



Starcross Primary School

January Newsletter 2024



The first half term of the new year has been exciting and very busy for all of us, as I am sure you will see when you read your child's class update. We were undoubtedly shaken by the break-in but have taken measures to upgrade our security systems and have been well supported by the local community policing team.

I continue to be very proud of our children as they display exceptional behaviour, both in the classrooms, when out on visits and when representing our school at sporting fixtures. The management at Exmoor Zoo said that Avocets were the best-behaved children they had welcomed in a long time!

Our whole school attendance percentage is 96%, which is above national and just shows how much our children and parents value learning and how keen our children are to come to school. We have had our fair share of coughs, colds and upset tummies this half term and staff are very skilled at reminding children to catch their coughs, use tissues and wash their hands before eating and after using the toilet.

As the weather continues to improve, we are hopeful that those of you who are able to walk to school, will, as this helps to reduce the traffic in the 20mph zone around the school and indeed make it safer for our children to cross the road and arrive into school safely.

All staff at Starcross hope that the February half-term break brings some sunshine for us all and that you have a happy and safe week and we will see you all on Monday 19th February for what promises to be another exciting half-term.

Thank you for your continued support.

Tara Trail

Headteacher

Sporting News

Y5 and Y6 girls team took part in a football tournament at TCS last week. The girls represented Starcross brilliantly and came third in their pool – a fantastic result! Each team playing in at least 5 challenging games in a round robin style tournament, the girls showcased their brilliant skills throughout. The level of resilience, teamwork and ability was fantastic!



To top it all off all teams showed amazing sportsmanship during the tournament—lots of congratulating other teams and handshakes to show their respects. Well done to all the pupils for playing so well, we hope you had a great experience. Our huge thanks go to our hosts Teignmouth Community School and the brilliant TCS sports leaders for officiating. Well done to ALL the pupils for playing so well and to all the staff for enabling them to have this opportunity. It was great to see you all in high spirits and excited to compete. Final thanks to parents for showing their support and encouraging throughout the tournament.

A fantastic SEND festival took place for the Teignmouth learning community. Hazeldown, Exminster, Starcross and Ellen Tinkham showed fantastic resilience, teamwork and enthusiasm to venture into each station.

There were 6 stations: Archery, Boccia, Target throwing, Beach ball volleyball, Springboard jumping and striking darts.

All pupils had a go on each station developing a variety of skills, every pupil showed amazing resilience to have a go at each station. The stations were supervised by 10 leaders from Teignmouth Community School, they were punctual and worked superbly with their groups. They demonstrated lots of enthusiasm and encouraged throughout the event.



DIARY DATES

DIARY DATES	
05.02.24	RSPB Assembles for KS1 & KS2
09.02.24	Non-Pupil Day
12-16.02.24	Half Term
19.02.24	First day of Spring Term 2
07.03.24	World Book Day—more information to follow...
12, 13,14.03.24	3.30pm—4pm Book Fair in the Hall
19.03.24	3.50pm—6pm Parents Evening
20.03.24	4.30pm—7pm Parents Evening
21.03.24	Twining Festival
29.03.24	Bank Holiday and start of the Easter Holidays
15.04.24	Start of the Summer term



In Sanderlings (pre-school), we have been enjoying getting stuck into our new topic, Winter Wonderland! Each week, we focus on a new key text which helps to theme our learning. We have looked at *The Gruffalo's Child* by Julia Donaldson and *One Snowy Night* by Nick Butterworth so far. Over the last few weeks, we have been exploring different materials - such as ice and how it freezes and melts.

We have been talking about the different seasons and how the weather may change every day! We have been using our wintery small world tray to act out stories and learnt about different animals in hot/cold places. We have continued to use our outdoor play spaces come rain or shine, our children love to be outside.



The Sandpipers have been enjoying their learning journey " Winter Wonderland " They have been on a welly walk

and have loved the winter wonderland hot chocolate cafe. The cafe has been decorated with carefully pencil joined snowflakes and carefully cut icicles.



The Sandpipers have also enjoyed lots of lovely wintery stories.



This term's geography unit, in Kittiwakes, is called **Bright Lights, Big City**. We have been thinking about where we live in the U.K. and specifically looking at Starcross and Exeter. We have talked about physical and human features and looked at landmarks. We are now contrasting Exeter to London. We love looking at maps and using Google Earth.

This term, our Geography topic in Curlews is 'Coastline'.

We have been finding out about where we are in the world, and the area around Starcross. We have been learning about physical and human features around the coast, and thinking about places where we find these locally. We used maps and Google Earth to help us find out what is around us. We recently walked into the village, to help us to understand where we are, and what is nearby. Although it was cold, the sun was shining, and we had a great time. We even saw some trains go by, and one of the drivers waved to us!



This month in Avocets, we have been extremely busy! Not only have we carried out several Science investigations, we also had a fantastic trip to Exmoor Zoo on Friday 19th January.



Exmoor Zoo was a lovely day out for Avocets!

We looked around the zoo during the morning, meeting the famous Exmoor Beast! In the afternoon, we used our pre-existing Art skills to create different masterpieces.



In Science, we have been investigating states of matter, focusing particularly on gases. We carried out an investigation to work out whether carbon dioxide is weightless or not. The conclusion of our experiment was that although it is extremely light, carbon dioxide does have weight. Once we wrote our predictions, we weighed fizzy drinks before and after removing the carbon dioxide.



Oystercatchers have started the term being arty!



We have been studying ammonites and fossils, and looked at the art techniques of shading, hatching and cross-hatching to show shadows and depth.

We learned about the Fibonacci sequence (google it!) and saw how it appears in spirals in nature everywhere. Finally, we looked at the closest living animal to the ancient ammonite, the nautilus. We then used colour and shading to draw our best impressions of the nautilus.

This half term has got off to a flying start in Razorbills as we have jumped right into our Frozen Kingdoms project. We have been learning about Ernest Shackleton and thinking about what skills and character traits you would need to be a polar explorer. We wrote to Shackleton and applied for jobs as crew members on the Endurance – some of us were even hired!

Moving to the North Pole we have been learning about Inuit art where we tried our hand at soap carving. It was really tricky and we had to be really resilient, but we persevered and we think you will agree – our results are fantastic!

