

Milton Abbot Primary School



Newsletter 17th January 2020 Spring 1, Issue 1

www.miltonabbot.devon.sch.uk

Dear Parents, Carers, Guardians and Friends of Milton Abbot,

Am I still allowed to start with a Happy New Year? Or is Christmas a distant memory to you now? Either way, it was wonderful to welcome the children back on 6th January and to hear all about their Festive fun and exciting presents. We hope you all had a peaceful and happy time. As you know, we were hit by a nasty flu virus in December, staff and children alike, which meant we had to postpone our trip to the theatre. Well, this may have been sad at the time but it was a great way to start the new term. The children were captivated by the performers and puppets at the Theatre Royal during the staging of the 'Elves and the Shoemaker'. A key intention is to inspire a love of story-telling and performing. Please remember that I am always here to help. Best wishes, Mr. Luxford.

Reading for knowledge, reading for pleasure! Firstly, a big thank you to those children who have read on camera for the bedtime story, which we put out on Class Dojo each Friday for everyone to enjoy, especially our younger children. It has been lovely to hear the fluency and expression the children are putting into their reading, key skills for success. We have now put shelves into the Key Stage 2 classrooms, which will house the books that are used during class 'VIPERS' reading skills sessions, because so many children wanted to read more based on the extracts they were enjoying. VIPERS stands for Vocabulary, Infer, Predict, Explain and Retrieve, and is an engaging way to teach and promote these essential reading tools.

Governor update: We are extremely lucky to have a very dedicated board of Governors, who give up an extraordinary amount of their time for the school, and we thank them all. We have recently welcomed three more new members and so thought it would be helpful to list (in alphabetical order not age!) the full complement for your information and reference:

Mark Baker - Chair of the Quality of Learning Committee

Jane Byrne - Strategic Committee and a National Leader of Excellence

Brian Cook - Chair of Governors, Strategic Committee Lead, Resources Committee

Emma Hooker - Parent Governor, Quality of Learning Committee

Richard Marshall - Quality of Learning committee, Inclusion Deputy Governor

Brian Martin - Pre-school link Governor, Health and Safety link Governor on the Resources Committee

Miles Smith - Inclusion and Safeguarding Link Governor, Quality of Learning Committee

Marcia Vanstone - Parent Governor Resources Committee

Jane Weatherston - Staff Governor

Karen Yorke-Dunne - Clerk to Governors

The main duties of the Governing Board include:

- To regularly visit and listen to what our children have to say
- To support and challenge on safeguarding strategies and outcomes
- To maintain a termly action plan to ensure progress and to challenge school leaders
- To scrutinise curriculum plans and termly data and compare to National expectations
- To complete link visits to collect first-hand evidence, as well as meet with County advisers
- To uphold financial integrity through support and challenge of expenditure



There is a Full Governing Board meeting each term, as well as committee meetings for 'Quality of Learning', 'Resources' and 'Strategy'. All records of attendance and minutes will be available on our new website (31st Jan!).

Pupil Parliament and Curriculum Council

The Pupil Parliament met earlier this week, following a class vote for representatives. It was a highly engaging meeting, with children listening and articulating their ideas superbly. They have devised a noble list of goals and ambitions for the year, which include:

Goal number 1:

Sending a donation to the Australian Wildfire support services, selling hand drawn animal art and homemade cakes.

Every child compassionate...Every child an economic citizen

Goal number 4:

Review our healthy school status to ensure every child knows how to eat a healthy, balanced diet.

Every child self-aware and able to make thoughtful choices

Goal number 2:

Ensure Milton Abbot School is an environmental champion, starting by inviting a Green MP into school to speak to us about what we can do.

Every child a global citizen

Goal number 5:

To promote our anti-bullying status with a video and additional support materials, to ensure everyone knows who to talk to if they ever need to.

Every child safe from harm.

Goal number 3:

Raising awareness about the RSPCA and how we can care for animals.

Every child compassionate...Every child charitable



Goal Number 1: To raise money for the Australian wildfire support and recovery, a subject the children were extremely passionate about, the Pupil Parliament decided upon a cake stall after school on **31st January**, where they will also be selling animal art created by all the children, for parents to buy. Your support is always welcome.

Safeguarding Matters and Personal Wellbeing: Healthy Teeth Project

Snowy Owls have agreed for our Reception children to take part in a National toothbrush project that is intended to help them learn more about how and why to care for their teeth, as well as good techniques for brushing. The project has been greeted with much excitement and fits in with our desire to go beyond the National Curriculum to offer knowledge and skills for real life, which we call 'Self-knowledge' and 'Ethical knowledge'.



Dates for your diary:

- 'Curriculum Carousel' begins in Tawny Owls on 22nd January and will roll out across school.
- **HOOT! Valentine Disco on 14th February for the whole school (17:00 - 18:30) - a flier coming out soon!**
- World Book Day - 5th March - we would hope to have a costume day and a whole school reading activity
- **Sports Relief - more news to follow but we always like to get Sporty somehow between 9-13 March**
- Year 4 'Day of Dance' with OCRA on Wednesday 5th February at Tavistock College (letter to follow)
- Tawny Owls trip to the Eden Project is 27th February (letter sent out)
- **Heatree (Year 6 residential): dates have CHANGED from your initial letter, apologies for any inconvenience. Now running from 6th - 10th July.**
- **Half-term break is 17th - 21st February**