



### Milton Abbot Primary School – Every Child Achieving

#### *Moorland Hub update*

*The first few weeks of the academic year have seen the new Moorland Hub – Boasley Cross, Bridestowe, Lydford, Milton Abbot and Northlew – begin their journey of working together for the benefit of all our children. This week, children from the hub came together to form two teams at the Okehampton Area Year 5/6 football festival. All the children had a great time with friends being made – 2<sup>nd</sup> place for the Bridestowe/Milton Abbot team and 4<sup>th</sup> for the Boasley/Northlew team was a great achievement. The highlight of my day, was on leaving hearing a child say to a new friend “Thanks, mate, see you next week at the Cross Country!” – testament to the aim of building relationships in our small schools. Similarly, last week Year 3/4 Boasley children travelled to Bridestowe for a rugby festival.*

*Also this week, we have confirmed our annual trip to the Pantomime on December 13<sup>th</sup> where all 5 schools will come together for a fun Christmas celebration. Residential for Year 3/4, hosted at Bradford primary with outdoor activity and surfing in late June and Year 5 to Bristol at the end of June. These will include all Moorland Hub, Ruby Hub and Exbourne primary, bringing together all the small schools (Under 100 pupils) in Dartmoor Multi Academy Trust. Information sessions for the Trust wide Year 6 trip to France are also upcoming.*

*At Boasley this week, the first Stay and Play session was a huge success with 10 families joining the event. It was lovely to welcome new babies and toddlers to our school and meet new adults. Look out for similar events at all the Hub Schools.*

*Bridestowe welcomed Devon Wildlife Trust to the school with a focus on identifying trees from their leaves and making nature crowns – a lovely event to be part of! Forest school is an important focus for all Moorland Hub Schools.*

*At Lydford last Sunday, a family working party day attracted nearly 30 adults and children coming together to tidy the forest school. A fantastic event with real community spirit – thank you to all who took part. Look out for similar events at all the Hub Schools.*

*Northlew joined Boasley this week for a trip to Paignton Zoo – a fantastic day for all which mirrored Lydford’s trip last week. The children loved seeing the animals and exploring the sustainability messages.*

*Milton Abbot have been enjoying meeting new friends from the Hub this week and taking part in the aforementioned football with friends from Bridestowe was a real high. The team finished 2<sup>nd</sup>, only being pipped 1-0 by Okehampton C.*

*A final word to thank families for their support with positive attendance. I am aware my approach to attendance this term has caused some discussion, however I am pleased to report that the Moorland Hub has the highest attendance figures for the Trust with Bridestowe topping the table for attendance and the lowest amount of persistent absence. The evidence is irrefutable that high attendance directly correlates to positive achievement and I thank you for your continued support.*

*As ever, please feel free to contact me with comments, questions, or discussion.*

*Mr Hill*

**Whole School Attendance**

**95.15%**

## Stars of the Week

Ronni – for amazing homework.

Roamer – for his enthusiasm towards his learning



Harry M – for fantastic football skills.

Jack Y – for his excellent technical drawing.

Abbie Young – for brilliant maths work

Reading Raffle - Austin



**HOOT** Last chance to buy tickets before bingo tomorrow evening. Walk ins will be welcome but it would be great to know if you are coming so we can plan quantities of nibbles!

**Parents Evening Tuesday 10<sup>th</sup> & Wednesday 11<sup>th</sup> October**

If you haven't yet booked your parents evening slot please contact Mrs Jinman.

## Whole School Trip

We are excited to announce a whole school trip on the 13<sup>th</sup> of December to Exeter Northcott Theatre to see this year's pantomime, Dick Whittington. There are more details to follow, but at this point we are expecting it to cost approximately £10 a pupil, due to a generous donation by HOOT to help cover the full cost of the coach. Timings and more information will be available soon, but we see this as a fantastic opportunity for our children to have a shared experience and for our older children to support the younger children on the trip too. If you would be available to be an adult helper on that day and are happy to complete a volunteer DBS, please contact Mrs Jinman



## Owlets News

It's been an exciting week in the Owlets class as we delved headfirst into the enchanting season of autumn. Our little ones have been embracing the changing leaves with enthusiasm and wonder. Here's a peek into what we've been up to:

🍂 Embracing Autumn's Colours: The classroom has been buzzing with creativity as our Owlets crafted delightful leaf hedgehogs and created majestic autumn crowns.

📊 Mathematical Explorations: In our math lessons, we've been sorting natural resources, helping our young learners understand the world around them in a hands-on, engaging way. Learning through nature has been exciting and a great way to consolidate our new learning.

🦆 Quacking Questions: We had some special, feathered visitors this week – ducklings! Our curious Owlets were full of questions as they met these adorable little ducklings.

📖 Storytelling Magic: Open the Book guests captivated our Owlets with a live-action story. The children loved watching and sat beautifully throughout.

📝 Phonics Milestones: This week the children have been practicing sounds and have even taken their first steps into writing words. The Nursery children have been exploring sounds in their environment which has taken them outside listening to birds, wind and the swaying leaves.

🍂 Calling All Adventurers: We have a special request for our parents – if you come across any interesting natural resources (pinecones, acorns, conkers etc) during your adventures, please keep an eye out for our sign and basket on the gate. Our Owlets would love to explore and learn from these treasures you find.

Warmly, Mrs Collacott and the Owlets Team 🦉 🍁



## Snowy Owls

What a fabulous week we have had in Snowy Owls!

In maths, children have been developing their knowledge of placing tens and ones on a number line. We have had a great deal of fun with this, drawing number lines in chalk on the playground to ten, and one hundred!

In English, we have been learning all about our new book 'Dadaj's Paintbrush, developing our understanding of how to use apostrophes and questions whilst speaking and learning to understand and deal with our emotions.

In Art, we have started to work on our final piece focusing on 'line drawing'. Using the simplicity of drawing lines, we are working to create a piece of art based on water. We can't wait to show you all our final pieces.

## Hawk owls

This week in Hawk Owls we have been learning how to draw number lines up to 1000- 10,000 and how to estimate numbers on number lines.

We have been writing letters and character descriptions to the " Selfish Giant" and writing poems using personification of "Hail" and "Snow".

We have been celebrating the return of Rama and Sita from a Hindu story retelling the story and drawing Rangoli patterns in the small playground using different media.

Hawk Owls are also exploring and listening to the Latin language as it is part of our learning for our History topic. We can't wait to show you our books and all our work next week during parents evening. Wishing you all a wonderful sunny weekend. Mrs Manta and Ms Jonas.



## Eagle Owls News

On Monday, we had baby ducklings come in for assembly. They were 2 weeks old but one was one day older than the other. The teachers and children got to hold and pet the baby ducklings and everyone had a lot of fun but had to stay really quiet and silent because we didn't want to scare the baby runner ducks away. **(Ronni)**

We sat in a line and they raced each other. No one lost or won the race and they went wherever they wanted to go so they did and they were soft and they were runner ducks and they were babies and they were tall ducks for baby ducklings but they were excited ducks! **(Coen)**

On Tuesday, we did science. So basically, we were figuring out how to separate mixtures. We watched a cartoon video and there was a triangle who had a collection of manky, grotty toenails (they were pure yellow) mixed with sand, water mixed with sand, water mixed with salt and there was a challenge that was separating sand and salt. To separate the toenails and sand, you need a sieve to put the solids in, then you need to shake the sieve vigorously for the sand to go through the holes because the holes are bigger than the sand, however the toenails won't go through the holes, do you know why? If you don't, it is because the yucky toenails are bigger than the holes.

To separate the water and sand you have to filter it. You need filter paper to do it. You have to let the water go through the little hole at the bottom of the filter paper and the sand will stay in the paper. You have now earned yourself some pure water (just some realistic information, it would probably taste a bit sandy).

To separate salt and water you need to evaporate the water by boiling it. The water will turn into steam but the salt will not evaporate because it is a solid and solids don't evaporate. **(Harry F)**

On Thursday we played a football tournament at Okehampton primary school, we borrowed some players from Bridestowe primary School. Joey, Arthur and William. Joey's strength was midfield, Arthur's strength was striker and William's strength was defence. **(Leo C6)**

At football we had to get in the car then when we got there we did some practising before the match so we did some warm up and we did that because if we just did the match straight away we won't be that warm up very much and we did the football match at Oke football pitch we did some shooting running backwards then when the whistle blown we run forward and then we did a match and we teamed up with Bridestowe and we did 5 matches we had 8 players and we play the 5 matches. **(Leo C5)**

From Milton Abbot, Korben, Harry, Leo, Romer, Jack, Harry M, Leo C and I (Willoughby) went to a football tournament. Our coach was Mr Lumby. He was fantastic. 😊 We were supporting Northlew and Boasley Cross from the side lines. By far, Roamer cheered the most when I say cheered, he cheered! We did play them and won though. Okehampton school hosted it. **(Willoughby)**

Each game was twelve minutes long. There were six teams including Milton Abbot and Bridestowe: Okehampton had 4 teams: an A team, a B team, a C team and a D team. North Lew and Boasley Cross had a team too. Milton Abbot's coach was the marvellous Mr Lumby. The actual football tournament was held at Okehampton Primary School. Out of the five games we played we won 3 games, lost 1 game and drew 1 game. We came second out of the whole football tournament. Mr Lumby coached us very well, our teamwork was very good there were no arguments although it was quite hot we managed to push through to become 2nd place. Okehampton C team came 1st place because they did not lose or draw any of their games. In conclusion, we had a very good time and can't wait for the next football tournament. **(Korben)**

## The new PE coach

Our first lesson was very fun we played many games such as dodgeball a counting game and many more once we got to know him we started to understand his humour he did a lot of things in hand movement like when he moved his hand to the side we would all have to clap and when he pointed up or down we would have to stand or sit down then when sir came past he had a go at the game which was a game where you had to knock over some cones behind a rope it's sad because he is only here for 3 weeks but he may come back after (I hope he comes back ) oh yeah also if you were wondering, his name is Chris. (King Henry V).

Clubs	
Monday	Tennis
Tuesday	Basketball
Wednesday	Lego Immersion club – pre-paid only
Thursday	Multi Skills with Coach Chris
Friday	Running with Coach Chris

\*Your child must be booked into after-school clubs via School Gateway in order to take part

Diary Dates	
<b>October</b>	
Sat 7th	HOOT Bingo 7pm
Tues 10 <sup>th</sup> & Weds 11th	Parents' Evening. Please contact Mrs Jinman to book your appointment.
Thurs 12 <sup>th</sup>	Harvest Festival – all welcome in the school hall 11am KS2 OCRA Cross Country Event Abbeyford Woods, Okehampton
Fri 13 <sup>th</sup>	Please give consent for flu jabs by midday (link in email)
Tues 17th	Flu Vaccines for Years R to 6
Thurs 19th	Whole School open day – for more information contact Mrs Jinman
<b>Mon 23rd</b>	<b>Half Term</b>
Mon 30th	Back to school
<b>November</b>	
Thurs 2nd	Devon and Somerset Fire talk with Snowy and Eagle Owls
Mon 20 <sup>th</sup>	Road Safety Week
Weds 22nd	Tempest portraits – more information to follow
<b>December</b>	
Wed 13 <sup>th</sup>	Whole School Panto trip
Fri 15 <sup>th</sup>	Christmas Lunch – last day of term!

Mr A. Hill – Principal

[ahill@dmatschools.org.uk](mailto:ahill@dmatschools.org.uk)

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Thank you to everyone who attended our recent Parents Forum. Please see notes below.

You said	We are
<b>Open comments</b>	
Website needs updating Faces to names for all staff	Full website review by October half term
Have a net zero (carbon emissions) plan	DMAT net zero plan will be shared.
<b>Children as leaders</b>	
School council Newsletter section by the children.	School council/school level responsibilities launched by October half term.  Children to have opportunity to write a section for the newsletter.
School timetables	Timetables have been shared.
<b>Curriculum</b>	
Reading	Reading leader has updated training.  Expectations for reading to all staff and children made clear.  Reading parental workshop in the Autumn term.
Sustainability and 'ocean literacy' to be added to the curriculum	Science includes sustainability in many units.  Development of the curriculum will include water-based learning given our location.  Courageous advocacy around sustainability promoted.
Curriculum newsletters for English and Maths	Curriculum newsletters for English and Maths have been shared.
<b>Community</b>	
Involvement with other local services, for example the Church	Links made with the Church – carol service, open the book assembly, monthly visit from clergy.
Performances open to the community	Certain services will be open to all.
<b>Family support</b>	
Communication to parents	Timetables have been shared including teachers.  Class names were elected by the children and have been shared.  Review of the 'House' system in Autumn term.  Messaging around short notice changes e.g., to Menu, fruit or staffing, this will be communicated as soon as possible.
SENDCo Updates	Individual education plans are being rewritten and will be shared at family consults with additional SEN meetings if required.



After school enrichment	Enrichment is planned and shared, if there are spaces, these are available to book. Our preference would be to know as early as possible who will be in each enrichment.
<b>The school site</b>	
School field	External contractors have been engaged to fill in mole tunnels and flatten overall surface.
Mouldy rooms	Concern has been raised with Devon County Council about the damp within the school – ongoing conversations about a solution.
Car park	A review of the safety of the car park will happen in the Autumn term.  A safe/dry pedestrian path to be considered next to the car park.
Woods	Quotes for the removal of dangerous trees have been sought (£14,000(!)) – new quotes or options are being sought.
Sensory/Veg garden	Working parties will be organised in the spring term to bring the area back to use.
Outside toilet	Working party to be organised in the Spring term including requests from local businesses for materials.
<b>Enrichment</b>	
More trips	Sports events are being attended.  Trips are being planned – for example, pantomime.
Music lessons	Music lessons are delivered by class teacher using Kapow planning.  Peripatetic teachers have been spoken to around drums, guitar, keyboard and wind.
People coming into school	Visitors being sought for curriculum enrichment: Teams meeting with an Author, ducklings visit (science) etc.
Forest school	Please see above for ‘woods’. When this is resolved, forest school will be fully active.
After school enrichment	We have varied the range of enrichment to include sport and construction.



Mr Hill  
Hub Principal



Mr Lumby  
Lead Teacher



Mrs Baldwin  
Snowy Owls Teacher



Miss Caulfield  
Snowy Owls Teacher



Mrs Collacott  
Assistant SENDco  
Owlets Teacher



Mrs Manta  
Hawk Owls Teacher



Mrs Bird  
Teaching Assistant



Miss Jonas  
Teaching Assistant



Mrs Mair  
Teaching Assistant



Miss Young  
Teaching Assistant



Mrs Curtis  
Early Years Practitioner



Mrs Cork  
Teaching Assistant



Miss Hepworth  
Teaching Assistant



Mrs Jinman  
Administrator



**Milton Abbot Primary School**

**Open day**

Thursday 19th October 2023

9am—3:30pm

RSVP

admin@miltonabbot.devon.sch.uk



PRICES  
FROM **£35** PER DAY  
PRICE INCLUDES ALL EXTRA ACTIVITIES

# SPOOKTACULAR

## OCTOBER HALF TERM 2023

MONDAY 23<sup>RD</sup> - FRIDAY 27<sup>TH</sup>

**MOUNT KELLY PREP SCHOOL · TAVISTOCK · PL19 9JL**

This half term come and join us for an action packed week of sports, activity, art and fun.  
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WEEKS ACTIVITIES...

MONSTER MASH MONDAY	TERRIFYING TUESDAY	WITCHCRAFT WEDNESDAY	TRICK OR TREAT THURSDAY	FANG-TASTIC FRIDAY
Ghost Hunter DodgeBall Tournament	Beasty Basketball	Ghost Hunter DodgeBall Tournament	Beasty Basketball	COME IN FANCY DRESS!
Spooktacular Swimming	Ghooley Benchball	Haunted House Hockey	Terrifying Table Tennis	Spooktacular Swimming
Frightening Football	Crazy Cricket	Survival Steve's Wild Cookings with S'mores & Halloween Hot Chocs	Rugby World Cup Coaching	Haunted House Hockey
Pumpkin Carving Competition	Spooky Reptiles Visit	Combat Archery Zombie Assault	High 5 Halloween Party including Time Warp	Combat Archery Zombie Assault
Team Challenges & Daily Awards	Team Challenges & Daily Awards	Team Challenges & Daily Awards	Dance Routine & Epic Inflatables	Team Challenges & Daily Awards

PLUS...

TO CELEBRATE THE RUGBY WORLD CUP

We have two Plymouth Albion Coaches working with us throughout the week running Rugby Coaching and Competitions across all our sites!



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