



Notes from the Vale

Friday 7th February 2025

Volume 23, Issue 9

Welcome from Mr Lewis-Cole

We have finally waved goodbye to January and Spring is on its way. We have had a number of visitors in school over the last few weeks who have enriched the curriculum learning for pupils and we have many other experiences planned before we break up for February half term. Thank you to our dedicated teachers for organising and providing these experiences for our pupils.

You may have noticed the absence of a NFTV last week. This was due to some technical difficulties in school which have now been resolved. I had the privilege of awarding our cups to Puffins class last week and the worthy winners were Brooke, Zayaan and Oakley.

Parents' Evenings

Next week, on Tuesday and Thursday, we will be holding our Spring Term parents' evenings. So far 80% of families have booked their slots to meet with their child's class teacher. If you haven't already, please do use the link sent to you via email to book your slot so that you can find out about the progress your child has made so far this year. If you have any problems booking your slot, please get in contact with the school office who will be able to assist you.

Whole School Boccia event

On Monday, we will hold our termly whole school sporting day. This term all pupils will be taking part in Boccia. These are always highly enjoyable days for everyone across the school and I am sure this one will be no different. Don't forget to wear your PE kits into school on Monday so that you can take part.

PTFA AGM

This week, our wonderful PTFA held their annual group meeting. It was a great opportunity to reflect on the significant money that was raised over the last year and discuss what this could be used for to improve the school environment and provide pupils with increased resources. The PTFA have lots of exciting events planned for the coming year (starting next week with a Valentine's mufti day) and I would recommend you checking out their Facebook page to get all the latest updates. [\(6\) Facebook](#)

Exciting development in school

This week, we moved over to a new system for managing student information in school. In the near future, this new system will allow us to move all of our communications, payments, lunch choices and clubs over to a single app. This app will allow families to access everything that they need in one single place. It will also mean that we can communicate with all contacts (rather than being limited as we currently are). I will be messaging out to families in the next couple of weeks about the initial stages of getting set up on this new app and the plan for moving over. Families who have pupils at the secondary school will also be familiar with this app, as they use the same one.

Wishing you all a peaceful and restful weekend.

Together we are inspiring a community with a bright future.

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

Together we

Congratulations



Harris Cup
Amelia



Reading Cup
Rukshayan



'H' Cup
Jayden

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



Attendance Matters

Every student. Every day.

Foundation & Key Stage 1

Puffins	92.0
Coral	93.0
Seahorses	98.6
Oysters	92.6
Mussels	94.6
Starfish	95.8

Key Stage 2

Turtles	92.7
Sunfish	95.3
Otters	95.0
Dolphins	94.6
Anglerfish	91.8
Orca	94.4
Angel Shark	94.8
Rays	96.3

The **highest class attendance** last week

Seahorses in FS/KS1

Rays in KS2

GREAT ATTENDANCE



On Time Octopus
winning class:

Seahorses & Starfish

Punctuality Penguin
winning class:

Orca



celebrate

News & Events



**Who should be involved
in key decisions for
the world?**

Things to talk about at home...

- Share what you know about climate change with others at home, and ask others to share their understanding.
- Do you think more could and should be done to tackle climate change? If so, what and by whom?

**EASY
ECO
TIPS**



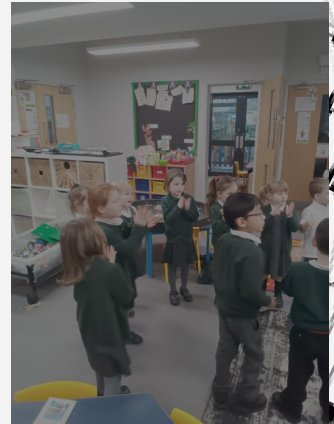
Thank you so much, Isobel, for helping to keep our streets clean around our school area. We really appreciate your kind efforts. What a lot of litter you collected! This is a great reminder to us all, to help to keep our streets litter free. Thank you Isobel!



are musicians

Together we

Foundation worked hard at using a range of body percussion actions in time to their pirate songs and sea shanties this week. We were so pleased that many of you showed a confident awareness of the beat in the lively music. Great work foundation.



Our Orchestra met today. They played through some old favourites but started to learn a challenging new piece titled Hallelujah. The rhythm is tricky and we have a new time signature to work with.



We are so fortunate to have some confident drummers who will also step in as drum technicians and fix our drums together.



Instrumental lessons have gone well this week. We have a new trumpet player who is already making a great sound. Our Year 3 flautists and Year 4 guitar players are making good progress and we are looking forward to you hearing you perform soon



Together we

The children in Year 1 have had another very busy week with lots of super learning taking place. We have been observing the bulbs growing in our science area. We are learning about different animal diets and finding out about carnivores, herbivores and omnivores. The children had the opportunity to ask scientific questions which they posted in a box and then we discussed: Dylan - "Why do sharks have sharp teeth?" We have used the skills of patience and determination to enable us to make willow snowflakes. It has been fun to explore and make 2D shapes using elastic bands. As it is mental health week next week, we are enjoying reading 'The Colour Monster' and discussing different feelings. Such a busy week with lots of fabulous learning taking place. Well done Oysters and Seahorses!

love to learn

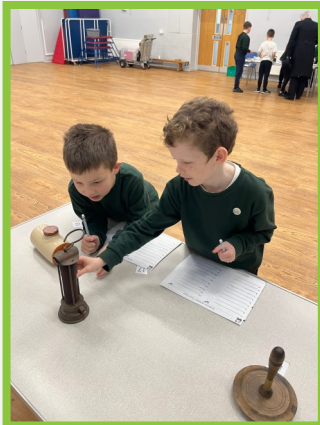


love to learn

Together we



On Wednesday, Year 4 were visited by Mr Chapman, in the role of Lord Shaftesbury, and learned how this Victorian earl and MP helped to improve the lives of Victorian children. During the day, we studied many Victorian artefacts and tried to work out what they were and how they were used during the Victorian era and learned about some important Victorian inventions. The Otters and Dolphins classes decided that the advances in medicine and treatment of diseases, including the discovery of anesthetic, was the most important Victorian invention. We also had fun undertaking a quiz, playing a board game and taking part in a trail to discover facts about Victorian schools.



This week the Year two children had a go at using their learnt skills of brush lines and their understanding of colour to create two different pieces of art; one showing happiness and the other displaying sadness or anger.



Together we

In science, the children have been measuring the force of objects in the class using Newton meters to measure force. In groups, the children discovered the force needed to move the object.



Year 3 have had a great time exploring our new art unit so far this half term! Last week we recapped shade and tint from KS1 and learnt about tone and we created our own colour pallets!

This week we explored how different paint brushes can create different outcomes and discussed when and how they might be used effectively during our final piece! Keep your eyes peeled for some fantastic paintings!

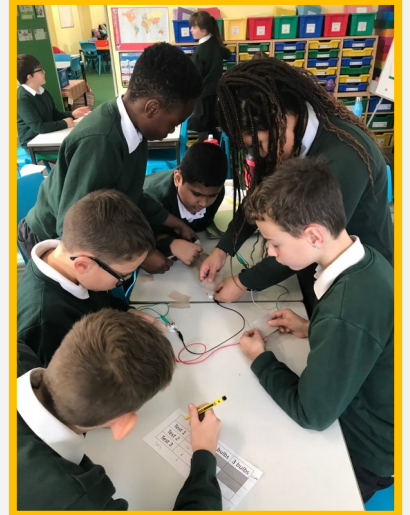


love to learn

love to learn

Together we

On Monday, Year 6 were tasked with investigating how the number of components in a circuit affects the brightness of a bulb. They combined all of their learning from this electricity unit so far to build a circuit, test out their theories, adjust the variables and draw conclusions from their results.



Year 3 had a fantastic time designing their own experiments to discover which magnets were the strongest! Some students tested the distance at which the magnets could attract objects, while others explored how many items each magnet could hold. Our budding scientists carefully recorded their results in a table, ready for further analysis and discussion!

love to learn

Together we

We are Readers

Word Millionaires

We are delighted to announce our first two Word Millionaires of the year!

A huge congratulations to Josh from Orca Class, who has read an astonishing 1,245,850 words since the beginning of September - an incredible achievement. Even more impressively, this is not the first time Joshua has reached this milestone, having previously become a Word Multi-Millionaire last year!

We also celebrate Georgina from Anglerfish Class, who has read an impressive 1,012,355 words, earning the title of Word Millionaire for the first time.

Well done to both pupils on this fantastic accomplishment.

BoomReader

Thank you for your continued support in logging your child's reading at home on BoomReader. It's fantastic to celebrate and encourage the reading our pupils enjoy beyond the classroom.

If you need any assistance with BoomReader or would like reading recommendations, please feel free to speak to your child's class teacher—we're always happy to help!

Happy reading.



News & Events

Plymouth and District Junior Netball League



Would your child like to try a new sport?

Junior Netball League are offering **FREE Taster netball sessions for Boys and Girls in years 3-6** who don't currently belong to a netball club.
Boys 10-11.15 GIRLS 11.30-12.45,
Plymouth Life Centre, Saturday 1st February.
Please email pdjnlenquiries@gmail.com to book your place, and see why it is one of the biggest sports for girls in the UK and one of the biggest growing for boys 😊

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.

2004 AWARDS
★ BEST CHILDREN'S ACTIVITY PROVIDER IN THE SOUTH WEST
★ BEST SUMMER CAMP IN THE SOUTH WEST

STANDARD DAY 8.30AM - 4.30PM
EXTENDED DAY 8.00AM - 6.00PM

AGES 3-12

GALAXY EXPLORERS

HALF TERM
17TH-21ST FEBRUARY 2025
@ PLYMOUTH COLLEGE

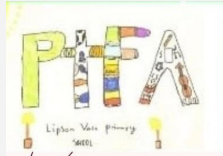
Join High 5's brilliant team for **FIVE** fabulous days of sports, activity, art and fun at their **Galaxy Explorers** themed camp. Enjoy a whole-host of amazing Xtra activities which are **ALL** included in the price!

**ONE SMALL STEP FOR MAN,
ONE GIANT LEAP FOR HIGH 5!**

BOOK NOW @ www.high5sportscamps.co.uk

OFSTED FIND US ON

News & Events



Valentine's Day

Red / Pink Mufti Day

Friday 14th February

£1 suggested donation on
School Money



TEDDY BEAR DAY

THE DAY THE TEDDY BEARS HAVE THEIR SCHOOL LUNCH!
MONDAY 10TH FEBRUARY



Winnie the Pooh honey chicken
with seasoned wedges and coleslaw,
Kung Fu Panda stir fried noodles with veg,
Paddington Bear marmalade cake

Collective Worship

Last week we considered what it means to respect difference. We thought carefully about what it means to be difference and how we can celebrate this as a community. We thought about whether it 'okay' to be different and need different things. We did, of course, agree that being different is important and that we can learn from each others differences.

This week, Mrs Stephens started the week by introducing mental health week.

How are you different from others? What makes you unique?

Dates for your diaries:

Wb 3.2.2025	Children's Mental Health week
10.2.2025	Boccia/Kurling Whole School
11.2.2025	Parents' Evening #1
13.2.2025	Parents' Evening #2
17—21.2.2025	Half term
24.2.2025	Year 4 Swimming starts
6.3.2025	World Book Day
19.3.2025	Year 4 Morwelham Quay trip
20.3.2025	Dr Bike in school
Wb 24.3.2025	Big Walk and Wheel
31.3.2025	Tennis/Pickleball Whole School
3.4.2025	Year 5 Viking Day
7 - 18.4.2025	Easter Break
22.4.2025	Pupils return after break
22 - 25.4.2025	Year 5 Residential



School Meals



SCAN ME

CATERed 
FEEDING AMBITIONS

A promotional graphic for School Meals. It features the text 'School Meals' in a green, stylized font. Below it is a QR code with the text 'SCAN ME' in white on a black background. At the bottom, there is a logo for 'CATERed' with the tagline 'FEEDING AMBITIONS' and an illustration of a chef and a child.

School Money



SCAN ME


schoolmoney

A promotional graphic for School Money. It features the text 'School Money' in a green, stylized font. Below it is a QR code with the text 'SCAN ME' in white on a black background. At the bottom, there is a logo for 'schoolmoney' with a green circular icon containing a white wave-like shape.

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Lipson Vale Primary

