

David Walliams Spring Newsletter 2019

Happy New Year!

Dear Parents

Welcome back and Happy New Year to you all. I hope that you had a wonderful festive season. The spring term is always one of preparation and excitement in the class as we build up towards the exam season and the summer activities beyond. The children have already got off to a flying start!

The year 5 children have attended their first Widening Horizons event of the year, exploring the many jobs offered by EE in their local, award winning call centre. We are very much looking forward to the next trip to Princess Yachts next week. The Year 6 children haven't been left out! We have had the privilege of working alongside the PE department of Plymouth University who have joined us to deliver some fantastic striking and fielding activities this week and all the children have tried their hand at indoor rowing! A very busy start to the term!

We have welcomed our new Acting Headteacher, Mr Dyson and have been given the opportunity to ask some questions regarding his background and his aspirations for our school. We look forward to showing him what an amazing class David Walliams can be.

This term I am hoping to invite as many parents in to school as possible to view their children's work and hold informal conversations around how learning can be consolidated and progress improved. In the meantime as always, if you have any questions or would like to discuss your child's work or progress then please get in touch via the office or my email address;

tdriscoll@maryofthecross.co.uk

Learning outside the classroom

My thanks to all those who have taken the time to support the children with learning outside of the classroom through additional reading, homework and educational experiences. The impact that these opportunities have on the children's learning is substantial and makes all the difference with regards to confidence and accelerated learning within the classroom.

The children will soon be receiving their Spring Homework pack. Please ensure that as much of this is completed as possible and that the children are given the time and resources needed to complete it to a high standard. If the children find any aspect of the homework **overly** challenging and you do not feel comfortable supporting them with this then there is a homework club on Tuesdays from 12:15–12:30 where I will point them in the right direction. Please ensure that all homework is completed and in school by the Friday of each week. Thank you for your support with this.



Exploring phones of the past!

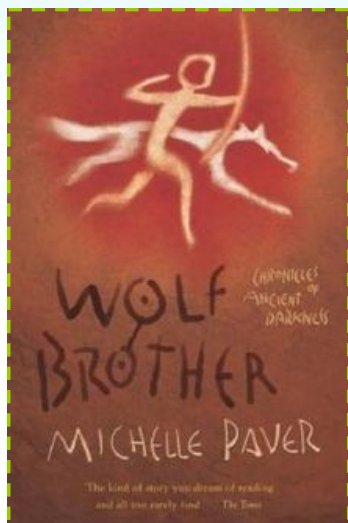
Residential Update:

As you are aware, the residential on the 10th June is fast approaching. My thanks to those who have already paid for their child's place.

For those yet to pay, please ensure that the £100 fee is paid either directly on ParentPay or to the school office as soon as possible. This can be done in instalments if you prefer.

The deadline for payment is Friday 31st May.





Learning this term

Our topic this term is Early Britain, focusing specifically on Stone Age, Bronze Age and Iron Age Britain. We will be looking at how the expansion of the human civilization has shaped our country and helped create the world that we see around us today. We will be using archaeological skills to uncover secrets of the past and analyzing sites on Dartmoor that can shed light on how these early settlers lived.

The topic theme is carried through our English lessons as we read part of the Michelle Paver's *Wolf Brother*. The story of Torak's fight for survival in a dangerous and unforgiving world.

In mathematics this term, the Year 5 children will be focusing on developing their understanding of multiplication, division and fractions whilst the Year 6 children will be focused on decimal, percentages and algebra.

In science, we will be looking at forces and how they influence the world we live in.

Finally, in RE we will explore the Christmas story and how this we learn that Jesus is the fulfilment of God's promise as through Matthew's Gospel. We will then learn about Judaism before finishing the term with Revelation.

If you have any resources or feel that you can in some way contribute to any of the learning this term, please get in touch.

Learning next term

Next term, our topic will be 'trade and economics' in which the children will explore how countries can work together to thrive. We will be looking at a series of non-fiction books, resulting in a persuasive write.

In mathematics Year 6 will be focusing on ratio, shape and measure. Year 5 will be learning about fractions, decimals and percentages. The children will move between groups dependent on how their needs.

Our science focus will be Animals including Humans.

In support of the trade and economics topic, we will be exploring the roll of Fair Trade in society and how the system helps in developing countries. We will be creating a fair trade product, advertising and selling later in the year.