



April 2024

Dear Parents/Carers,

Welcome to the Summer term! The children made great progress over the spring half-term and I am looking forward to spending a fantastic Summer term with them. Hopefully we will have plenty of dry weather as we are planning lots of outdoor activities! We are building up a good base of parents and volunteers who are coming in to support learning and able to help on days out too. If you have a DBS through the school and would like to volunteer please let me know, if you would like to volunteer but do not have a DBS please see Debbie Jenkins who can arrange this for you.

Dates for the diary -

Wednesday 1st May - Woodland walk.

Wednesday 22nd May - Picnic at the park (families welcome to join us).

Date TBC - Combe Martin Museum trip.

Thursday 20th June RHS Rosemoor trip.

Start of the day

Just a reminder that phonics lessons start at 9am so please ensure you arrive at school promptly. Can I please also remind parents that the cloakroom area can get very busy in the morning so please encourage your child to come in by themselves, either myself or Mrs Rumson will always be on hand to help them. As the children move into year 1/2 they will be expected to come into the classroom independently so it is good to give them a chance to practice this now.

Class Information

This term Sammie Perkins will be covering my PPA time until 10.30 on a Friday morning,

PE will be on a Friday morning (11am) and the PE coach is Miss Sloman.

The children have music and singing with Mrs Mortlock on a Tuesday morning.

We are very grateful to have Jane coming in on a Thursday afternoon for reading, and also Tia and Kayleigh volunteering.

Mrs Muir, Mrs Rumson and Mrs Seddon (alongside other adults) are usually in the playground with the children at lunchtime and Mrs Seddon is in the dinner hall with them.

Uniform

Thank you to everybody that has supported us in ensuring all children are wearing the correct School Uniform. We understand how difficult this can be at times - shoes break, jumpers are lost and I am sure some children ask to wear their favourite trainers or jumpers. They may say that their teachers don't mind or that all their friends do but this isn't the case and the majority of children come to school in the correct uniform every day. Please can we ask that you ensure your child has the correct uniform.

Here is a reminder.

- Blue sweatshirt or cardigan with our school logo with school hoodies being an option on PE days - No other jumpers or hoodies to be worn.
- White polo T-shirt with a collar.
- Plain black or dark grey trousers, shorts, skirts or dresses - tracksuit bottoms are allowed on PE days only and these must be black or grey.
- Plain black, white or grey tights and socks.
- Plain black sensible shoes or trainers that your child can run comfortably in (closed toes, no heels). No coloured brand marks. Other trainers can be worn on PE days only.
- Blue gingham summer dresses.
- A waterproof coat should be brought to school every day along with suncream and a sun hat during the summer term.

If your child comes to school without the correct uniform your child's teacher will give you a reminder and we will provide the correct uniform if we have spares in the right size.

You can purchase uniform at <https://schoolthreads.org/collections/combe-martin-primary>

Our Summer term curriculum

English

We are starting this half term with the story Whatever Next! by Jill Murphy as our talk 4 writing book. We will use this story to explore and discuss the world around us, how we can use our imagination to create our own stories and learn about what it's like to visit the moon and go into space. Just like Baby Bear we will be going on a picnic but to the park, not the moon! The children will be making sandwiches for this and writing instructions. You are welcome to join us at the park picnic, details will follow nearer the time.

As the term progresses we will be looking at non-fiction books about growing plants and minibeasts and creating our own information booklet. We will be using The Three Billy Goats Gruff as our talk 4 writing story next half term and also learning how to be a pirate! We are going to be focusing on sentence structure to help embed the use of capital letters, finger spaces and full stops, as well as ensuring that our sentence makes sense.

Reading

Please try and read your child's reading book with them on a daily basis to help build their fluency and confidence in reading. It is also super important to read to and share other books with your child, at this age it can dramatically increase their vocabulary, fire up their imagination

and instill a life-long love of reading and storytelling.

Phonics

The children in Reception have learnt all the phonemes (sounds) for this year, during this term we will be consolidating their knowledge and using these phonemes in longer and more complex words. We will also be learning how to blend consonants in words (e.g lift, train, went, fact) and write sentences using these words. Resources and support with how to support your child in phonics are available through the Little Wandle parents guide

<https://www.littlewandlelettersandsounds.org.uk/resources/for-parents/>

You can also ask myself or Mrs Lewis for further information or support if needed.

Phonics screening

In June the children in Year 1 will sit a Phonics Screening check. This comprises of 40 words – 20 real words and 20 pseudo words. This is a very low key assessment which the children enjoy completing. The children will be practicing pseudo words this half term in preparation for the screening test. We do not teach the children Phonics to enable them to pass the screening, we teach them Phonics to aid with their reading journey. After the screening check the children's Phonics learning will continue until the end of the academic year.

Maths

As the term begins Year 1 are finishing off their Place Value to 50 unit, in this they have gained a better understanding of numbers to 50 and how to partition these numbers into tens and ones. Over this term we will be covering multiplication and division (2,5,10), fractions, position and direction, place value to 100, money and time!

That seems a lot, but remember maths is all around us and in everything we do every day. This is particularly applicable in early fractions, position and direction, time and money - think about using language such as quarter, half, left, right, above, below, the time of the day, the days of the week and months of the year, and letting your child explore the value of coins.

The reception children are finishing their unit on the numbers 9 and 10. They have been focusing on subitising smaller groups that make up larger numbers (eg, recognising that 5 and 5 on dice will make 10), adding and subtracting 1, doubling, and counting objects accurately. Over this coming term children will be counting to twenty and beyond! They will be learning about the pattern of numbers (the stable order) and how teen numbers are made up of a 10 and a certain number of ones. We will also be exploring 3D shapes, position and pattern.

Science

Our science topic for this half term is 'Minibeasts and growing'. We will be exploring life cycles of minibeasts, beginning with butterflies. We will be going on a minibeast hunt in the woods, making bug hotels, and using our observational skills to draw infant and adult insects. We have had tadpoles in the classroom for a few weeks now and the children are super excited to see them growing legs and arms. As the term progresses we will be looking at how plants grow and

planting and growing our own seeds and plants, this will be supported by our trip to Rosemoor.

Topic

This half term we are studying local history with a focus on Combe Martin strawberry fields. We will be discovering how the sunny hills of Combe Martin were ideal for growing strawberries and vegetables and how they were sent (by steamboat) around the country. We will be planting our own strawberry plants and vegetables and monitoring the growth of the school strawberry plot. We hope to visit the village museum to further support this topic and will also be looking at modern and historical images of Combe Martin to understand and explore the reasons for change.

Art/DT

This term we will be exploring 3D art and structures. We will be linking this with our English, Maths, Science and Topic work. To link with our Science study we will be preparing fruit and vegetables to taste and identify things that grow. We will also be making scones and sandwiches for our picnic.

PSHE/Spanish/PE/RE

In PSHE the children will be learning about dealing with challenge through being resilient, and also about making healthy choices.

In Spanish we will be learning to count in Spanish and learning nursery rhymes.

In PE the children will be learning how to play cricket.

In RE we will be exploring special places and why the word 'God' is important to Christians.

Communication

I am available most days after school if there is anything you would like to discuss, or you have any concerns. I am also available through class dojo, although it can be difficult to check messages during the school day. You can also contact me via email at d.harper@alumnismat.org.

Here's hoping for a wonderful and sunny Summer term!

[Debbie Harper](#).