



Marwood School Newsletter – 2nd October 2026

Dear Parents and Carers

As we reach the end of another busy and successful week at Marwood, I have once again been struck by the enthusiasm, curiosity and positivity that can be seen across the school.

One of the highlights of the week has undoubtedly been our involvement in the Appledore Book Festival. Children across the school have enjoyed visits from authors and illustrators, including Layn Marlow and Petr Horáček. These experiences brought books to life, inspired creativity and gave pupils a wonderful insight into how stories and illustrations are created. The excitement generated by these visits has been evident throughout the school and it has been fantastic to see children talking so enthusiastically about reading and writing.

It has also been lovely to receive such positive feedback from parents. We are incredibly grateful for the support we receive from our school community and it is always encouraging to hear about the impact that school experiences are having on children at home. Thank you for your kind words and continued support.

Another source of excitement this week has been the arrival of our new trikes. They have already proved hugely popular, particularly with our younger children, and it has been wonderful to see them enjoying active play, developing their coordination and building confidence outdoors.

Across the school, children have continued to work hard in their learning. From storytelling and early writing in Lower School, to historical enquiry, science investigations and French in Class 2, and persuasive writing, geography and art inspired by Paris in Class 3, there has been a real joy for learning.

Looking ahead, we are excited for the first Bremco Cross Country League race on Sunday at Kingsley School. We are delighted to have such a strong Marwood turnout and know that all of our runners will represent the school brilliantly. Thank you to the families who are supporting the children and helping to make these opportunities possible.

Thank you all for another wonderful week. I hope you have an enjoyable weekend and I look forward to hearing how our runners get on this Sunday.

Stuart Boon
Headteacher



Safeguarding Update

As children continue to enjoy a wide range of experiences both in and out of school, including visits from authors, sports events and community activities, it is a good time to remind everyone about staying safe when using technology at home. Our recent book festival visits have inspired many children to explore stories online and talk about their favourite authors and books.

We encourage parents to take an active interest in the apps, games and websites their children use. Talking regularly about online safety, keeping devices in shared family spaces where possible, and checking age ratings can all help children enjoy technology safely and responsibly.

With the first Bremco Cross Country League race taking place this weekend, it is also worth reminding children about staying safe when attending community events by keeping a trusted adult informed of their whereabouts, following instructions from event organisers and looking out for one another. We are grateful for the support of families in helping children access these valuable opportunities.

If you ever have concerns about a child's safety or wellbeing, please do not hesitate to contact the school. Safeguarding is everyone's responsibility, and by working together we can help keep all children safe, happy and thriving.

Designated Safeguarding Lead: Dr Stuart Boon

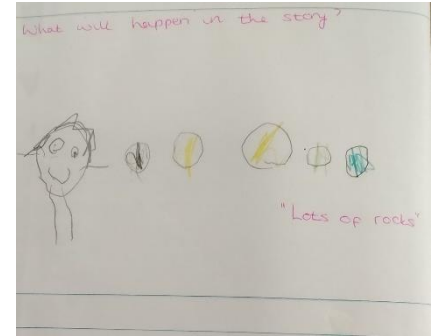
Deputy Designated Safeguarding Leads: Mrs Allie Barnett and Mrs Laura Humes

Class Updates

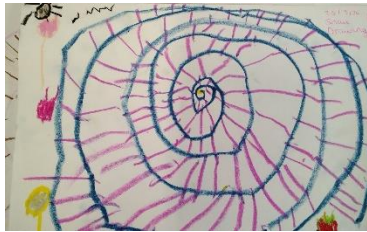
Lower School

Lower School have continued exploring our topic, **Where We Belong**, through the wonderful story *Our Pebbles* by Jarvis.

In Reception, the children have been developing their fine motor skills by learning to hold a pencil correctly, apply pressure and draw with increasing control. In Year 1, the children have been retelling and writing the story, focusing on sequencing events in the correct order.



In Mathematics, Reception have been learning about shape, space and measure, comparing objects by size and weight. Year 1 have been developing their addition skills using number bonds to 10 and 20.



In Art, the children have been drawing spirals of different sizes, helping to develop pencil control and coordination while exploring pattern and line.

We were also delighted to welcome Layn Marlow as part of the Appledore Book Festival. Layn shared her creative process with the children and talked about how she develops her illustrations and stories. The children then took part in a workshop where they created their own kite pictures, using vibrant colours to design beautiful sky backgrounds inspired by her work.

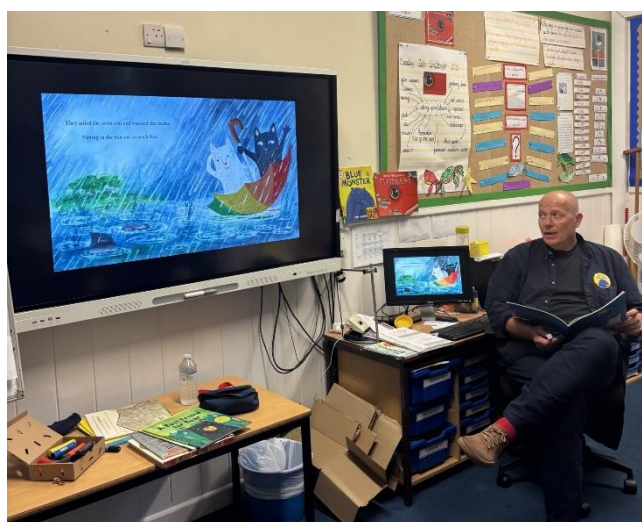


Our provision challenges this week, inspired by *Our Pebbles*, have included initial sound sorting, pebble drawing and labelling, playdough modelling, comparing weight using balance scales, trackpad skills in computing, boat-building in construction, mark-making patterns and threading activities. These experiences have supported the children's communication, creativity, problem-solving and fine motor development while encouraging independence and resilience.

We have been delighted to see the children demonstrating enthusiasm, creativity and perseverance in their learning throughout the week.

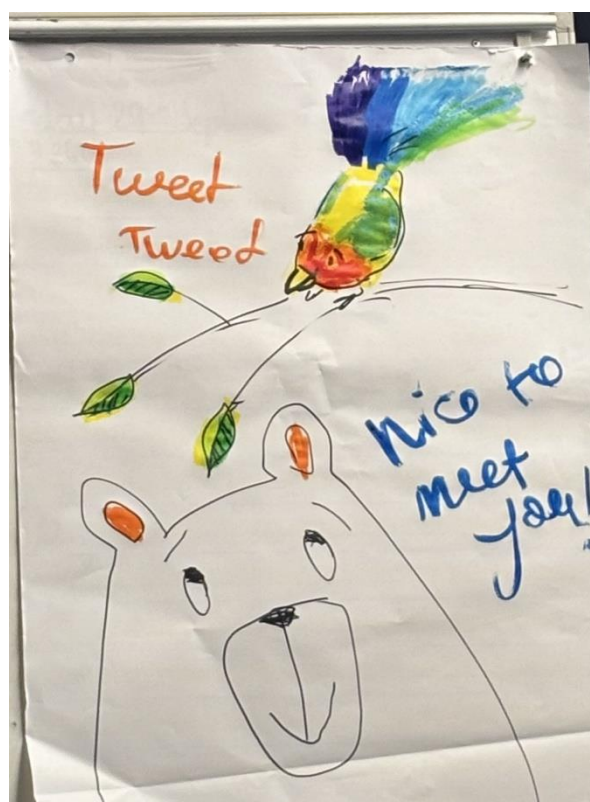
Mrs Hume

Middle School



We have had a fantastic couple of weeks of learning and excitement, including a very special visit from children's author **Petr Horáček**.

The children were absolutely mesmerised by Petr's storytelling and his fantastic illustrations. They listened attentively throughout his visit and asked some wonderful questions about his books, characters and illustrations. They were especially thrilled to receive a **signed copy of his book *The Blue Monster*** to take home. It was a truly memorable experience for everyone!



English

In English, the children have completed their final piece of writing based on ***Flotsam***. They have worked hard to develop their vocabulary, sentence construction and descriptive writing.

We are now beginning to explore ***Until I Met Dudley***. The children will be learning about **explanation texts**, looking at their features and how authors explain how things work in a clear and engaging way.

Science

In Science, we are continuing to learn about **different types of animals**. The children have been exploring what animals need to survive and developing their understanding of how animals are suited to their environments.

History

In History, we have been delving deeper into the life of **Mary Seacole**. The children have been learning about the discrimination she experienced because of her race and discussing what racism means and the effects it can have on individuals and communities.

The children have approached these important discussions thoughtfully and respectfully, showing great curiosity and empathy as they learn more about Mary Seacole's remarkable life and achievements.

French

The children have also enjoyed their very first French lesson of the new year. This is a brand new experience for year 2. The children were introduced to some simple French words and phrases and had great fun having a go at speaking a new language. They showed lots of enthusiasm and confidence as they began their French learning journey.

It has been another busy and rewarding couple of weeks, and we are very proud of the children's enthusiasm, curiosity and hard work! ☀️

Mrs Jones and Mrs Barnett

Upper School

A Busy and Productive Week of Learning in Class Three

The children have continued to work hard and make great progress across the curriculum. We have now completed our newspaper reports about a baby being found in the English Channel. The children have enjoyed developing their writing skills and thinking carefully about how newspaper reports are structured. We are now moving on to writing a persuasive letter to the Child Welfare agency. Please ask your child all about the text and encourage them to share what they have learned.

In Maths, we have just come to the end of our unit of work on place value. The children have worked hard to develop their understanding of numbers and the value of each digit. We are now moving on to addition and subtraction, which will be our focus for a week. Following this, we will begin our work on multiplication and division.

Geography has taken us to Paris this term. We have been looking at the city as part of the storyline in *Rooftoppers* and thinking about the many attractions that can be found there. The children have particularly enjoyed using Google Earth to explore Paris and look closely at some of its famous places. This has helped us to connect our geography learning with the events and setting in our class text.

In Art, we are looking at fashion and design. The children have been gaining ideas from art and designs shown during Paris Fashion Week. They have been considering different styles, patterns, colours and ways in which designers can express their ideas through clothing.

The Volleyball event was a fantastic occasion last week. The children very much enjoyed taking part, showing enthusiasm and teamwork, and meeting new friends. It was lovely to see them getting involved and enjoying the experience.

Looking ahead to next week, the girls will compete in a football match on Tuesday.

We are looking forward to another exciting week.

I hope you all have a great weekend and, as always, my door is always open.

Mrs Smales, Mrs Hesketh and Dr Boon



After School Club

Due to staffing changes, the After School Club is now capped at 15 spaces. Please ensure you book in advance if you know your child will require a space, as once all places are filled, we will be unable to accommodate additional children.

The system has also changed to charge based on bookings rather than attendance. If you book your child into the After School Club and then no longer require the place, we require at least 24 hours' notice; otherwise, you will be charged for the session. If you book your child into the After School Club and they do not attend, you will still be charged.

We understand that there may be occasions when there are genuine emergencies or illness, and we will consider these circumstances at our discretion.

The After School Club daily activity plan will remain unchanged as below.

Daily Activities			
3.00 - 3.30	3.30 - 4.00	4.00 - 5.00	5.00 - 5.30
Snacks	Outdoor Play - Trim Trail/Top Pitch	Activity Time	Quiet Time: Reading/Chrome books/ Homework

School Meals

Please be reminded School Lunches are now £2.70

LUNCH MENU – WEEK 3				
4 th May – 1 & 22 nd June – 13 th July – 14 th Sept. – 5 th Oct.				
MONDAY	TUESDAY	WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY
Macaroni Cheese & Garlic Bread	Chicken Korma Curry & Rice	Roast Gammon & Pineapple	Hot Dog & Potato Wedges	Breaded Fish Fillet
Falafel Wrap & Wedges	Cheese Pizza Baguette	Vegan Sausage Plait	Vegan Cheese Wheel & Potato Wedges	Veggie Nuggets
Jacket Potato with Various Fillings	Jacket Potato with Various Fillings	Jacket Potato with Various Fillings	Jacket Potato with Various Fillings	Jacket Potato with Various Fillings
Cheese Baguette	Ham Baguette	Tuna Mayo Cucumber Baguette	Cheese Baguette	Ham & Cheese Baguette
Sweetcorn or Carrot Sticks	Peas or Green Beans	Roast Potato, Seasonal Vegetables & Gravy	Corn on Cob or Cucumber Sticks	Chips or Pasta, Peas or Salad & Tomato Sauce
Arctic Roll	"ABC" Cake	Ice Cream Pots	Cookie	Vegan Chocolate Brownie

Dates for Your Diary

Sunday 4th October BREMCO League Opening Race – Kingsley School

Tuesday 6th October KS2 Girls Football Event

Saturday 10th October World Mental Health Day

Tuesday 13th October Flu Vaccinations

Friday 16th October Stephen Shield Cross Country Event – Great Torrington School

Friday 16th October Tea Towel Orders Deadline

Tuesday 20th – Wednesday 21st October Parent Consultations

Friday 23rd October INSET Day

HALF TERM

Monday 26th October - Friday 30th October

LAST DAY OF AUTUMN TERM

Friday 18th December



NORTH DEVON

OCTOBER HOLIDAY CLUBS

Football Fun for Boys and Girls

£15

Tournaments
Small Sides Games
Competitions
Football Fever
Play, Play, Play

AGES 5-14

FA QUALIFIED COACHES

BOOK TODAY



EXETERCCT.ORG

Location 1: Park School, Barsntaple
Date: Tuesday 27th October
Time: 9:30am – 3:30pm

Location 2: Braunton Academy
Date: Thursday 29th October
Time: 9:30am – 3:30pm