance in his history learning.

Oldaport - Trust is awarded to Wiley for always following instructions.

Riverside



In English, the class has been busy writing their own *Firebird* stories. I have been so impressed with their perseverance in producing a longer piece of writing. Their stories are full of imaginative plots, rich description and engaging ideas.

In science, we have been learning about famous inventors and scientists. So far, the

children have discovered several scientists who played an important role in identifying plant species, helping us understand why the UK now has such a wide variety of plants from around the world. They were also fascinated by the life and work of Marie Curie, particularly how her discoveries of polonium and radium, along with her development of X-ray technology, transformed modern medicine. Last week, the children completed their residential. It was wonderful to see them face their fears, try new challenges and enjoy such positive social time with their friends.

A gentle reminder that it is Forest School on Monday. Please ensure your child comes in with appropriate clothing for the weather/woods – it's currently predicted to be mostly dry with the chance of a light shower.



Oldaport



This week, Oldaport class have been writing a shared piece based on *How the Leopard Got Its Spots*. They have focused on adding dialogue to help advance the action, ensuring that it is punctuated correctly. In PSHE, we have been exploring what enterprise means and how children can earn and manage money to pay for items they would like. We have also begun looking at in-app purchases, discussing how money can be spent within apps and games, and how to make

safe and sensible choices. In music, we have been learning about what defines musical theatre and how songs can reveal character traits or help to move the story forward.



Reader of the Week Certificates:

Meadowsfoot	Katie
Mothecombe	Logan
Riverside	Heidi
Oldaport	Hayden

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	
Mon 11 th – Thurs 14 th May	SATs week	
Wednesday 20 th May	Bags to School – am only	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	
Wednesday 10 th June	Tempest Class Photos to be taken – during school day	
Monday 15 th June	Sports Day – more details to follow	
Weds 17 th – 19 th June	Year 5 and Year 6 residential	
Friday 26th June	Non pupil day	
Thursday 2 nd July	Year 6 pupils to visit Ivybridge Community College	
Friday 10 th July	Whole school beach trip – more details to follow	
Wednesday 15 th July	KS2 Production – 2:30pm and 5:30pm	
Monday 20 th July	Whole school disco	4:30pm
Monday 20 th July	Year 6 leavers' disco	5:30pm
Tuesday 21 st July	Leavers' service – details to follow	9:30am

Mrs Carole Shilston

After nearly 27 years at Whimble, ten of those as head, Mrs Shilston has decided it is the right time to hand over the reins to someone else and will be leaving her post as Head of School at the end of this term. Over the time she has been at Whimble, she has worked with many children and given them a great start to their education.

The Federation's Governing Board are advertising my post with the hope of recruiting a new Head of School ready for September and is confident it will attract a high-calibre candidate to lead the school forward. Should a permanent appointment not be confirmed in time, the Federation's Governing Board has a robust contingency plan in place to maintain leadership, a great benefit of being part of a federation of schools.

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]