



Mr Luxford's 'Hello'...

Welcome back after our half-term break, I hope everyone managed some time in the Autumn sunshine. The Luxford Gang went 'coasteering' in Newquay, which involved traversing cliffs, swimming in caves and jumping off a cliff into the cold sea, which was surprisingly enjoyable! Thank you to all those who could attend our celebration assembly, there will be another one at the end of this half-term but in school rather than in Church as in previous years. However, we are all hoping to sing carols in Church as a whole school and all will be welcome to join us. Here comes another rewarding half-term...



Reminders: We would ask that children **do not wear jewellery** to school (other than small stud ear-rings), largely due to health and safety reasons. Can we also say **no to cat's ear head bands**—there have been several accidents caused. Thank you for your support.

Dates for your diary: **THIS FRIDAY 02/11/18: The Hoot (PTFA) 'Halloween Party' (3:30 - 5:30 pm) in the school hall. Bring any entries for the 'Best Carved Pumpkin' competition into school for judging in the morning - super entries last year. Tickets from Fleur (Alfred's mum).**

09/11/18: Flower displays will be going up in Church for the Remembrance Centenary Flower Festival—each class will be completing a World War One themed arrangement.

16/11/18: Children in Need '**Onesie and Wellie**' walk - a letter and sponsorship form will go home near the time. We raised £600 for Children in Need last year with a muddy ramble!



Ofsted Report: You will find our Ofsted report published within the next few days at: <http://reports.ofsted.gov.uk>. There is a lot to feel proud of in the report, with strengths that illustrate a positive culture that will sustain progress and serve our children and community well, now and into the future. I apologise to all our children and families that we were not quite able to secure a grading of 'Good' on this occasion, with our maths not reaching National Expectations, but I know that we are a school confidently moving onwards and upwards each day. As a team, our eyes remain firmly and unwaveringly set on raising standards and creating opportunities for our children whilst taking the utmost care over their personal development. Indeed, the Lead Inspector was highly positive and urged us to seek re-inspection next Autumn, so watch this space.

Some key strengths:

- The current headteacher and leaders have an accurate understanding of the strengths and weaknesses of the school. Their actions are beginning to bring about the necessary improvements.
- Children in early years, including those in the relatively new pre-school provision, get off to a good start and make good progress in building their knowledge, skills and understanding. **Early Years graded GOOD.**
- Pupils behave well in lessons and around school. The school is a happy place that is well supported by parents and carers and the local community. **Personal wellbeing and behaviour graded GOOD.**
- The emotional well-being of pupils is a priority in the school. This is a strength of the school and appreciated by the pupils. As a result, they develop confidence and resilience.
- The governing body is working effectively with senior leaders to monitor and challenge leadership at all levels to improve the school.
- Teachers place a clear emphasis on the core values for life. Pupils talk about how these make them more responsible and caring members of the school. Pupils are safe, and feel safe, at school.
- Pupils' attendance is above the national average.

Some key areas for improvement:

- Governors and senior leaders should ensure that the quality of leadership improves, so that middle leaders in English and mathematics raise pupils' attainment and progress in their areas of responsibility.
- In reading, pupils require a stronger grasp of the skills of comprehension, inference and deduction.
- Pupils need to spell with increasing confidence and accuracy in their writing.
- Even greater use of the skills of reasoning/problem-solving to support good mathematical development.

Information Evenings - please come

We are lucky to have very supportive families and so want to ensure we have shared tools to help you help your child! Please come along to a brief information evening after school:



Year 1/Reception phonics—TOMORROW @ 4pm in Snowy

Year 6 - THURS 8TH NOV. @ 3.30PM in Eagle Owls class.

Year 2 THURS 8TH NOV. @ 4PM in Tawny Owls class.

Attendance for Autumn 1

Whole school: 97.64%

Eagle Owls = 98.83%

Tawny Owls = 96.99%

Snowy Owls = 96.56%

A super start, thank you!

Safeguarding matters: Firstly, we would like to re-state that safeguarding our children is a whole community duty and if you see something that concerns you, either on school grounds or beyond, then let us know. Our school Designated Safeguarding Leader is Mr. Luxford, with Mrs. Weatherston and Mrs. Rofe as Deputies. Two further level 3 trained safeguarding leads are Mrs. Jones and Mrs. Bird. However, you can report concerns to any member of staff and they will duly pass this on. School is supported by the Devon Safeguarding Team (MASH—Multi-agency safeguarding hub), who will usually ask that we share any concerns we feel with a family before seeking their advice. You can contact MASH on 0345 1551071.



Dropping off arrangements: We are concerned to see some children being dropped off at the corner of the road in the morning. Please can you use school layby or car park before supervising safe crossing of the road. We appreciate parents encouraging children to be independent when entering the school building on their own.

Water bottles and healthy snacks: We supply every child with a water bottle and encourage them to drink throughout the day, amid Devon reports that bowel and bladder issues are on the rise in young children.

Snowy Owls Theme is...We are Special!



Snowy Owls are learning about how special they are this term. We have started the term with preparing a birthday party for snowy owl along with finding out about our own birthdays! We have shared family photographs and discussed the differences in them, such as the different

pets and siblings we have.

In science we are learning to name our body parts along with comparing the differences in eye colour, hair colour, height, age and shoe size. Little Owls have also joined in the fun!



Tawny Owls Theme is...All the world's a stage!

Tawny Owls are learning about the life and times of William Shakespeare as part of their topic. We were visited by William Shakespeare himself (aka Mr Luxford in costume) and found out a little about who he was and what he is famous for. We have created family trees and written fact files about him. We were all surprised to discover that he was born and died on the same day, April 23rd, just 52 years apart. One concept we are pondering is the idea that ladies or girls weren't treated the same when Shakespeare was alive. The girls in Tawny Owls definitely haven't liked that idea, but the boys didn't seem as worried!



Eagle Owls Theme is...Angry Anglo Saxons!

This will include learning all about the timeline of events that led up to their invasion of Britain and where they came from. We will also be learning in all sort of way, about their impact on Britain (after the Roman occupation), along with their way of life and cultural beliefs. Our topic this half term will lead up to how the Anglo Saxons dealt with the Viking invasion of Britain.



And in other news...a huge thank you for the volunteers who made outdoor play equipment for our Early Years children—you are wonderful!



⇒Mrs. Weatherston battled the paperwork to secure a £2000 contribution from Tesco, which she has invested in a super range of outdoor play equipment. Ofsted loved our school grounds and could see the children were happily making the most of it! Our ambition is to keep building and improving. A big thank you to HOOT (PTFA) for all their support with this.

⇒Behaviour systems: We have re-introduced a traffic light warning system, which has clear rules and language around it, which we believe will be more helpful to the children.

⇒Devon County plan on putting a new roof on the school between October and January, and so we will keep you posted with regard to entrance and site safety, which will be a prime concern for all school staff.



Attendance Matters: We look forward to your support again this year with regard to attendance and know you are all aware of the huge difference regular attendance makes to your child's outcomes. We set a school target of 97%. Pupil attendance at Milton Abbot School is monitored constantly throughout the academic year, with regular challenge from the Educational Welfare Team. We contact families if attendance falls below 93% to advise the need to improve attendance. Government guidelines for requested absence from school are very strict and options to authorise absence extremely limited. In fact, the Education Act means that a school can no longer authorise absences during term time, unless under exceptional circumstances. For all requests for term time absence parents should complete an L5 request form, which can be collected from the office or sent home via your child. Medical appointments should be supported by letters from hospital/dentist, and we know you endeavour to make appointments for after school or towards the end of the day when possible. Punctuality is also monitored and recorded, so please notify the office by 08:30 at the latest if your child is going to be late or absent due to illness. This can be done via email or by leaving a message on the answerphone, which we routinely pick up.

Quote of the week: "Darkness cannot drive out darkness; only light can do that. Hate cannot drive out hate; only love can do that." Martin Luther King.