



St. Mary's C of E (VC) Primary School
Devon County Council. Children and Young People's Services
Acting Headteacher: Adrian Scarrett BEd (Hons)

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Dear Parents

Amazingly, we are nearing the end of the first half of this academic year. I trust that you have felt that your child/ren are happy in school and that he/she/they are progressing well.

Parent Questionnaires

Many thanks to everyone who returned the questionnaires by the deadline date of last Friday. They have made interesting reading and contained many constructive comments which will look to address as we move forward. I will collate the information over half term and communicate some of the findings when we come back after the break.

Educational Opportunities

It was drawn to my attention last week that the way that the school is funded and what opportunities we provide for your children is not clear and I wanted to take this opportunity to explain that when 'outside companies' visit the school, or we go off-site to access a learning opportunity there is almost always a cost to the school and without your support we would not be able to make the most of the diversity of opportunities there are to enhance your children's learning experience, as the school budget is not enough to fund many of these.

Having said that we were able to provide two experiences over the last week which, I feel, were hugely exciting and beneficial to all the children. Every class attended a session in the Planetarium dome which was brought to us by Space Odyssey. The whole school experience cost £1185 and the value to the children was immense as they would usually have to journey to Bristol or London to experience anything like it. We also funded the visit of M & M Productions who performed the pantomime Peter Pan, yesterday (Thursday 2nd). Again, I feel that this is a valuable learning experience as many children do not get the opportunity to see live theatre. The cost of this was £695.

Later in the term I am going to get a local performing arts company, **Platform 2**, to come and work with the classes across the school. They have been to work with Year 2 and Swifts, teaching the children about plays by Shakespeare, through acting and dance. The children who were involved thoroughly enjoyed the experience and I am looking forward to being able to extend this opportunity to the rest of the children. This will also, be funded by the school. There will be other events and trips, which we will need to ask for a donation towards, but I hope that this shows that, when possible, we try to provide extraordinary experiences for your children without continually asking for money from you.

Luke was the 100 000th child to ever enter the Space Odyssey planetarium dome, so was awarded a prize by the Space Oddysey presenter Simon Ould.



Lily, Jack and
Madison 'on the
moon'!



P.A.S.S. Audits

All the schools in the Bideford Learning Community have recently bought into a package that enables us to assess Pupils' Attitudes to Self and School (PASS). All of our children have undertaken this online assessment over the last 2 weeks. It gives a rating on several factors, including Feelings about School, Preparedness for Learning and Response to Curriculum. These then enable us to build a picture wider than that which we gain through other assessment methods and we can formulate ways to help the children make further developments. It is a really positive thing and if you wish to find out more please speak to me, or your child's class teacher.

NSPCC

Finally, a huge and sincere thank you to everybody who donated money to the NSPCC through your child's sponsor form. Charlie Francis visited this morning and I was amazed and delighted to hear that we raised an astounding £3275. This will make an impact on many young people who are not as fortunate as our children.

Thank you for your continued support.

Yours sincerely,

Adrian Scarrett
Acting Headteacher

Kitchen Newsletter

Hello Children and Parents,

WOW! What a busy week we have had! Last week we travelled the world starting in China to celebrate the year of the dragon and by Thursday we were on the moon enjoying our lunar lunches! Thank you to the children who drew wonderful pictures for our display. We will continue our themed lunches, which are proving popular, after half term. On the first Tuesday back, 21st February, we will be cooking pancakes for all the children staying for lunch to celebrate Shrove Tuesday.



Don't forget the changes to the school menu: week 1 we have an extra option of cheesy pasta, although the curry is proving to be really popular especially with the older children who are coming back for seconds (and sometimes thirds!) On week 2, Monday it is bacon and tomato pasta bake instead of quiche. You can also visit the school website for a list of our daily specials too.

As we travelled the world last month I thought we should have a quiz 'Where am I from?' Can you tell me where these dishes come from?

1. Spaghetti Bolognese
2. Turkey Curry
3. Egg and bacon quiche
4. Beef Burger
5. Lasagne
6. Vegetable stir fry
7. Paella
8. Muesli



All these dishes and ingredients can be found on our menu this term. There is a small prize for any child who can identify all these items.
Lisa.