



# Two Moors Primary School

We are all unique:  
We inspire, believe and achieve  
together



**October 2023**

**Newsletter 1**

Dear Parents/Carers,

It's been a really busy start to the 2023/24 school year – the past seven weeks have gone by in a flash! It's been wonderful getting to know all the children and seeing how hard they have been working. I look forward to what the next half term has in store for us all! In staffing news this term, we said a fond farewell to one of our teaching assistants, Mrs Sullivan, who has gone on to start a career within the NHS; taking over Mrs Sullivan's role will be Mrs Cottrell (who we have just welcomed back from maternity leave!) and Mrs Woodgate.

I hope you all have an enjoyable half term break and we'll see you back at school on Monday 30<sup>th</sup> October.

If over the course of the year you have any concerns about your child's development, well-being or progress please make contact with the class teacher in the first instance and then possibly with Mr Boraston. Mr Boraston (one of our Assistant Heads) has an office in the bungalow and is usually at the main gate in the morning. Mr Boraston oversees Safeguarding, Special Educational Needs and Welfare Support. He will be happy to arrange an appointment to talk with you. Mrs Strong our Family Support Worker is also based in the bungalow and is there to support children and families in many different areas and is usually found near the main gates too at the beginning and end of the day.

### **School Meals**

The school dinner menu for the term is on the website and copies are available from the office if needed. If you think you may be entitled to free school meals it can be checked by going to <https://www.devon.gov.uk/educationandfamilies/school-information/schoolmeals/> Although all children in Years Reception, 1 and 2 are entitled to a universal free school meal, if you would be entitled to free school meals please still register as it brings in additional funding to the school to support the children.

### **PTFA**

The new-look PTFA are hard at work organising dates and events throughout the school year to support the school. We have had two coffee mornings this term where new ideas could be shared and they have been organising the Autumn discos for the end of the half term – we thank you all for your hard work towards these events for the children and school.

### **Attendance**

The whole school attendance is currently at 93.5%. Your child's class teacher will be letting you know what percentage attendance your children are currently at during our parent/carer meetings in the next half term (during the week beginning 6<sup>th</sup> November – letters to follow soon). Good school attendance is vital and I thank all of you for supporting with this. The table below is from DCC and sets out how much learning could be missed over a year with a lower attendance.

Attendance during one school year	equals this number of days absent	which is approximately this many weeks absent	which means this number of lessons missed
95%	9 days	2 weeks	50 lessons
90%	19 days	4 weeks	100 lessons
85%	29 days	6 weeks	150 lessons

## **Wider Development and other events**

### **SeaDream Education visit**

Year Four were visited by Dr Juliette Jackson, a marine biologist. Alongside Mr Berry (who we need to say thank you for helping to organise), Dr Jackson spent time in both classrooms teaching the children about environmental issues surrounding marine-life and the oceans. The children got to use a thermal imaging camera when learning about climate change and learnt lots about different types of sea-life. The children had a great day!

### **Links with Blundell's School**

A team of sixth formers from Blundell's school visited us earlier armed with tools and equipment and spent a morning helping tidy and sort our kitchen garden area, forest school area and even some of the Railway Path area. Those spaces are looking much more inviting now! In the afternoon, the sixth formers joined with Year Four and Five and organised some sporting games for the children. Linked with that, a small group of Year 5 children visited Blundell's for a Garden workshop morning; the children got to make bird-feeders, learn about common birds in Devon and a bit more about the wider environment.

### **Sporting events linked with Tiverton High School**

This term, we have sent a team of Year Five children to take part in a tennis open morning and also a Year Three/Four team to take part in a handball competition – the two teams for this came 3<sup>rd</sup> and 1<sup>st</sup>! Well done to all the children involved in these events so far. Coming up after half term there is a Year Five and Six girls football tournament and a Year One and Two Multi-Skills event (more information will follow about these).

### **Stone Age Story Telling Day**

Year Five were visited by a 'Stone-Age-Story-Teller'. The children got to learn about what life might have been like thousands of years ago through an immersive story telling experience. They had lots of questions showing that they clearly learnt a lot during these sessions!

### **Harvest Celebration**

Year One performed their harvest celebration assembly to their grown-ups earlier this term – the singing and reading of lines were all done with such confidence; it was lovely to watch! A big thank you to everyone who was able to donate tinned/dried food for the CHAT (Churches Housing Action Team) collection for this year – when they collected the items, they were blown away by the generosity of everyone – so thank you all for that!

### **Ready, Set, Read Challenge**

Congratulations to all of the children who took part in the Ready, Set, Read challenge over the summer holidays – Two Moors came in 9<sup>th</sup> out of 29 schools – congratulations everyone!

### **School Band and Choir Club**

Our new school band club – run by Ella (our guitar teacher) for Year 4/5/6 will be starting up after half term and choir club, run by Mr Harvey will also be starting their rehearsals. Watch this space to see if we can get some performances going!

### **Roles and Responsibilities**

Congratulations to our newly elected House Captains for the year (and congratulations to 'Ruby' Team for winning the most tokens this half term). A big well done to our new school councillors, maths ambassadors, mental health ambassadors and play leaders too! The children are relishing the opportunity to take on these extra roles and are doing a wonderful job so far!

**Safeguarding:** We recognise our moral and statutory responsibility to safeguard and promote the welfare of all pupils. We endeavour to provide a safe and welcoming environment where children are respected and valued. We are alert to the signs of abuse and neglect and follow our procedures to ensure that children receive effective support, protection and justice. The Designated Safeguarding Lead (DSL) within school is Mr. Boraston.