

Notes from the Vale

Friday 11th December 2020

Volume 15, Issue 8

Welcome from Mr Lewis-Cole

This is the final 'Notes from the Vale' of the year: there will be the normal 'Newsflash' next week. What a term it has been! The pupils, staff and families of Lipson Vale all deserve a well-earned rest after such a busy and unusual term. I am so proud of what we have achieved and continue to achieve - none more so than the successful return to school for all pupils and the huge amount of dedicated learning that has happened throughout the last 3 months. An exciting start to the academic year. What will the new year bring?

Bauble competition

It was a pleasure and privilege to see all of the entries for the bauble design competition. They were all exceptionally good and judging them was a near impossible task! I definitely would be a terrible judge on 'Strictly' or 'The X Factor'. I hope that you have been able to see all the baubles hanging alongside the MUGA to share a bit of Christmas cheer with the community.

Nativity and Carol Concert

We had a very exciting start to the week when we were visited by Mr Kett (Miss Kett's brother) who has helped us to record both the nativity and carol concert. I was lucky enough to sit in on both of these and can say with confidence that you are in for a real treat next week when we make the video links available to our families. You know that Christmas has truly landed when you watch a nativity or enjoy singing carols. Whilst not all children were able to be included in the final video (for family reasons), all children took a full and active part in the creation of both. The recordings reflect a whole school effort to make them successful. A heartfelt thank you, from me, to all the staff and adults that made this happen - I am so grateful for the significant contribution you have made. Keep an eye out for the links that will be with you at the start of next week.

Winter Food Vouchers

We have been informed by Plymouth Local Authority that a voucher scheme is in place for pupils entitled to free school meals. These vouchers can be used towards the cost of food over the Christmas period at most supermarkets. We will be in contact with our families that are eligible next week.

End of term

You may have heard in the news this week that schools have been given the option to close a day early before Christmas (by swapping one of our non-pupil days). We are not doing this and school will end for the Christmas break, as previously advised, on **18th December**. It is really important that families continue to inform us if their child tests positive for coronavirus over the Christmas break. Please use the 'out of hours' email address to tell us (outofhours@lipsonvale.plymouth.sch.uk) as this will be monitored throughout the break.

That just leaves me to wish you all a wonderful Christmas break (when we get there on the 18th December). I hope you spend quality family time in whatever form you are able to do so. Take care.



Together we are inspiring a community with a bright future.

Together we

Congratulations



Harris Cup
Daymien Shave



Reading Cup
Tyler Rundle



'H' Cup
Mia Clayton

Each of you are excellent role models for your peers and have shown significant determination and effort to your learning.

to our weekly cup winners.

Attendance

We know that we are all having to be a little more cautious at the moment; however, for those pupils well enough, we still have high expectations for daily attendance.

Foundation & Key Stage 1	FJW	98.7	Key Stage 2	3L	97.5
	FW	95.2		3F	93.8
	1BH	97.9		4KW	97.3
	1K	96.1		4P	97.7
	2M	98.9		5S	97.5
	2BR	96.3		5P	94.8
				6W	98.6
		6AW	97.1		



Attendance Matters

Every student. Every day.

The **highest class attendance** last week goes to...

2M in FS/KS1

6W in KS2

GREAT ATTENDANCE



celebrate



love to learn

Together we

Christmas lunch was a great success this week. Pupils loved making their own Christmas hats and really enjoyed being served their lunches by staff. Even Mr Lewis-Cole made a small effort to get in the Christmas spirit!



Things have been very busy in Year 1 in preparation for our Nativity performance! In English we have been learning about and sorting non-fiction books! We have been very creative this week and made our own party hats ready for Christmas dinner! There was glitter everywhere! We loved wearing them and singing Christmas songs together.



Together we



Children in Year 3 have been working hard on their football skills this term. They have learnt how to pass the ball effectively, dribble the ball and to control the ball on the move. This week, they had their first inter-class match and enjoyed the chance to practice all of their learned skills.



Year 6 had a debate this week. They learnt about The House of Commons and Parliament, before we held a debate in the same style about the issue of Child Labour. (Which is what they have been studying as part of their balanced argument unit in English lessons.) Mrs Renouf was the Speaker and kept order!

love to learn



love to learn

Together we

Fred's Frog Blog

Alongside teaching children to read sounds we also teach them to read words by blending sounds. Fred the frog is very important in this process.

Fred can only speak in sounds. He says d-o-g, h-a-t etc.

Speaking like Fred helps children to understand that words are made up of sounds.

Fred helps children practice blending sounds together because he needs the children to say the words for him. Fred says d-o-g, and the children tell him the word is dog.

In the early stages of reading we play lots of Fred talk games with the children. We might say Fred would like a d-r-i-n-k and ask the children to tell us what Fred is asking for.

Similarly, Fred might ask for the children to tell him what he can see; a c-a-t. He might also say "I spy a t-r-ee". There are lots of possibilities. Have a go at home!



Fred games and Fred talk throughout the day

Shall we have some **l-u-n-ch**?

What would you like to **p-l-ay**?

Let's put on your **c-o-a-t**.



We always follow the same order when we use Fred Talk in school so that the children know what to expect.

Fred Talk routine

1. Say the word in sounds as Fred e.g. c-a-t.
2. Ask your child to repeat. Can they 'jump-in' with the whole word?
3. Say the word in sounds followed by the whole word e.g. c-a-t, cat
4. Ask your child to repeat



What can I do to help at home?

Play Fred Talk games throughout the day, following the same routine.



News & Events



Things to talk about at home...

- What is your earliest memory?
- Discuss your favourite and least favourite memories.
- Ask someone you live with about their memories.
- Do you think it is important for us to have memories? Do you think they help us? If so, how?

Plymouth Libraries have reopened and you can now visit libraries to borrow, return books, and pre-book a computer. There is also a Winter Reading Challenge running through December until Friday 15th January. To take part and for more information, visit [The Reading Agency website](#).



Attendance Policy

From January, we are launching a new attendance policy for the school. We hope to have simplified the information within the policy to help families understand our expectations around attendance, the reasons when absences will be authorised or unauthorised, and the schools commitment to keep families informed about their child's attendance.

We are confident that these new systems and clarity will support families in continuing to improve attendance and reduce absences.

This policy can be found on our website [here](#) under the 'General School Policies' section.
Attendance Matters!



Every Student, Every School, Every Day

Argyle Christmas Roadshows

Argyle Community Trust Christmas Roadshows will be running from Mon 21st December to Weds 30th December with 5 different roadshows running at the Manadon Sports and Community Hub.

Details can be accessed [here](#).



News & Events

EASY ECO TIPS



Children across the school have been continuing to work hard to think of ways to save electricity.

6AW had lot of great ideas. They suggested:

- Spend less time in the shower
- Instead of watching television, read an entertaining book.
- Spend more time with friends and family instead of online social media.
- Instead of playing online games, play a board game and restrict the use of electronics.
- Instead of watching TV, play outside.

Lots of great ideas here to help us all, thank you 6AW.



Have a merry Christmas and here's a few eco friendly Christmas Top Tips:

Evie (4KW) Turn off Christmas tree lights when you're not in the room to save electricity.

Indie (4KW) Decorate a real tree rather than buying a plastic one.

Miss Kaar (4KW) Use recyclable wrapping paper and reuse ribbons/bows/present bags etc rather than buying new. Remember to take your bag for life shopping.

Mrs Hardy (1BH) Try to use wrapping paper which is NOT shiny or glittery. Remember you can't recycle these. Presents can look just as exciting in plain paper and you can decorate the paper yourself if you wish.



A poster by Gracie Taylor.



Fact #6

Devices – like your mobile – might not use much electricity. But about 8% of the world's total electricity use goes on technology to power the internet.

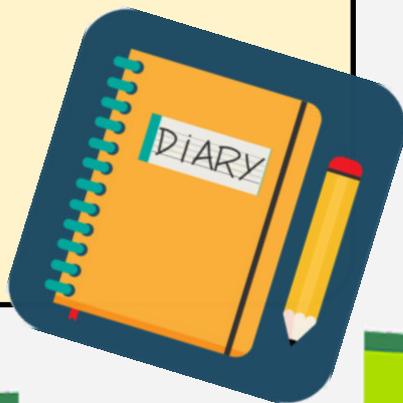
Collective Worship

We have finished our Collective Worship focus on **Resilience** for this term. Pupils were encouraged, this week, to think about how they have changed or adapted as a resilient learner since starting back in September, but also to look ahead to the new year and consider what promises we will make to ourselves to change our learning behaviours further towards being even more resilient.

How would you describe 'resilience'? What does it look/feel like?

Dates for your diaries:

- 18.12.20 Christmas Jumper/Mufti Day
Last day in school before Christmas break.
- 04.01.21 Non Pupil day.
- 05.01.21 First day of Spring Term.



School Meals



SCAN ME

CATERed 
FEEDING AMBITIONS

School Money



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schoolmoney

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