



Notes from the Vale

Friday 20th September 2024

Volume 23, Issue 2

Welcome from Mr Lewis-Cole

I hope that you have all had a wonderful week. It has definitely been a busy one in school! As you will see throughout this Notes from the Vale, we have wasted no time in beginning our inspiring curriculum for all pupils across the school. We have also welcomed back our choir and orchestra after the summer break (it was wonderful to hear singing and the playing of instruments in the morning). I have also had many conversations with year groups about trips they are planning so I know there are more exciting things to come.

Last year, we were able to provide year groups with a budget to provide school trips at significantly reduced or no cost. You will have noticed this, hopefully, since April when this change came into effect. This means that we are able to provide more opportunities of learning away from the classroom and bring back some of the more costly trips that have had to be paused in recent years. We are really pleased to be able to provide these experiences for all pupils.

Our new Foundation pupils have started full time school this week. They really have settled in well and are getting used to the routines of their extended day. I am sure they are all going to be very tired as we enter the weekend (I know that the Foundation team are!). If you know anyone that has a child starting school in September 2025, please let them know about our tour dates coming up so that they can book to look around our fabulous provision.

We are sadly saying 'Goodbye' to the wonderful Miss Devlin today. She is off to start a new adventure in a slightly different role. Although part of the Lipson Vale community for a relatively short period of time, Miss Devlin has had a huge impact on the staff, pupils and families. Thank you, Miss Devlin, for being brilliant. Good luck.

Meet the Teacher meetings

It was really wonderful to have so many families come into school this week to meet their child's teacher and find out about the year ahead. These are deliberately informal so that families can ask any questions that they have whilst being provided with some key information about the year group and what you can expect. If you weren't able to come to your year group's meeting time, please check out our website as we are updating the year group pages to include some of the essential information.

Parents' Evenings

Just a heads up that parents' evenings will be taking place in the week before we break for the October half term. The dates we have set for these are 22nd and 24th October. More information will be sent out about this in the coming weeks. We will be using a new platform for booking your appointment and will make sure that we send detailed instructions for this.

Cycle to school week

Next week is 'cycle to school' week. Please encourage your child to walk, wheel or cycle to school everyday. There will be certificates available at the end of the week for all pupils who take part and, if we are the highest in the city, there may be a special treat for our pupils.

An amazing 80% of families have already linked with their BoomReader accounts. If you haven't already please spare 2 minutes this weekend to do so.

Wishing you all a restful weekend.

Together we are inspiring a community with a bright future.

Resilience, Collaboration, Responsibility, Bravery, Communication, Self-belief

Together we

Congratulations



Harris Cup
Daisy P



Reading Cup
Daniel A



'H' Cup
Maisie F

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 regular and punctual attendance to school has a significant impact on a pupils life chances. Pupils that are well enough should be in school at 8.45am every day.



Attendance Matters

Every student. Every day.

Foundation & Key Stage 1

Puffins	96.0
Coral	99.2
Seahorses	95.2
Oysters	95.2
Mussels	98.9
Starfish	97.7

Key Stage 2

Turtles	95.3
Sunfish	100.0
Otters	99.3
Dolphins	99.3
Anglerfish	98.1
Orca	99.2
Angel Shark	95.9
Rays	98.0

The **highest class attendance** last week

Coral in FS/KS1

Sunfish in KS2

GREAT ATTENDANCE



On Time Octopus
winning class:

Oysters

Punctuality Penguin
winning class:

Orca



celebrate

News & Events



Things to talk about at home...

- Can you think of any wider benefits of people learning about the Wildlife Photographer of the Year competition?
- Do you enjoy photography? Do you prefer looking at or taking photos?
- Do you have a favourite photo? What is it of, and who took it?



The children are looking forward to another year of Eco learning including learning across the curriculum, as well as whole school initiatives and extra curriculum learning.

Year 3 will be engaging in a fabulous project called Sea in our Schools run by the Ocean Conversation Trust which will be diving into many aspects of the fabulous National Marine Park, located on our doorstep in Plymouth Sound. Watch this space!

Please can we remind you all that we are a single-use plastic free school and try to discourage the use of all single-use plastics, including drinks bottles and food packaging where possible.

Thank you for your continued support in raising awareness and helping to reduce plastics in the environment.

The UK has been rubbish at creating a Deposit Return Scheme (DRS) for plastic bottles. It was first talked about in 2018 – and since then there have been all sorts of delays. It's not good enough, especially when schemes have worked across Europe. Norway collects 97% of its single-use plastic bottles.³

SAY NO!
**TO SINGLE-USE
PLASTIC BOTTLES**
AT LIPSON VALE PRIMARY



SAY NO!
TO PLASTIC BAGS
**AT LIPSON VALE
PRIMARY**

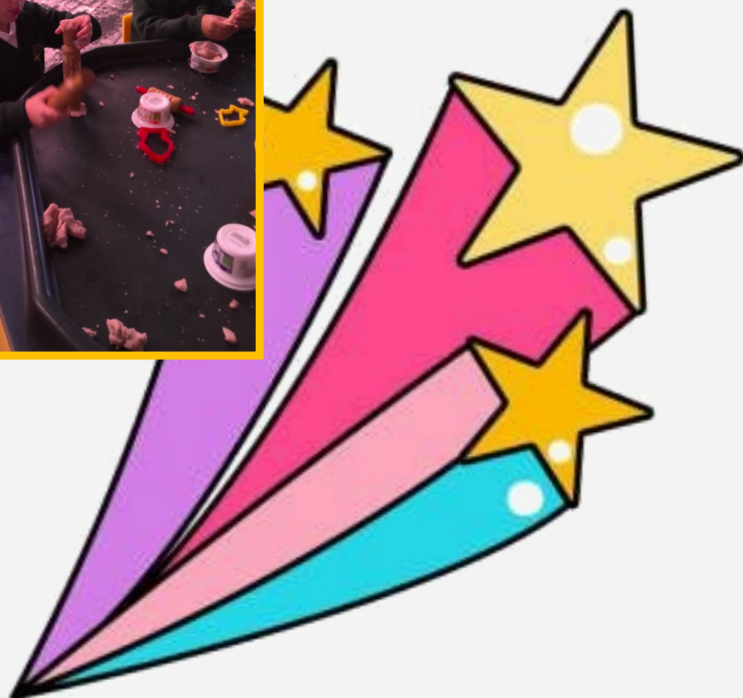


Together we

First week of full time

The Foundation children have enjoyed their first full time week in 'big' school. They have been busy exploring their new classrooms, painting pictures, listening to stories and making new friends. We're sure you'll agree that they've done a sterling job and have settled really well.

love to learn



are musicians

Together we

The orchestra met this week for their first practice. We were delighted to welcome lots of new musicians from Year 4. What a great sound you all made on your first rehearsal.



This week our music groups started to get together. Our intermediate recorder group rehearsed a piece which they played in our first music assembly this week called 'An Irish lullaby'.



Together we

love to learn



Wow! What a super start year 1 have had! They have been trying hard to learn the expectations and routines and got their teeth stuck into all of the new learning opportunities! We have really enjoyed getting to know them and seeing them happily engaging in their new environment. Here is a snapshot of the first couple of weeks.



Year Two have been working hard on their place value knowledge in maths this week. They used the Rekenrek to make and count numbers under 100, using their tens and ones knowledge. What super mathematicians!



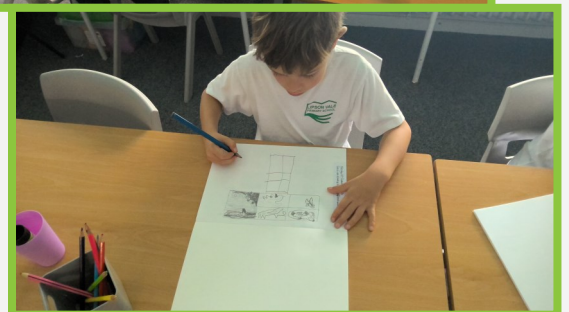
love to learn

Together we

This week in Year 3, we've been rockin' out with our rock investigations! The students have been diving deep into the properties of rocks, using magnifying glasses to make some super careful observations. They also put their rocks to the test by checking their durability and density. It's been an exciting journey into the world of geology, and we can't wait to share more of their discoveries!



In year 2 we have started our first art unit where the children are learning all about 'sketching'. The children explored creating tone and shade using different pencil pressures and pencil grips.



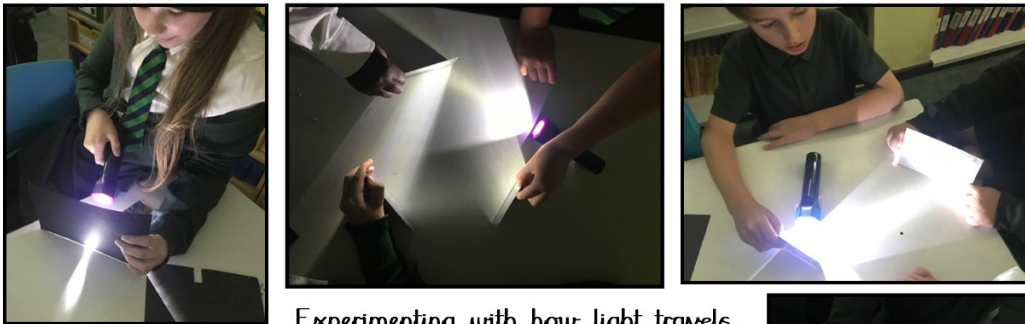
The children in year 4 have immersed themselves in our History topic this term Ancient Egypt with some wonderful home learning!

Together we

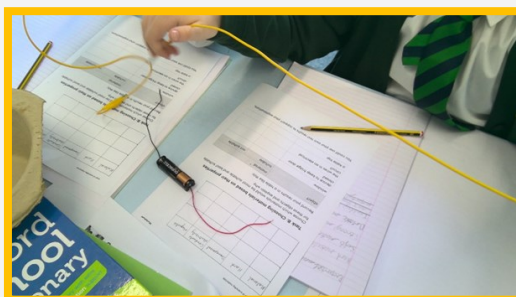
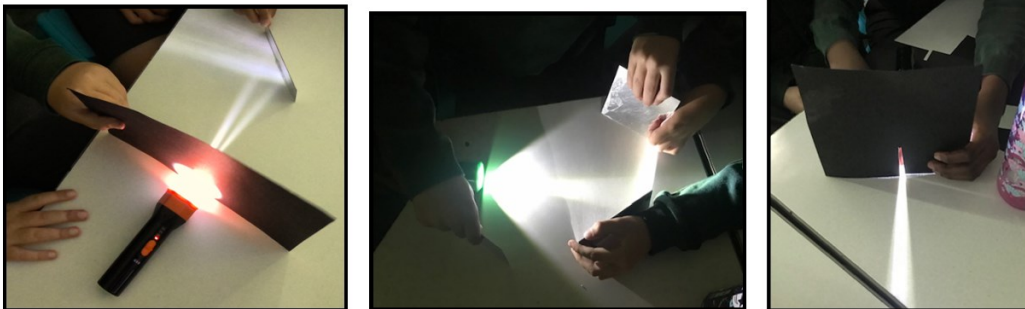
love to learn



Over the last two weeks, Year 6 have been investigating how light travels and what happens when you place certain objects in front of a light source. We have been developing our scientific vocabulary and are now able to confidently explain that light is a form of energy that travels in a straight line which we have proven through some mini experiments using black card and mirrors. We have certainly enjoyed using the torches and being brave when sharing our observations.



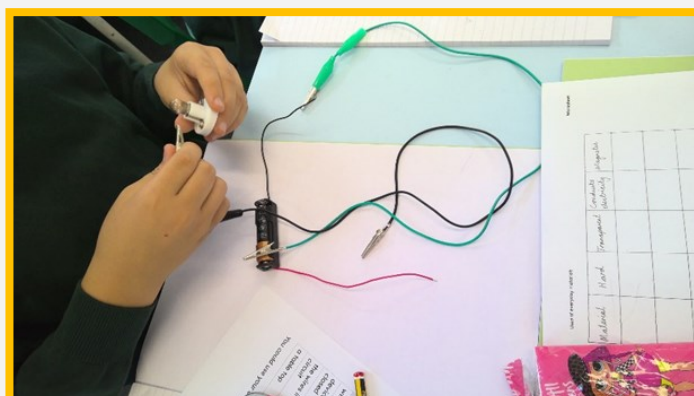
Experimenting with how light travels.



This week, the children in Year 5 completed a scientific experiment to identify the properties of materials.

Task B: Choosing materials based on their properties

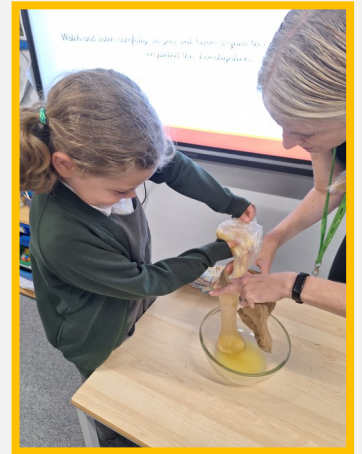
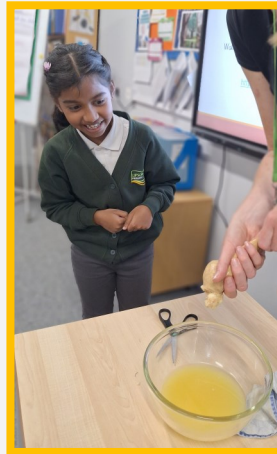
Material	Hard	Transparent	Conducts electricity	Magnetic
Small sharp metal	✓		✓	✓



love to learn

Together we

This week, Year 4 learned about the human digestive system by enjoying a fun (and messy!) experiment in which we recreated the digestion process in the classroom using biscuits, orange juice, a banana and a pair of tights. The demonstration helped children to visualise the process of digestion in a practical way. Their learning was then tested with a quiz on mini whiteboards. I think the children would agree that it was a memorable science lesson!



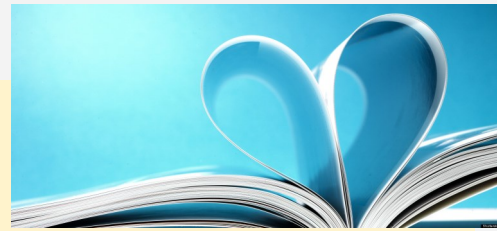
This week, Year One embarked on an exciting journey into our new science unit, "Animals Including Humans" focusing on the fascinating world of our five senses! The children engaged in a variety of hands-on activities to explore how we perceive the world around us. They used their sense of smell to compare and contrast different scents, enhancing their descriptive skills. In our "Curiosity Cuboid," students utilised their sight to investigate new concepts, sparking their natural curiosity. To explore touch, the children felt various objects, learning to articulate how each one feels. They sharpened their listening skills by carefully identifying different sounds, turning sound recognition into a fun guessing game. Lastly, the children tasted fruit and were invited to share their thoughts on the flavors they experienced.



Together we

love to learn

We are Readers



Boom Reader

We are thrilled with the positive response and engagement we've seen with BoomReader, our new digital reading record that has replaced our paper reading diaries. Thank you for downloading the app and logging your child's reading at home. It has been wonderful to celebrate the great reading happening both at home and in school, and to see how pupils have personalised their Boomers with the gems they've earned. BoomReader also allows us to monitor reading progress at home and provide additional support where needed.

If you haven't had a chance to access BoomReader yet, or if you would like more information, please speak to your child's class teacher or visit the parent section on the BoomReader website: [Parents | BoomReader](#).

Reading Recommendations

If you are looking for some fantastic recommended reads than please visit The [Reader Teacher | Children's Books | Reads, Reviews & Recommendations](#) for the best reads, reviews and recommendations of children's books. The website features details of the top 100 recommended reads for each year group.

Summer Reading Challenge

Thank you to all the families for encouraging and supporting their children in completing the Summer Reading Challenge. We are delighted to welcome a representative from the Schools' Library Service, who will be joining us at our celebration assembly on Friday, 4th October, to present certificates to the children who took part.

Happy reading.

THE READING AGENCY

2024

Summer Reading Challenge

Delivered in partnership with libraries

Join FREE at your library

Get rewards for reading!

Marvellous Makers

LIBRARY

summerreadingchallenge.org.uk

THE READING AGENCY Celebrating creativity CREATE!

Supported by the Arts Council ENGLAND

© The Reading Agency. Registered charity number: 1054745. England 01833 666666

News & Events

Lipson Vale BikeBus

Come to our family-run BikeBus and ride to school together!

We meet at Treffusis Park at: **8.25am** to ride to Lipson Vale Primary School together.

All welcome, cycle, scoot, wheel, pram, walk or however you want to join in, no need to book- but helmets are essential for children riding bikes & scooters!



Friday 27th September

(during Cycle to School Week)

&

Friday 18th October



It's Cycle to School Week!

23rd - 27th September

Pump up those tyres and get your helmet on for cycle to school week! Sustrans is supporting Bikeability to help children get active!

Free stickers & certificates for all children that take part!

Pick up your stickers on Friday 20th September (by the PTFA Sweet Treat Friday stall) and your certificates from school reception from Friday 27th onwards.



Starting school in September 2025?

Come and see what Lipson Vale Primary has to offer...

We will be hosting tours for prospective parents for the September 2025 intake throughout October and November 2024. Please call the school office on **01752 224801** to book yourself onto a tour.

Numbers are capped so booking is essential.

Wednesday 16th October @10am
Thursday 24th October @ 2pm
Saturday 9th November @ 10am
Saturday 23rd November @ 10am
Friday 29th November @ 9.30am

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News & Events



Peninsula Dental Social Enterprise

Waiting lists for Peninsula Dental are now open to patients aged 1—111 at the Plymouth site.

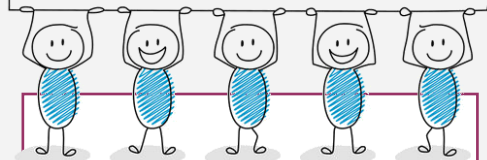
Click [here](#) to be taken to the registration form (you will need your child's full name, date of birth, NHS number, home address and school)

In need of a dentist?



Closes 25th September

WE NEED YOU



We are looking for a school cleaner. 12.5 hours a week, 41 weeks of the year.

Applications are available from the school office.

Closing date: 27th September 2024

UPDATE YOUR DETAILS



If you have recently changed any contact information (phone number, address etc) please let the school know so that we can update our records. We have added a simple online form to our website which you can complete (in seconds) to notify us of any changes.

Collective Worship

We have started this term off by thinking about one of our school values: **bravery**. We considered what it means to be brave and what bravery looks like. Classes were challenged to picture someone who was brave - which is actually quite challenging. We thought about how bravery is a lot to do with our mindset and the resilience that we show towards different activities and challenges.

What does bravery mean to you?

Dates for your diaries:

20.09.2024	PTFA Sweet Treat Friday
Wb 21.10.2024	Parents Evenings
Wb 28.10.2024	Half term
4.11.2024	Non Pupil Day
22.11.2024	PTFA Christmas Fair and Light Switch on
25.11.2024	Flu Vaccinations
17.12.2024	Carol Service
20.12.2024	Christmas Lunch
23.12.2024	Start of Christmas break
6.1.2025	Non Pupil Day



School Meals



SCAN ME

CATERed 
FEEDING AMBITIONS

School Money



SCAN ME



schoolmoney

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@LipsonValePS



Lipson Vale Primary

