



Combe Martin School Newsletter – Spring 1 28th January 2022

Dear Parents and Carers,

We have had a great start to the Spring Term with a lovely first few weeks back at school with many wonderful learning opportunities for the children.

The themes of learning in each class are well underway and teachers are working hard to ensure lots of enriching learning experiences are available to all. We welcomed, Tom Poole, our new sports coach from Primary Sports who will be working across the school on Thursdays supporting the delivery of PE, lunch time and after school activities.

We have also started an exciting Oracy and Art Project with Beaford Arts called 'Voice to Tell a Story'. Our Year 4 children are participating in weekly sessions with Beaford Arts storytelling specialist Lisa Schneidau and Art specialist teacher Caroline Preston. They will be working with the children across the Spring and Summer terms.



Our lovely neighbours, Mags and Andy, very kindly donated two trees to the school to replace a tree that was damaged during the storm. These were planted by Mr Guyler, School Councillors and the Eco Team along with Mrs Holmes and Mr Neil Moir, our CEO. We thank Mags and Andy for their very generous donation and look forward to seeing them bloom in the coming months.

Our focus Character virtues for the start the term have been helpfulness and critical thinking and the children have already been demonstrating fantastic **helpfulness, a civic virtue** and **critical thinking, an intellectual virtue**, across all aspects of school life.



Combe Martin School

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Curriculum 360 across the Spring Term

Please see below how our **Curriculum 360, Academic Excellence, Character Education, Community, Digital and Innovation** is being implemented throughout the curriculum across the school.

Tiddlers

The children settled straight back into being independent learners, taking charge of their own learning through play. We've loved the cold weather exploring the natural elements and the learning provocations it provided. We've been mark making in the frost and exploring ice. This sparked great conversations and learning opportunities.

Academic Excellence

Reception, Year 1 and 2 - Starfish have enjoyed the start of this term's topic, Starry Night. We have been exploring the differences in the world at night compared to during the day and learning about the importance of a good night's sleep. We are very excited to start learning about nocturnal animals next!

Our Jellyfish Class have been fully immersed in their new topic, Bright Lights, Big City, and have enjoyed sharing what they have learnt in their Geography lessons about the United Kingdom and London Landmarks.

Year 3 and 4 - We have started our new topic titled 'Rocks, Relics and Rumbles', we have looked at the structure of our planet and have begun to learn about how to identify different types of rocks. We have completed our entries for the Rotary Young Writer Competition, the children wrote poems based on the theme of 'Environment'.

Year 5 and 6 - In Year 5 and 6 we have started our new topic, Sow Grow and Farm and the children have been really engaged, finding out about when different fruit and vegetables are sown and harvested. We have also received some funding from the PTFA to support us in providing hands-on growing experiences in school for our children linked to our topic, so thank you very much PTFA! In Science, we have explored a range of lifecycles and learnt about mammals and their characteristics. We are really enjoying reading the book 'The Mozart Question' and will be using this text as a base for a range of different genres of writing: character descriptions, diaries and newspaper reports.



Character Education

We have been considering ways in which we can be helpful and caring. The whole school is going to be using these virtues to ensure that we look after the new trees which have been kindly donated by our neighbours and planted at the edge of the school field. Our upcoming Virtues are Critical Thinking and Honesty. We will be exploring these in our assemblies followed up with lots of discussion back in class.

We are also learning about how we can develop into Global Changemakers, young people who will go out and make a difference in the world. As part of our Character Education journey, children will take part in 6 Inspirational

Term Dates 2021-2022

Spring Term

Non-Pupil Day
Tuesday 4th January
Term begins
Wednesday 5th January

Key Dates
1st February
Year 5/6 trip to Rosemoor

Parent Consultation Week
14th -18th February

February Half Term
Monday 21st February – Friday 25th
February

Year 3/4 Performance
29th March TBC

**Easter Celebration/PTFA Easter
Egg Hunt**
Tuesday 5th April TBC

Last Day of Spring Term

Friday 8th April

Summer Term

First day of Summer Term

Monday 25th April 2022

May Bank Holiday

Monday 2nd May

KS2 SATs week 9th-13th May

Summer Half Term

Monday 30th May 2022-Friday 3rd June
2022

Non – Pupil Day Friday 15th July
2022

Last Day of Summer Term

Friday 22nd July

Changemaker Challenges each year: Inspiring Speaker, Inspiring Skill Builder, Inspiring Adventurer, Inspiring Volunteer, Inspiring Researcher, Inspiring Leader. Class teachers will share more information about this throughout the year as we start to build our portfolios.

Community

Miss Lewis and our school council organised a cake sale on Friday to raise money for Patricia, the child our school is sponsoring through Edukid. Thank you to Julie for providing the cakes!

Reception, Year 1 and 2 - We ended last term with our brilliant nativity. Thank you so much to our wonderful families for getting fully involved, learning lines, songs and making costumes! It was lovely to see so many of you join us.

We have enjoyed involving our parents in our learning via dojo and Tapestry and will be holding some parent workshops and events for each year group this term. It's always lovely to welcome parents into school so watch this space!

Year 3 and 4 - Both classes spent some time at the beach to start our new topic and all the children took part in a beach clean while we were there. The children were surprised to see the large amount of rubbish they were able to collect in just a short time!

Year 5 and 6 - Children in Year 5 enjoyed learning the skills to become a Play Leader, supporting our school community and setting up activities that are accessible for all. The 4 key qualities of a successful Play Leader are - communication, safety, fair and fun!

Digital and Innovation

Reception, Year 1 and 2 - Starfish class loved creating their own rocket ship mechanisms in our Design and Technology afternoon and learnt all about how to create their own moving pictures! Year 1 and 2 have also been designers and engineers this week, designing their own magnetic games during their Science lessons, some were a real challenge!

Year 3 and 4 - We were all innovative in our story telling based on interesting objects which were found at the beach, we had to use our imagination and improvisation skills to create stories! Year 4 have also begun their exciting art and story telling project with Beaford Arts. We are continuing to develop our use of our Chrome Books and have been trying to use our Class Dojo portfolios to record our reading and thoughts about what we have been reading.

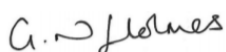
Year 5 and 6 - We are learning to edit our writing effectively on our Chromebooks and to use the comment tools to give advice to each other to help the editing process. Year 6 are also using their computers to manipulate and create 3D shapes and images on the screen using an online software called Tinkercad. Year 5 are leaning about computer systems and networks and finding out how computer controlled systems and digital innovation is used in today's world of work.

COVID update

As you are aware, we have had a number of confirmed cases of COVID-19 amongst staff and children since the start of term. We are closely monitoring the situation and have worked hard to keep the school running as normal. We will continue to do our very best to ensure we remain open to ensure your children's education is not interrupted.

Thank you for your support, it is very much appreciated.

Kind Regards,



Mrs Gail Holmes - Executive Headteacher - Combe Martin School

Support for learning at home



To read about teaching to **promote oracy** and tips and support for parents

[please click here.](#)



To read about ideas to have **fun with maths** at home

[please click here.](#)



For questions and activities for **exploring the world** with your children

[please click here.](#)

Safeguarding Updates

Social Media

[Click here](#) to read information on how to **keep your children safe** using social media

Devices and Technology

[Click here](#) to read information on how to **keep your children safe** using devices and technology

Family Support

Click [here](#) for information about **Family Support** from Devon County Council.