



Dartmoor
MULTI ACADEMY TRUST

Respectful, Resourceful, Resilient

A creative approach to learning where all pupils can succeed

Newsletter **Friday 11th February**

**This week's
attendance
was:
93.30%**

Remember to book your child's school dinners for the coming week!

Dear Parents/Carers

Last Friday, the children in Key Stage 2 participated in their first Cross Country Event at Simmons Park, organised by OCRA. The event provided the opportunity to bring together schools across the DMAT; it was lovely to see so many children enjoying the first of many events we have planned for the rest of this academic year. The children did remarkably well, and despite the heavy downpour of rain on the morning of the races, the sun did manage to make an appearance in the afternoon! Well done to all our children who took part. The results of this race will carry over to the next cross-country event which will take place next half term, with the final event scheduled for the summer term.

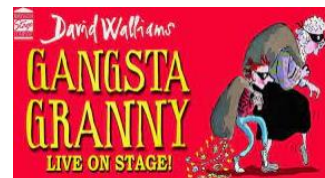


This week as part of our PSHE lessons, the children had an afternoon of activities that focused on highlighting the importance of looking after our mental health and well-being. They looked at the importance of feeling calm and discussed the different things that help them keep calm when they are overwhelmed or want to relax. The children also explored the importance of growth, both as an emotional concept and a physical concept and the fact that we all grow at different speeds - just because we are the same age, we can all be different heights. They then all planted some cress seeds and are going to watch how they grow and compare them to the one's planted by their friends'.

Other activities included a focus of their achievements so far; both physical and emotional, in and out of school as well as looking at their aspirations for the future. There was lots of valuable discussion within each of the groups, and it was lovely to see the caring and responsible roles our older children took with supporting the younger children within their groups.

We hope to carry this work forward by setting up scheduled times throughout the week for these groups to meet to discuss topics based around looking after our mental health, giving the children opportunities to share worries and anxieties and exploring ways to overcome these together. A huge thank you to Miss Hyde for organising a fantastic afternoon for all the children. Please see our 'Mental Health Awareness' page showing the range of activities the children took part in.

We have managed to secure seats for the performance of 'Gangsta Granny' by the popular author David Walliams, at the Queen's Theatre in Barnstaple. The trip has been arranged for the whole school (Reception to Year 6) on Friday 27th May. More information will be sent home next week, with finalised arrangements and ticket prices.



Parents Evening

Parents Evening appointments have gone live on the Arbor system and parents can now book appointment/s with your child/ren's class teacher. Our Parents Evening will take place on **Tuesday 8th March** (times will vary) and these will be by a **Teams meeting or telephone call**. Please indicate in the notes section which would be preferred when booking a slot. The 10-minute consultation will provide an opportunity for teachers to discuss your child/ren's progress and the targets set for the spring/summer term. **If you are unable to make the date scheduled, please speak to your child's class teacher to arrange an alternative appointment time.** Children will come home next week with a copy of their reviewed targets which were set in the Autumn term. These will be discussed as part of the parent consultation evening.

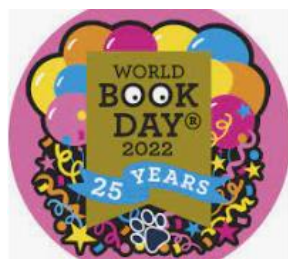


Safer Internet Day - Tuesday 15th February

As the internet and the use of devices, whether it is computers, tablets or mobile phones, are becoming increasingly popular with our children, it is important that we educate them as best we can on how to keep themselves safe whilst using the internet. The statistics show that children as young as 5 are accessing a wide range of sites and apps available online.

- * 45% of 5-15s use live streaming sites or apps
- * 55% of 5-15s use social media sites or apps
- * 71% of 5-15s play online games
- * 97% of 5-15s use video sharing platforms

School Safer Internet Day 2022 will be explored on Tuesday, with the theme '**All fun and games? Exploring respect and relationships online**'. From gaming and chat, to streaming and video, young people are shaping the interactive entertainment spaces they are a part of. Safer Internet Day 2022 celebrates young people's role in creating a safer internet, whether that is whilst gaming and creating content, or interacting with their friends and peers. I plan to lead an assembly discussing how our children can ensure that they are keeping themselves safe whilst using a wide range of materials available to them online. We will then look at how our School Council group will continue with this work, creating information posters to display around the school. For more information, please click on the link: [Advice for parents and carers - UK Safer Internet Centre](#)



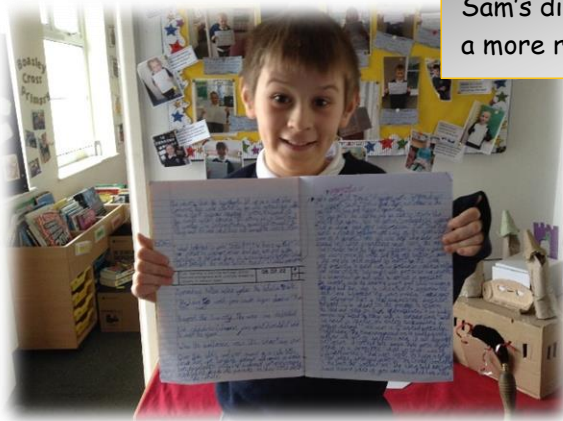
I met with our School Librarians this week to discuss a range of activities they would like to host on World Book Day which will take place on Thursday 3rd March. The theme of World Book Day this year is '**You Are a Reader**'. The librarians would like the children to practise reading a small piece from their favourite book, to reading aloud to the rest of the class on the day. The librarians will be available in the library next week to help children to choose one of the favourite books and practise reading the extract. They also plan to organise their own treasure hunt and of course children can come to school that day dressed as a favourite character from their favourite book. For ideas on costumes, please click on the link: [World Book Day Dress Up Ideas](#)

Wishing you all a wonderful weekend,

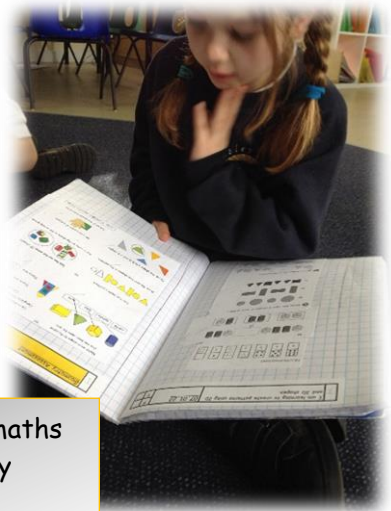
Mrs Cook

Our Star Learners this week

Sam for motivation and attitude to improving his work. Sam's diligence has resulted in a more refined piece of writing.



Esme for some super maths work, thinking carefully about her calculations before answering them.



Our School Value Certificates this week

'Respectfulness'

Eleanor for being respectful during Mental Health Week afternoon. Eleanor listened to everyone's opinions and helped the younger children within the group.



Isabella has been respectful by considerately repairing and restoring her friendships when there have been disagreements.



Children's Mental Health Week

Mindful colouring is about bringing our awareness into the present moment by consciously focusing on colour and design. Mindful colouring has been shown to:

- Reduce anxiety and stress
- Improve sleep
- Improve focus
- Improve vision and motor skills

The children engaged beautifully in this activity and gave some fantastic feedback:

"Colouring really helps me to feel calm and relaxed. It helps clear my head if I am stressed or have something on my mind."

Amelia.

"This is so nice. I love this. It is so relaxing; it feels like another world." Esme.

It was a true pleasure to share time with the children on this activity, highlighting the importance of looking after our mental health.

Mrs Winter.



We imagined our whole lives as a timeline and then thought about the many, many things we have enjoyed, learned and achieved since being born.

This made us really excited about all the possibilities that the future and the rest of our lives, may hold for us and we shared ideas about what we may like to achieve in the future.

We finished off listening to the lyrics of the inspirational song 'Make Your Own Kind of Music', you may like to listen to this at home with your children too.

Mrs Ogborne

The children worked together in their groups to identify what plants need to grow and how this links to us growing both physically and emotionally.

They were able to put cards in the right order and discuss what would give a seed the best chance of germination.

Next, we sowed cress seeds on cotton wool (instead of soil) to take home and watch grow.

We finished our session with a cup of delicious hot chocolate and a chat around the forest school seats.

Mrs Simmons and Mrs Rootsey



Setting goals helps us to have something to aspire to. It also helps us to visual what we need to do to reach a goal and the small steps that we may need to break a goal up in order to achieve it.

We listened to the song "*Reach for the Stars*" and then discussed why we should reach for the stars and have big goals within our lives emotionally and physically.

We have all set our own goals individually; we are going to display them all in the hall so that we can all see them to remind us of what they are and how we can achieve them.

It was lovely to spend the afternoon with all of the children and spend time talking to them about their individual goals.

Miss Hyde

Okehampton Area Schools Cross Country

A huge congratulations to all the children who took part in the recent Okehampton Area Schools Cross Country in Simmons Park last Friday. As ever, the children were amazing ambassadors for Boasley Cross showing great sportsmanship and resilience during the races. We will be looking forward to the next stage of the event in the coming weeks.



School Council Update

In this week's Pupil Voice Assembly, we discussed upcoming events at Boasley Cross which will include:

World Book Day – 3rd March 2022

Comic Relief/Red Nose Day – 18th March 2022

We will be inviting children to dress up as a favourite book character on World Book Day. Details about further activities that will be taking place in school to support these events, will follow in due course.

We have also explored the possibility of the School Council running a weekly Snack Shop at school. Your feedback in these early stages would be welcomed, so please let us know your initial thoughts about this venture and (if you are in favour) what snacks you would like your child/ren to be able to purchase. We are very much at the 'drawing board' stage of this project so would appreciate any suggestions you have.

Many thanks, Mrs Ogborne & the School Council



Notice Board

School Diary

February 2021

Monday 14th	Nurture group (selected children) Forest School session - <i>waterproofs and wellies required</i> OCRA after school Dance club KS1/KS2
Tuesday 15th	Littlemoor Outdoor Learning session - <i>waterproofs and wellies required</i> Netball after school club Y2/KS2
Wednesday 16th	OCRA Martial Arts after school club KS2
Thursday 17th	Whole School PE sessions with Mr Pugh - <i>full PE kits required</i> Forest School after school club KS2 - <i>waterproofs and wellies required</i> OCRA Multi Skills after school club KS1
Friday 18th	Celebration Assembly – <i>pupils only</i> End of Half Term – <i>all pupils return Monday 28th February</i>

SCHOOL OFFICE HOURS

Monday/Wednesday/Friday:

8.30am to 3pm

Tuesday/Thursday:

8.30am to 12pm

Please advise the office by 12pm if your child's 'going home' arrangements are to change for the day so that this can be logged for safeguarding purposes.

Thank you.

STAFF WOULD LIKE TO THANK FOBCS FOR THEIR RECENT KIND DONATIONS OF SPARE PE KITS AND ALSO FOR THE THERAPY TOYS FOR SCHOOL – THANK YOU SO MUCH!



FOBCS – IN CELEBRATION OF THE QUEEN'S PLATINUM JUBILEE, CHILDREN HAVE BEEN GIVEN A TEMPLATE TO BRING HOME TO DESIGN THEIR OWN TEA TOWELS. IT WILL BE AMAZING TO SEE CHILDREN'S CREATIVE ARTWORK DEPICTING THE QUEEN'S HEAD, SO PLEASE RETURN COMPLETED TEMPLATES TO THE SCHOOL OFFICE BY MONDAY 28TH FEBRUARY SO THAT ORDERS FOR TEA TOWELS CAN BE PLACED. MANY THANKS FOR YOUR SUPPORT.

Bratton Clovelly
Parent and Toddler
Group



On every Monday
during term time

10am-12pm

At Bratton Clovelly
Village Hall

Okehampton Library

- **Children's Mental Health Week. 7th-13th February**
- We have a **Tree of Life at Okehampton Library**. Children can share their thoughts or feelings by writing them on a leaf and sticking it on our tree. .. someone or something that makes them happy... what makes them feel good or what makes them feel bad etc.
- We also have a **'Reading Well' collection of books for children**. Reading Well for children recommends reading to help youngsters deal with worries, feel better and boost their mood. The books in this collection have been chosen by children, carers, health experts and librarians. Call in and take a look at the lovely selection of books available for loan all year round.
- **Half term event: Colourful Chameleons! ~ Monday 21st February, 14:00-15:00**

Make your own colour changing chameleon. This activity is suitable for children aged 5+. £1 per child. Numbers are limited so booking is essential.

- **The Gathering – Finding connections Through Loss ~ February – 22nd March**

This project is responding to issues of loneliness, social isolation, bereavement, and loss in the community. Feelings of disconnection or loss can be amplified in the dark winter months, so Honeyscribe are inviting people to take part in a collective act of co-creation by dedicating a pressed flower to someone special.

The project is the creation of an illuminated artwork containing preserved flowers and leaves gathered from across the community. The finished artwork will be exhibited at libraries and tour to care homes and support facilities who were involved in its making.

Anyone who would like to dedicate a flower for this project can collect a pack with everything they need from Okehampton and Holsworthy libraries, or press a flower when visiting either branch.

- **World Book Day Tea Party. Thursday 3rd March 15:45-16:45.**
- Dress up as your favourite book character (optional), join in our fun tea party with light refreshments, party games and prizes. Free event, suitable for ages 5+, numbers limited so booking in advance is essential!
- **The Secret Book Quest**
A completely FREE year-round reading challenge for 5-12 year olds across Devon. To take part, children need to sign up, read 50 books, collect stickers and solve the secret cipher.

