



Milton Abbot Primary School

Newsletter

How beautiful has the weather been! It has been wonderful to see the children make the most of the glorious sunshine. Milton Abbot is so fortunate to have such fabulous grounds that provide so many learning opportunities. Mrs Curtis is currently training as a forest school teacher which will enhance the children's learning outside even more.

We have spent a considerable amount of time reviewing the current curriculum and have decided that we will move away from recording science,



history and geography in one book and will use separate books for history geography and RE. This will help children recall their previous learning and prepare them for their next stage of their education. Children will be provided with knowledge organisers for geography history and science which will identify key terms, vocabulary and events to learn for each unit. These will be shared at home, enabling you to understand more about the content of what your child will be learning. Support for the curriculum has been provided by Dartmoor Academy Trust.

After School Club

We are delighted with the provision for after school club run by Miss Jonas. Children are loving the less formal structure and are given more choice of activity and the opportunity to play outside exploring our beautiful grounds (weather permitting).



SATs & Assessments

Year 6 SATs Arrangements

Year 6 will be doing their SATS in the week beginning 9th May. We want to make sure they are well prepared. I will be holding a revision club for Year 6 on Thursdays after school beginning on the 31st March. It would be great if all Year 6 could attend to make sure they do as well as they possibly can.

This is an opportunity to revisit parts of the maths curriculum they are unsure of and discuss the various types of questions that will be addressed throughout their assessments. The club is very informal and is aimed in building the children's confidence to answer each question as best as they can drawing on the knowledge they know, and they know lots! For further information about year 6 SATs week (Monday 9th – Thursday 12th May) please use this link: <https://youtu.be/dlBCj1QoEIE>

Year 2 SATs Arrangements

The children in year 2 will also carry out a range of assessments in reading, spelling, grammar and mathematics. These will take place within the month of May and will support teacher assessments made throughout the year.

For further information about the tests, please use this link: <https://youtu.be/cuXJidYP7-0>

Year 1 Phonics Screen Check

Children in year 1 will have a phonics reading assessment during the week beginning Monday 6th June. The assessment will be carried out by the class teacher and will check the children's ability to read a range of words using the phonics sounds they have been taught. For more information, please use this link: <https://youtu.be/LbKGLJPp6ww>

Year 4 Multiplication Tables Check

Children in year 4 will have multiplication tables checks during the month of June. The check will assess the children's fluency in their recall of their times tables from 2 to 12. For more information, please use this link: Multiplication tables check: information for parents (text version) - GOV.UK (www.gov.uk)

If you would like to discuss any of the assessment arrangements, please speak to myself or your child's class teacher.

Covid

As you are aware, we have had cases of covid reported across the school this week and are following guidance from public health England. Staff are continuing to test twice a week and regular handwashing and sanitising will continue to be part of our daily routine. We will continue to monitor the situation carefully and keep parents updated next week.

Sunshine!

As the weather gets warmer please can we remind you to apply sun cream to your child before school and to supply them with some that they can keep in their bag for top-ups on particularly sunny days.

We also ask that your child brings a hat and a water bottle in each day.



Parents evening

Parents evening meetings are taking place next week. With covid on the rise we ask that you attend wearing a mask if possible and we will make sure we have hand sanitiser available too.

We look forward to meeting with you all!



Swimming!

Swimming sessions for Key Stage 2 will commence on Friday 29th April, letters will be going home shortly.

Safeguarding Staff

Designated Safeguarding Lead:



**Mrs Debbie Buckingham,
Acting Headteacher**

Deputy Designated Safeguarding Leads:



**Mr Greg Walkerdine,
Deputy Safeguarding
Officer**



**Mrs Jane Byrne, Chair of
Governors**

Parents' forum

A few weeks ago we hosted our first parents' forum. Our attempt at livestreaming was not without its faults, but we aim to get this rectified before our next meeting.

Families are keen to know more about the Dartmoor Multi-Academy Trust (DMAT) and this is something that we will arrange shortly to answer any questions and to give families more of an idea of how our current partnership works.

Another thing that came up was families would like to know who makes up our current Milton Abbot team. This includes staff who have been supporting us from the Dartmoor Multi Academy Trust (DMAT).

Milton Abbot Staff Team



Mrs Buckingham
Acting Headteacher



Mrs Underwood
Executive Principal DMAT



Mrs Stevens
Executive Principal DMAT



Mr Walkerdine
Eagle Owls Class
Teacher



Mrs Court
Tawny Owls Class
Teacher



Miss King
Barn Owls
Class Teacher



Miss Caulfield
Little Owls
Class Teacher



Mrs Baldwin
Barn Owls
Class teacher
(maternity leave)



Mrs Short
Teaching Assistant



Mrs Bird
Teaching Assistant



Miss Jonas
Teaching Assistant



Miss Young
Teaching Assistant



Mrs Evans
Teaching Assistant



Mrs Curtis
Teaching Assistant



Mrs Cork
Teaching Assistant



Mrs Scrivener
Teaching Assistant



Mrs Dowling
Tutor



Mrs Jinman
School Administrator



Bridget
School Cook

Little Owls

We have thoroughly enjoyed Forest School today, we had a go at the Japanese art of Hapa Zome; bashing flowers with a mallet to create a colourful pattern! We also planted some wildflower seeds and made beautiful labels to give as gifts for a special someone on Sunday. The children then used the left over pretty petals to make some lovely soups and potions!



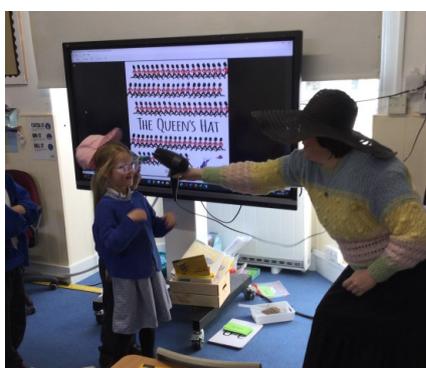
Barn Owls

It's been another wonderful week in Barn Owls.

In English, we have begun work on our new unit inspired by *The Queen's Hat* by Steve Antony. Of course, we had to experience the effects of wind!

In Maths, we've been looking at 2-D and 3-D shapes which has lead to some wonderful retrieval of prior learning. Great work team!

The highlight of the week though had to be bread! We made bread by hand (without causing the Great Fire of Milton Abbot, Samuel Pepys would be proud). Worth every bit of washing up we had to do!



Tawny Owls

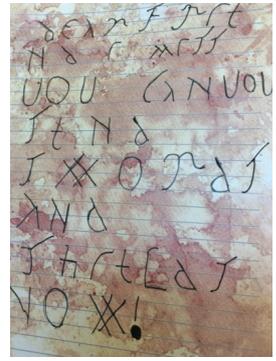
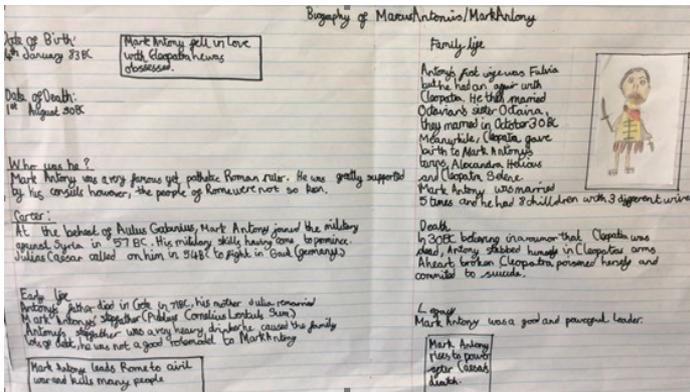
This week in Tawny Owls we have been working super hard, our focus within class has been improving our handwriting and overall presentation of our work.

In Maths we have been learning about perimeter, including how to measure and calculate perimeter of different 2D shapes.

In our English lessons, we have completed our biographies of historical figures linked to characters in Shakespeare's play 'Julius Caesar'.

Our History lessons this week involved learning about the Vindolanda tablets that were discovered along Hadrian's Wall in Northumberland. These tablets were letters written by the Roman legionnaires, the class mirrored the messages within these artefacts and had a go at writing in Latin to their loved ones and Consuls back in Rome.

In D&T we have started making and creating our Roman chariots. The class - and Mrs Court - have needed lots of elbow grease and arm-power when sawing and cutting the wooden bases and dowels!



Eagle Owls

Forest School

This half term, we have been spending time in our fabulous grounds completing forest school learning. The children have enjoyed revisiting 'Forest School' rules, looking at elements of what make a good shelter and today they used these skills to build 'cake' dens. A lovely day of outside learning.



Design and Technology

Eagle Owls spent this week's Design and Technology lesson getting into the full flow of the construction of their electronic board games. They have been using (and understanding the importance of) their design criteria to ensure their build flows a clear route to their ultimate vision. They have started to also include the electronic elements to their board game and wiring up their circuits. We are looking forward to finishing and evaluating them prior to inviting Tawny Owls to come and enjoy playing them.



English Writing

This half term, we have been focusing on Shakespeare and Macbeth. The children have really enjoyed learning all about this famous play script, the characters and the tragic plot. They have created impressive extended pieces of writing centred around