



# Marine Academy Primary Newsletter

## February 2023

*'Where Stars Shine Brighter.'*

...providing an outstanding education that ensures all pupils reach their greatest potential and live by life's highest values.

Dear Parents/Carers of Marine Academy Primary pupils,

This month, we welcomed back Mrs Reid to her new role as Co-Head of School. Mrs Keeler and Mrs Reid are excited to be completing this role together and are looking forward to greeting you all in the mornings when they threshold outside. In March, we are excited to see Miss Newell return from maternity leave.

February saw a great deal of curriculum enrichment and opportunities to enhance our children's cultural capital. Most notably, forty children from Year 6 went on a residential to Paris. The children from Year 6 who did not go on residential, went on a trip to Plymouth Hoe and took part in a roller disco! In addition to this, the whole school took part in Safer Internet Day; the Reception Storytelling Extra-Curricular Activity and children from Year 1 went to the Theatre Royal Plymouth to watch 'Room on a Broom'; Reception went on a school trip dressed as pirates to Mount Edgcumbe; Year 6 visited the synagogue to complement their RE learning and the whole school dressed to express themselves to highlight Children's Mental Health Week. So much happened throughout February and there was a half term! We kickstart March with World Book Day on Thursday 2<sup>nd</sup> March.

We would normally have Children's Progress Meetings with Parents/Carers after the February half term break but we are working on making this look a little different. This is because, following the results of the Parent Survey and taking into account your feedback, we would like to be able to invite Parents/Carers to come into school for the meetings if they wish to do so. We will of course ensure that we give you plenty of notice to book these meetings.

Yours sincerely,  
Mrs Siobhan Meredith  
Headteacher

## FORTHCOMING EVENTS...

### DATES FOR YOUR DIARY

1<sup>st</sup> March – Year 5 to have PE today instead of 2<sup>nd</sup> March

2<sup>nd</sup> March – World Book Day



3<sup>rd</sup> March – Years 1 and 5 to ride the Ocean City Tour Bus

Week Commencing 6<sup>th</sup> March – Scholastic Book Fair

7<sup>th</sup> March – Reception Trip to the National Marine Aquarium

9<sup>th</sup> March – Construction Club to visit the Tamar Bridge Education Centre

9<sup>th</sup> March – Reception, Year 1 and Year 2 to have Storytelling Sessions from Plymouth Drake Foundation

13<sup>th</sup> March – Miss Newell returns from Maternity Leave

Week Commencing 13<sup>th</sup> March – Year 5 Swimming begins

17<sup>th</sup> March – Comic Relief: Red Nose Day

Week Commencing 20<sup>th</sup> March – Big Walk and Wheel 2023

21<sup>st</sup> March – World Poetry Day

24<sup>th</sup> March – Academy Parliament Trip to London

30<sup>th</sup> March – FaTMAP to run Years 5 and 6 Disco (3:30-4:30pm)

30<sup>th</sup> March – Year 1 Trip to Buckfast Abbey

31<sup>st</sup> March – Last day of Year 5 Swimming

31<sup>st</sup> March – FaTMAP to run Reception, Year 1 and Year 2 Disco (2:00-3:00pm)

31<sup>st</sup> March – FaTMAP to run Years 3 and 4 Disco (3:30-4:30pm)

31<sup>st</sup> March – Last Day of Term 4

17<sup>th</sup> April – First Day of Term 5



# New *this* Month

**Year 4** – Term 3 ended with a range of new skills being demonstrated and lots of excitement for learning! In Computing, Year 4 were learning about audio production and their final piece of learning was their very own podcast about Marine Academy Primary. The children worked as a team and created their own script, before completing the podcast. It was brilliant! In History, we decided to swap the History essays for a PowerPoint presentation. The Year 4 team were so impressed with their ability to create their own presentations, full of accurate information and present to the class. A huge well done to everyone! Moving into Term Four, we have another busy term ahead of us! In Science, the 'Teeth and Eating' topic, will provide more opportunities for the children to fully immerse themselves in a range of experiments. In Maths, the children have been challenged with their multiplication and division unit but the Year 4 team have been blown away with their perseverance. Well done everyone!

**Year 6** – Year 6 have had a jam-packed February. Before the half term, the children finalised their History topic, 'Civil Rights', which allowed opportunity for thought-provoking discussions to take place. Both classes enjoyed their trip to the Plymouth Synagogue, to enrich their RE learning on Judaism. In English, the children wrote a diary entry based on the events of the book, 'Kensuke's Kingdom', by Michael Morpurgo and were able to demonstrate a good understanding of informal writing techniques. This term, the children will be looking at a range of Harry Potter texts, to create pieces of writing for a range of purposes. In Geography, the topic, 'Population' has already captured the children's interest and we are looking forward to completing our own fieldwork, to collect data in the local area, later on in the term.

**Year 1** – The month of February was another busy one for the children in Year 1. The children displayed high levels of perseverance when completing their learning all about Ancient Egypt. They wrote fantastic end of unit essays that tested their knowledge throughout Term 3. Furthermore, the children did exceptionally well when undertaking their end of Term 3 Phonics assessments. They were able to identify many alternative sounds and could read a range of tricky words! Term 4 has also started with lots of amazing learning on show. The children have been busy finding out facts about Plymouth, which will support their Geography learning this term about 'To Plymouth and Beyond!'. We are all looking forward to the Ocean City Bus tour at the start of March. The children will continue to learn about the many landmarks in their city. We are also looking forward to a trip to Buckfast Abbey at the end of term, where the children will learn about the Easter story and undertake some Easter crafting. We wish to thank all parents and carers for your continued support over February and look forward to an exciting March.

**Year 3** – Year 3 have been fantastic learners this month. They have planned, created and reviewed their Computing learning on Scratch by developing their own maze game. It has been great to watch the children's confidence grow from the first week of learning about the controls to the final week when they were able to play their games. In addition, the children have blown the adults in Year 3 away with their knowledge of the Shang Dynasty throughout their History lessons. The children have spent the last two weeks planning, drafting and writing up their essays to demonstrate the amazing knowledge that they have learnt. The children are already excited to learn about Mountains, Volcanoes and Earthquakes when they return to school after half-term as part of their Geography learning. Finally, the children have been thoroughly engaged with Children's Mental Health Week by completing daily tasks in school. Some of their tasks included; making a self-portrait out of things they could find on the playground, craft a rainbow and choreograph their own dance routine. The children fully understood the importance of mental health and supported the week by dressing to express in their own clothes on the last day of term.

**Work Hard, Be Kind and Amazing Things will Happen!**

**Year 5** – February has been a very busy month for Year 5! Particular highlights have been our trips linked to our History and Science learning. The children had an amazing time at Tintagel Castle, where they were able to connect with the lives of people living during the reigns of Medieval Monarchs. Seeing the musical 'Six' helped reinforce the drama connected to Henry VIII and his wives. These trips greatly enriched their History Medieval Monarchs learning, allowing them to complete detailed and creative timelines, documenting the great and terrible reigns of the Medieval Monarchs. The children were very professional when they shared their incredible History knowledge live with one of our partner schools! For Science, Year 5 have followed the topic 'The Circle of Life', investigating life cycles of animals and examining reasons for and actions against extinction. At their Science trip to 'Medifest', the children were able to put their learning into practice via experiments and talks with industry scientists and medics. In Maths, the children made incredible progress on their Multiplication and Division learning, using the 'Bus Stop' method for division and formal methods of multiplication. In English, Year 5 have created play scripts based on their History knowledge of the Battle of Hastings, which concluded with them performing their plays! They then moved onto writing their own poetry, using creative and figurative language and once again connecting with other Trust schools in Exeter to showcase their creations. The children rounded off the month by completing their Computing learning. They were able to use their 'Crumble' kits to write computer programmes to work lights and moving parts, culminating in creating their own revolving carousels! Well done Year 5 for working relentlessly this month to complete extensive and meaningful learning!

**Year 2** – The Year 2 children loved their History topic in Term 3 on the 'Great Fire of London' and the essays the children produced at the end of term echoed their enthusiasm. The children also worked hard on learning and performing our Great Fire of London song, which even included Makaton! In Maths we have begun our Multiplication and division unit. It has been amazing to see the progress the children have been making on Times Tables Rock Stars already. Thank you for participating so much over the half term and encouraging Year 2 to become confident with their multiplication facts. During English, the children have focused on expanded noun phrases and are able to use exciting adjectives. We have even used conjunction and subordinate conjunctions - wow Year 2! In Geography, the children have started their new topic 'Let's Go to China'. Thank you for your wonderful decorations you created for your Home-Learning, they all look wonderful on display in our classrooms!

**Reception** – Reception have had another fantastic term. This term we have been learning all about Pirates and Shiver M' Timbers, the children were so excited to visit Mount Edgcumbe and go on the Cremyll Ferry. This term we have been finding objects that float and sink, been writing out own sentences about pirates and have been creating our own dance routines in PE! The children have been learning how to read longer words and we have been learning how to 'chunk it up' this a technique that we use in order to read longer words. This term our topic is 'Deep Sea Divers.' We will be exploring the oceans and the various animals that live under the sea, learning about different shark species and the various things they eat and will be thinking of our own questions that we would like to ask a marine biologist. We cannot wait for another brilliant term of learning!

**Nursery** – Turtle Class have had a very busy last few weeks. We continued our learning based on Little Bo Peep by making sheep masks and matching different coloured sheep. We also enjoyed National Story Telling week where the Turtle Class staff read stories to the children throughout the week. 'The Very Hungry Caterpillar' became part of our Number Time sessions, where we practiced the song 'Count your Funky Fingers' and counted the fruit that the caterpillar ate. We are continuing to support the children as they count to five and will soon be learning about shapes in Number Time. After half term, we started our new topic rhyme, Humpty Dumpty. We have started learning the rhyme and spent some time making Humpty Dumpty's wall out of the large bricks. The children have also been involved with dough disco every day, which has been beneficial for their fine motor skills development. Our welly walks also continue to be popular and it has been lovely to spend as much time outside with the children. Thank you for your support.

**Pre-School** – The Pre-School children have had an excellent start to their new topic 'Dinosaur Detectives'. They have loved exploring the dinosaur dig role play and have amazed us with their knowledge of dinosaur names. The children have loved creating a volcano and talking about what happens when a volcano erupts. We have also been exploring painting with dinosaurs and looking at the different footprints they make and have been practicing cutting out our very own dinosaurs. The adults in Pre-School are very proud of the perseverance of all the children when cutting with scissors. In PE, the children had the opportunity to explore the climbing frame and used a range of different skills to do this, they had a great time. What an amazing start to the new term! We can't wait to see what else the children are going to learn during our topic 'Dinosaur Detectives'.

**T**ogether  
**E**veryone  
**A**chieves  
**M**ore

**Update from the Marine Academy Parliament**

Marine Academy Parliament kicked off February with planning and taking part in Children's Mental Health Week – helping to raise vital support and awareness for the Place2Be Charity. This inspired them to spread kindness throughout the school – buying treats for all staff and children – which was gratefully received. Finally, they hosted a deliciously successful pancake breakfast which saw them selling pancakes with a variety of toppings to the school community, on Shrove Tuesday, and raising over £350! What fantastic team and a big thank you for all of your support!





### **Recommend A Recipe!**

**We would love it if you could try these recipes at home and send in a picture of you eating the recipe with your families or a food review to [primary@marineacademy.org.uk](mailto:primary@marineacademy.org.uk)**

#### Baked Tomatoes on Toast



Prep: 5 mins

Cook: 15 mins

Serves 4

## **Ingredients**

- 8 tomatoes, halved
- 3 handfuls cherry tomatoes, halved
- 1 teaspoon dried mixed herbs
- 2 teaspoons fresh chives, chopped (optional)
- 2 tablespoons white or wholemeal dried breadcrumbs
- 4 teaspoons reduced-fat hard cheese, finely grated
- 4 slices wholemeal bread
- 1 pinch ground black pepper

## **Method**

1. Preheat the oven to 190C (fan oven 170C, gas mark 5).
2. Arrange the tomatoes, cut sides up, on a baking sheet. Sprinkle with the dried herbs and chives (if using) and season with black pepper. Bake for 10 minutes.
3. Sprinkle the breadcrumbs and cheese over the tomatoes, and bake for another 5 minutes.
4. Meanwhile, toast the bread. Place the toast on warmed plates and share the tomatoes between them. Sprinkle with a little extra black pepper, then serve.

Next time, try stuffing the baked tomatoes into warmed wholemeal pittas.

You won't be able to resist the delicious aroma of these herby baked tomatoes!

The more that you read,  
The more things you will know.  
The more that you learn,  
The more places you'll go.  
-Dr. Seuss

# We Are Readers



**TOP 10**

## Number of Words Read This Month:

1	Derin (4NH) 143,589
2	Oliver T (6DK) 99,493
3	Chloe (6AW) 83,322
4	Zack (4NH) 58,723
5	Ava (6DK) 51,201
6	Jaxon (2CW) 40,084
7	Amelia G (6DK) 34,041
8	Adeago (3CC) 33,981
9	Lily (6AW) 28,320
10	Rhuben (6AW) 23,376

The total number of books and words read by children on Accelerated Reader so far this year currently stands at...

**5,047 books and 24,133,344 words** so far this year!

**WOW!**

## SUPER READER SHOUT OUTS!

It has been an amazing month for reading and quizzing! Well done to these superstars who have been reading lots!

Victoria (RHR), Willow (RTG), Skye (1SU), Jacob (1SA), Samuel (2JU), Antonio (2CW), Isla (3CC), Eros (3MM), Phillip (4LG), Oscar (4NH), Harley (5AD), Bear (5LI), Chloe (6AW) and Oliver M (6DK)!

Big congratulations go to Noah (5LI) for becoming our latest Word Millionaire!

Well done to all of you - wear your badges with pride!



## ARE YOU ONLINE SAFETY AWARE?

### Online Safety

Each month, we will continue to share with you some advice to support your child to be safe online.

If you have any further questions or concerns about e-safety, please contact our Computing leader, Mr Druce, by emailing: [primary@marineacademy.org.uk](mailto:primary@marineacademy.org.uk) FAO: Mr Druce.

Safer Internet Day was a resounding success across the Academy with children responding to a range of online scenarios through discussion and drama, analysing the stories from the Digiduck series and creating some amazing e-safety posters.



There is this great little story from Childnet for KS1 children. The [link](#) will take you to a YouTube video where the book 'Hanni and the Window' is read to children. The magic window is used as an analogy for a computer screen.



One of the most eye-catching results of a survey that was conducted last year (taking in more than 1,000 UK parents and carers) was that more than one in six – 18% – never talk to their child about staying safe online. There are some understandable reasons for this, such as feeling that their child is still too young or assuming that they're being taught online safety at school. The fact remains, however, that regular conversations about our digital lives can help children keep online safety firmly in mind and avoid many common internet hazards. The guide has some ideas for starting these beneficial chats with children – letting them know that you're taking a keen interest without making it feel like an interrogation.

At National Online Safety, we believe in empowering parents, carers and trusted adults with the information to hold an informed conversation about online safety with their children, should they feel it is needed. This guide focuses on one of many issues which we believe trusted adults should be aware of. Please visit [www.nationalonlinesafety.com](http://www.nationalonlinesafety.com) for further guides, hints and tips for adults.

# Tips for Encouraging Open Discussions about DIGITAL LIVES

The online world is an entirely familiar and commonplace part of life for today's children and young people, far more so than for previous generations. There are many positives to children being able to access online materials, so it's important not to demonise the internet, games and apps, and limit the benefit of their positive aspects. At the same time, we do have a responsibility to educate children about the hazards they may encounter online (just as we would about real-world dangers) so it's essential that we don't shy away from talking to them about the complex – and often sensitive – subject of what they do and what they see when they're online.

Here are some suggestions for kicking off conversations with your child about their digital life ...

## MAKE YOUR INTEREST CLEAR

Showing enthusiasm when you broach the subject signals to your child that you're keen to learn about the positives of their online world. Most children enjoy educating adults and will happily chat about what they use the internet for, or what games and apps they're into and how these work. Asking to see their favourite games and apps in action could help you spot any aspects that may need your attention – such as chat functions which might require a settings adjustment to limit contact with strangers. Keep listening even if your child pauses for a long time; they could be considering how to phrase something specific, or they may be gauging your reaction.

## BE OPEN AND HONEST, APPROPRIATE TO THEIR AGE

At various stages, children and young people become curious about puberty and how their body changes; about relationships; about how babies are made; and about sexual health. If your child knows that they can discuss these sensitive subjects with you, they tend to be less likely to go looking online for answers – which can often provide them with misleading information and, in some cases, lead to them consuming harmful content. Don't worry if you don't immediately know the answers to their questions – just find out for yourself and go back to them once you have the facts.

## REMIND YOUR CHILD THEY CAN ALWAYS TALK TO YOU

In my role I work with many children and young people who admit being reluctant to tell a trusted adult about harmful content they've viewed online, in case it leads to having their devices confiscated. Emphasise to your child that you're always there to listen and help; reassure them that if they do view harmful content, then they are not to blame – but talking about it openly will help. Children shouldn't be expected to be resilient against abuse or feel that it's their job to prevent it.

## KEEP TALKING!

The most valuable advice we can give is to keep talking with your child about their digital lives. You could try using everyday situations to ask questions about their online experiences.

## DISCUSS THAT NOT EVERYTHING WE SEE ONLINE IS REAL

Here, you could give examples from your own digital life of the online world versus reality – for example, those Instagram posts which show the perfect house: spotlessly clean, never messy and immaculately decorated. Explain to your child that there are many other aspects of the online world which are also deliberately presented in an unrealistic way for effect – such as someone's relationship, their body, having perfect skin and so on.

## TRY TO REMAIN CALM

As much as possible, try to stay calm even if your child tells you about an online experience that makes you feel angry or fearful. Our immediate emotions frequently influence the way we talk, so it's possible that your initial reaction as a parent or carer could deter a child from speaking openly about what they've seen. Give yourself time to consider the right approach, and perhaps speak with other family members or school staff while you are considering your next steps.

## CREATE A 'FAMILY AGREEMENT'

Involving your whole household in coming up with a family agreement about device use can be immensely beneficial. You could discuss when (and for how long) it's OK to use phones, tablets, consoles and so on at home; what parental controls are for and why they're important; and why it's good to talk to each other about things we've seen or experienced online (both good and bad). Explaining your reasoning will help children to understand that, as trusted adults, we want to make sure they are well informed and kept safe. Allowing children to have their say when coming up with your family agreement also makes them far more likely to stick to it in the long term.

## Meet Our Expert

Rebecca Jennings of RAISE (Raising Awareness in Sex Education) has almost 20 years' experience delivering relationships and sex education and training to schools, colleges and other education providers. A published author on the subject, she also advises the Department of Education on the staff-training element of the RSE curriculum.



National Online Safety®

#WakeUpWednesday



[www.nationalonlinesafety.com](http://www.nationalonlinesafety.com)



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### Sports Events across the World

- ★ Tennis: Abierto Mexicano Telcel presentado por HSBC – 27<sup>th</sup> February-5<sup>th</sup> March
  - ★ Darts: 2023 Cazoo Premier League – 2<sup>nd</sup> March
  - ★ Tennis: BNP Paribas Open – 8<sup>th</sup>-19<sup>th</sup> March
  - ★ Darts: 2023 Cazoo Premier League – 9<sup>th</sup> March
- ★ PGA Tour golf: The Players Championship 2023 – 9<sup>th</sup>-12<sup>th</sup> March
- ★ Men's Six Nations 2023 – round four – 11<sup>th</sup> March: Italy vs. Wales; England vs. France
  - ★ Men's Six Nations 2023 – round four – 12<sup>th</sup> March: Scotland vs. Ireland
    - ★ Horse racing: Cheltenham Festival – 14<sup>th</sup>-17<sup>th</sup> March
    - ★ All England Open Badminton Championships – 14<sup>th</sup>-19<sup>th</sup> March
    - ★ Darts: 2023 Cazoo Premier League – 16<sup>th</sup> March
- ★ Men's Six Nations 2023 – round five – 18<sup>th</sup> March: Scotland vs. Italy; France vs. Wales; Ireland vs. England
  - ★ Tennis: Miami Open presented by Itaú – 21<sup>st</sup> March-2<sup>nd</sup> April
  - ★ Golf: WGC – Dell Technologies Match Play – 22<sup>nd</sup>-26<sup>th</sup> March
    - ★ Darts: 2023 Cazoo Premier League – 23<sup>rd</sup> March
- ★ Women's Six Nations 2023 – round 1 – 25<sup>th</sup> March: Wales vs. Ireland; England vs. Scotland
  - ★ Women's Six Nations 2023 – round 1 – 26<sup>th</sup> March: Italy vs. France
  - ★ Snooker: 2023 Tour Championship – 27<sup>th</sup> March-2<sup>nd</sup> April
  - ★ Darts: 2023 Cazoo Premier League – 30<sup>th</sup> March 2023



These superstars managed to play fantastically well as a team to finish 3<sup>rd</sup> place in the Plymouth Argyle in the Community football tournament. Previously, the team qualified for the finals - finishing 1<sup>st</sup> in the preliminary round - allowing the team to be invited into the finals group with 8 other qualified schools. The team competed in 8 matches: winning 4, drawing 2 and losing 2. Overall, the team finished with 14 points and a healthy goal difference. Mr Cuzner was very proud of their effort, resilience and their ability to represent themselves and the Academy throughout the competition.





# EVERY DAY COUNTS

We are an **ambitious** and **inclusive** school, **strengthening our community** through **excellent education**.

## OUR TARGET FOR ALL STUDENTS

Your attendance is excellent!

100%

We are compassionate in our approach to attendance while remaining ambitious for you and showing our love by supporting you to attend school and be successful.



Making new friends, having fun and developing new skills is an important part of school life.



Being in school helps you to build confidence, resilience and self esteem, giving you the best chance to succeed in life.

## SECURE

6 DAYS ABSENCE

30 hours lost learning time.  
Try not to have any more days absence.

97%

95%

## WE ARE CONCERNED

10 DAYS ABSENCE

50 hours lost learning time  
Poor attendance gives you less chance of success.



Every school has someone to help you build your confidence to come to school and help tackle any worries.



For more information on attendance scan the above QR code or visit <https://www.marineacademy.org.uk/primary/home>

## WE ARE REALLY WORRIED

19 DAYS ABSENCE

95 hours lost learning time  
Very poor attendance has a serious impact on your education and may reduce your life choices.



If you are worried about coming to school, tell someone what's wrong so you can get the help and support you need.



We want all children to understand the value of good attendance and to strive to have this through developing or maintaining healthy attendance habits which when learnt young, will stand them in good stead for the rest of their school career and working life. We have recently seen an increase in the number of families taking holidays during term time. We recognise that it is often expensive to take a holiday during school breaks and that is why some parents may ask for term time leave for their children. However, it is important that parents carefully consider the implications of taking their child out of school during term time. More information can be found here:

<https://www.marineacademy.org.uk/primary/term-dates>



*On the Thursday of Children's Mental Health Week, members of the Marine Academy Primary Choir spread a smile and a song. The children visited Butterfly Lodge, a local Dementia Care home, where they entertained the residents with wonderful smiles and brilliant singing. As a Dementia friendly school, it is important for our children to understand what this entails for families, and to be able to provide everyone with lovely singing was a privilege. Well done choir, we are very proud of you! You can view a video of them performing to the residents [here](#).*



Thurs 2nd March  
7.30-8.30pm



# EMOTIONAL LOGIC PARENT INTRODUCTION

Do you want to:

- Know how to help your children build their inner strength to adapt to the changes and challenges in life?
- Explore new ways for your family to communicate and talk about tricky emotional issues?
- Find new ways to deal with others when they feel angry, anxious or stuck?

If so, you are invited to attend a free 60 minute online session.

During the session you will be introduced to the Emotional Logic technique and shown how to use the resources to help yourself and others.



Register your interest at [elcentre.org](http://elcentre.org)

