



May 2023 NEWSLETTER



Dear Parents & Carers

With the belated arrival of the sunshine, the summer term is already marching on!

The children have been able to enjoy zoo trips, sports festivals and swimming lessons, alongside their wonderful curriculum learning experiences. Next half term we look forward to Sports Day, the Year 6 play and transition activities for the next school year.

Every half term we focus on one of our character gateways and the associated character traits. We continue to talk about all the character traits so that, by the time our pupils leave us in year 6, they have developed all the attributes. This month our year 6 pupils took their SAT's tests and although they were really well prepared academically and emotionally by the adults in year 6, the children showed incredible determination, drive, resilience and confidence. We are so proud of them; they are a brilliant example to the rest of the school.

Following the pandemic, schools nationally have seen a rise in anxiety in children. We do a lot of work in school to support children with this and our character education really benefits children. We demonstrate strategies for self-calming with children, as shown below, and have signposted parents to some great stories (KS1) and journals (KS2).

Wishing all our families a happy and restful half term break, hopefully with some sunshine!

Best wishes,

Nicky Postlethwaite

Headteacher



Reception

This half term we have been learning about King Charles III in preparation for his Coronation. The children have really enjoyed learning all about his life and his role as King. We have thought about what makes a good King and have written about our favourite castles and what we would do if we were King or Queen for a day. The children loved having their family members in school for our Coronation Celebration and performing our special Coronation song to them all.



Maths

This term we have been learning to count in 2's, 5's and 10's. We have also been learning how to make equal groups and how we can add up these equal groups to find the total. We've learnt how to make an 'array' which is another useful way of organising groups of objects.



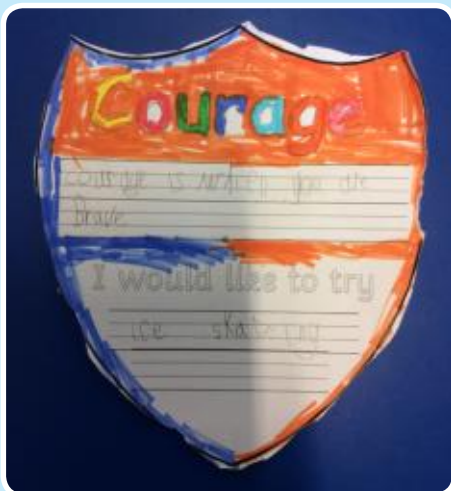
History

This term, year 1 have been learning about Florence Nightingale. We have learnt that she was a nurse that went out to help soldiers during the Crimean war in 1853. She was also known for cleaning the hospitals and named the Lady of the Lamp! She is a great example of our character gateway of 'courage'. We made shields to help remind us what courage means!



Kings Coronation

We really enjoyed learning how to draw a royal crown and painting them with water colours. We also made crowns outside during forest fun! We then had our parents in to celebrate. They looked at our brilliant Florence Nightingale work.



Year 2

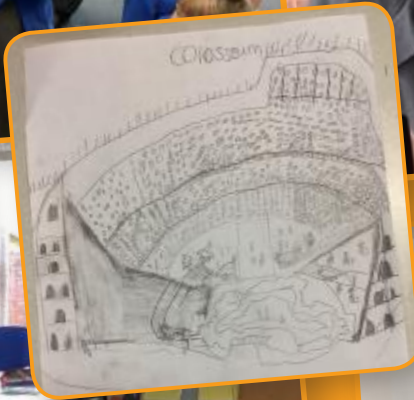
Year Two celebrated the King's Coronation in style by having a "Crafternoon" We worked together in pairs to decorate a picture frame and then had fun taking silly photos using the frames.

Year Two enjoyed sharing our learning with the Year Five class. We took our journals to the Year Five class and showed them our work on our enquiry question "How did the weather change Brixham?" We told them all about The Great Storm of Brixham in 1866, which destroyed the fishing fleet of Brixham. We explained how this event had led to the local community raising money to put in place the first lifeboat in Brixham



Year 3

In Learning Experience, Year 3 have been learning about the Romans. The children have learnt about who the Romans were and how they invaded other countries. The children re-enacted the Roman Invasion of Britain and learnt about key people – Julius Caesar and Boudicca. They also created some posters to show other pupils what they had learnt.



Year 4

This half term Year 4 have been studying the Victorians. We have been looking at the impact they had on Britain, investigating significant events such as the industrial revolution and key figures like Queen Victoria. We looked at how we could still see the effects of some of these events today. We then used this information to write a debate on whether we believed the Victorians were heroes or villains of history. We have even been making the most of the nice weather by taking our learning outside where possible.



Year 5

The children worked to the design brief which asked them to demonstrate not only a secure understanding of colour theory but also how to apply their knowledge imaginatively and confidently in a completely new art form while mastering new skills in manipulating fabric and using decorative embroidery and functional stitching.

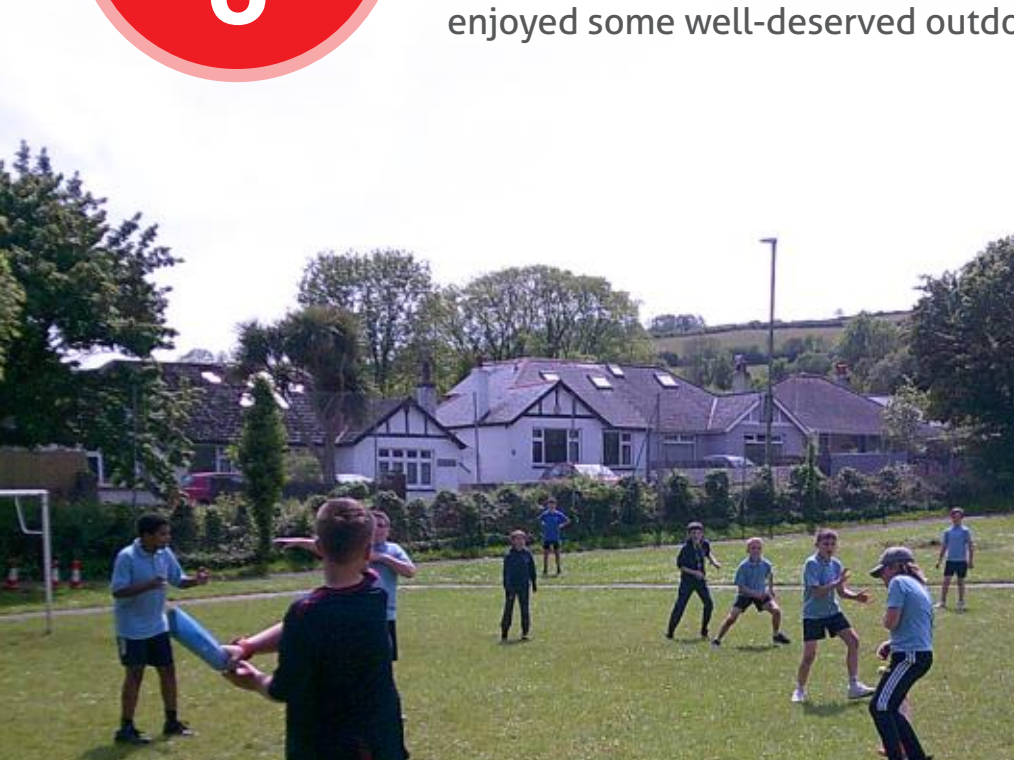


Year 5 children had a wonderful time on their recent zoo trip. The weather was kind and they had the opportunity to plan their day using maps to organise a route. They were lucky enough to have an educational talk about how animals are classified and were shown some really interesting items such as snake skin and a turtle shell. This really helped to consolidate the knowledge that the children learned in their recent Science learning experience. Throughout the day, the children took on the challenge of finding animals that were critically endangered and it was really lovely to see so many reading the information about each animal and making their own notes. The highlights were seeing the red pandas up close, feeding time at Baboon rock and watching the cheeky meerkats and mongoose playing.

Thank you for the free trip Paignton Zoo—
Happy 100th Birthday!

Year 6

Congratulations to Year 6 for the exemplary way that they have conducted themselves during SATs week. They approached their SATs exams with patience, dedication and good humour. They really are excellent role models for the rest of the school. Year 6 enjoyed some well-deserved outdoor cricket!





NETBALL MATCH AGAINST GALMPTON

In April, we played our second match against Galmpton. It was lovely to have such a big squad of players and great to see how much more confident the team were playing together!



BEE NETBALL FESTIVAL

Back in February, we attended the 'Bee Netball Festival'. We had to rotate around 5 of the netball positions and take in turns playing every position. A fantastic effort from everyone who took part!

After School Club



After School Club joined in with the Coronation celebrations. We made Union Jack flags and Picture holders

Collaton Attendance 'Summer 1' 2023

Whole School	93.85%
Year R	93.26%
Year 1	94.76%
Year 2	93.41%
Year 3	92.75%
Year 4	92.74%
Year 5	94.64%
Year 6	95.61%

Well done to Year 6, our attendance winners for this half term!

If your child's individual attendance falls below 90%, they have missed the equivalent of 19 days of school or more.

Research has proven that there is a high correlation between school attendance and academic performance and success.

Absence from school is often the greatest single cause of poor performance and achievement. Please don't let your child miss out on the education they deserve, every school day counts

Message to Parents

We are pleased to offer several ways of communicating with school and your child's teacher/ team leader: Class Dojo, Email, Face-to-face appointments and information through the office.

If you need to share a lot of information with the class teacher (e.g. support needed, medical information), then it may be best to write an email or make an appointment. On the door, in the mornings, is not possible due to teachers being needed in class.

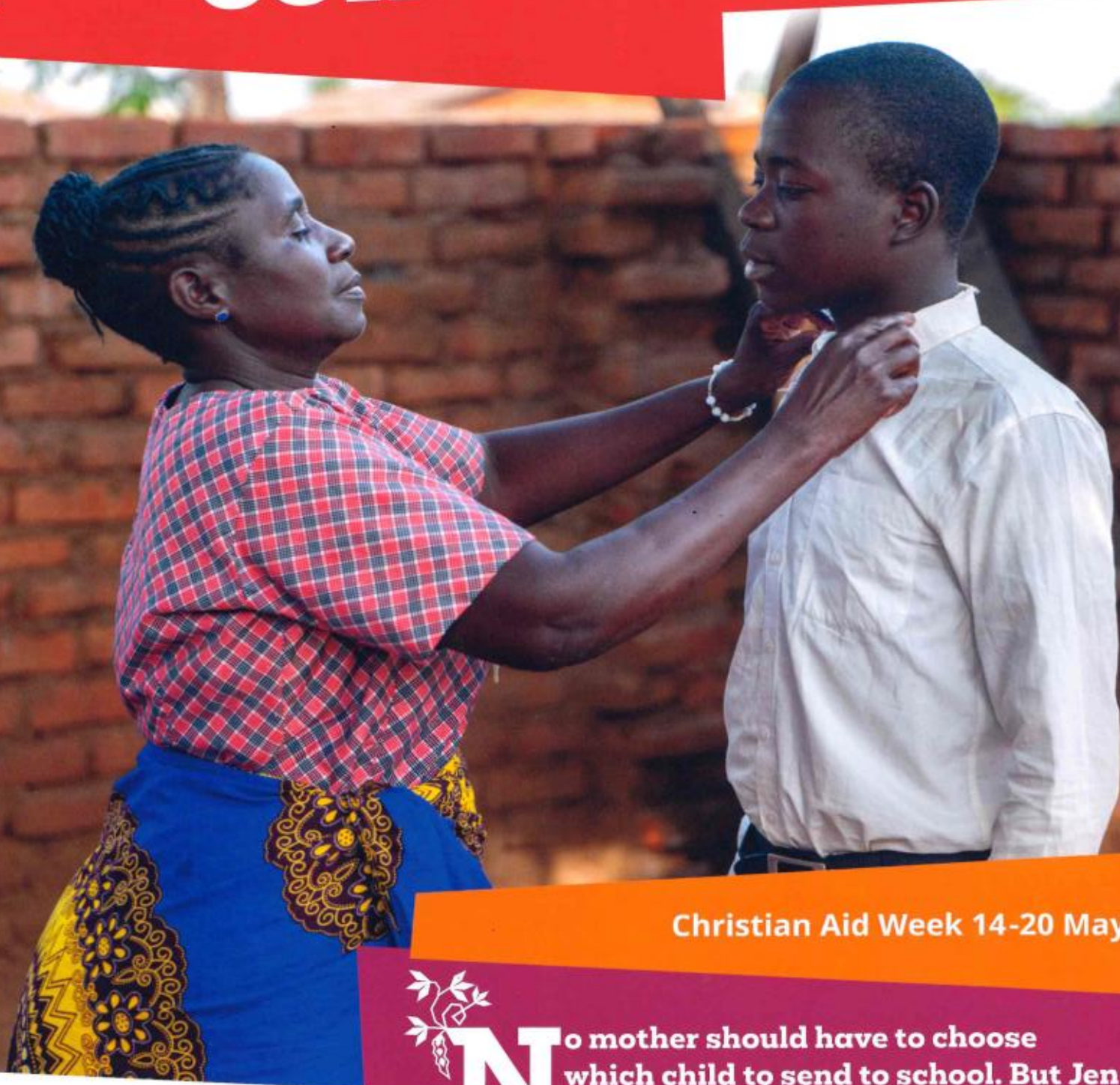
If you need to share a quick message then on the door (e.g. disturbed night, your child not feeling 100%), Class Dojo or via the office work really well.

If you need to get a message to your child's class teacher during the day (e.g. change of adult collecting) then please go through the office as Class Dojo and emails are not always checked through the day as teachers have break duties, clubs and will be teaching.

Please can we ask that any communications with school staff are polite and courteous. Like you, we care hugely about the children in our school and wish to support in any way we can and as quickly as we can, but please bear in mind that this may not be on the same day due to other commitments.

Many thanks.

Help dreams come true



Christian Aid Week 14-20 May



No mother should have to choose which child to send to school. But Jen is paying the cost of the global crisis.

Help Jen turn peas into prospects.
Donate now at caweek.org



Christian Aid is a key member of ACT Alliance, Eng and Wales charity no. 1105851 Scot charity no. SC039150 Company no. 5171525 Christian Aid Ireland: NI charity no. NIC101631 Company no. NI059154 and ROI charity no. 20014162 Company no. 426928 The Christian Aid name and logo are trademarks of Christian Aid. Printed exclusively on material sourced from responsibly managed forests. © Christian Aid January 2023 Photo: Christian Aid/Adam Haggerty J330761 Your donations will help families facing poverty and injustice around the world.



Registered with
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REGULATOR**

F14026E

You can donate online or pick up an envelope from your child's classroom

Gifted to Torbay children and young people,
with SEND, by Anderton & Rowland's Fun Fair

FAIR PLAY DAY BACK FOR 2023!

Thursday 17th August 2023
10:30am to 12:30pm

TORRE ABBEY MEADOWS

FREE ENTRY

FREE PARKING AT TORRE
ABBAY MEADOWS (FIRST
COME, FIRST SERVE BASIS)

HOW DO I SIGN UP? IF YOU ARE A TORBAY CHILD OR YOUNG PERSON WITH
SEND/CARED FOR/YOUNG CARER OR CARE EXPERIENCED, USE THE QR CODE WHICH
WILL LINK YOU TO AN EVENTBRITE PAGE.

Torbay Children's services SEND service and SEND Family
Voice Torbay are bringing people together for a safe and
fun day for families; increasing awareness and providing
support. The fair will be a calmer environment with sensory
awareness (reduced lights/speed)

A day where the fair is accessible for all invited!

For children who cannot mobilise there will be a sensory
tent with activities. (Let's hope for sunshine)



FOR CHILDREN AND YOUNG PEOPLE, IN TORBAY, WITH SEND. CHILDREN AND YOUNG
PEOPLE THAT ARE CARED FOR AND YOUNG CARERS/SIBLINGS OF THAT GROUP AND
THEIR FAMILIES.

SUPPORTING CHILDREN'S MENTAL HEALTH

10 Conversation Starters for Parents

Talking about mental health to children is sometimes hard. To the point that we can put off raising the subject, not wanting to unearth problems or raise overwhelming subjects that we perceive our child is too young or not ready for. But rather than keeping children in the dark, this guide is designed to help you confidently talk about mental health, so they feel comfortable talking about their own worries and end any stigma before it begins.



National
Online
Safety®

#WakeUpWednesday

1 LISTEN

This sounds obvious, but it is not something we are always great at. Active listening is where we listen without interrupting or making judgements and shows interest in what is being said. If your child feels listened to in the 'smallest of problems' they will become confident that you will listen when the 'biggest of problems' arise.

2 ASK TWICE

The campaign from time to change is great. <https://www.time-to-change.org.uk/support-ask-twice-campaign>. Be tenacious about your child's wellbeing. Children instinctively know when your questions and support come from a place of wanting to help and care.

Are you sure?

3 THERE IS NO SUCH THING AS A STUPID QUESTION

This advice also relates to the first point. If your child can ask you any questions about the smallest of things and you listen and answer without shaming or belittling, then they will have more confidence to ask the biggest of questions.

4 BE OPEN AND HONEST

Children appreciate honesty, particularly if you are having to share information or talk about a difficult subject. For example, you may be talking about death or loss; 'It's very sad that Nana has died' or 'I feel sad that Nana has died'. How you talk about a subject will differ depending on their age and developmental maturity. Talking about death to a younger child for example will be different to that of an older teen, as their experience and understanding of death is different.

5 KNOW WHEN TO SEEK HELP

Assess the severity of the mental health difficulty you are noticing. Is the difficulty making it hard for your child to function regularly throughout everyday life? How frequently is your child affected, how long does it last and how persistent is it? Are they having problems controlling the difficulty? Talk to your child about your concerns and that it is likely they will need further support beyond family and friends.

6 TALK ABOUT MENTAL HEALTH NATURALLY

Speak about mental health as part of everyday life, so that talking about our feelings and those of others is normalised. If the usual 'are you ok?' is not creating an opportunity for dialogue then say something like 'I know when something like that has happened to me I felt like this... is that how you are feeling or are you feeling something else?'

7 EMPATHISE

'It makes sense that you would feel this way, it is understandable'. Children often worry about things that we, as adults, might see as trivial or silly. However, for them at their age and stage it is a big concern and they need our kindness and care when they show their vulnerability and share their worries.

8 HELP YOUR CHILD FEEL SAFE

Teens particularly feel that by talking about their worries or concerns that this will make things worse. Reassure your child that you will discuss a plan of action together and what may or may not need to happen next. If they are a younger child, it is likely you will need to lead the conversation and explain next steps.

9 MIND YOUR LANGUAGE

Be mindful of the language you use at home to describe and talk about mental health. Stigma often arises from misconceptions and a choice of language which is harmful. Using the word 'mental', 'man-up' or other such words in a derogatory way won't encourage your child to talk about their mental health for fear of being belittled.

10 IT IS OK TO SAY 'I DON'T KNOW WHAT TO DO NEXT'

Adults do not have all the answers but often children think they do. It is ok to acknowledge that what your child is experiencing is not something you have come across before or know anything about, but that you will work it out together and seek help together.

Meet our expert

This guide has been written by Anna Bateman. Anna is passionate about placing prevention at the heart of every school, integrating mental wellbeing within the curriculum, school culture and systems. She is also a member of the advisory group for the Department of Education, advising them on their mental health green paper.



Sources of Information and Support

Your GP

Young Minds <https://youngminds.org.uk/v>

<https://www.nhs.uk/conditions/stress-anxiety-depression/>

<https://www.actionforchildren.org.uk/news-and-blogs/parenting-tips/2016/november/a-simple-guide-to-active-listening-for-parents/>

<https://www.themix.org.uk/mental-health>

Collaton St Mary Primary School Diary Dates 2023

**Monday 29th May –
Wednesday 7th June**

Monday 12th June

Tuesday 13th June

Thursday 15th June

Tuesday 20th June

Tuesday 27th June

Friday 30th June

**Monday 3rd July –
Wednesday 5th July**

**Thursday 6th July
& Friday 7th July**

Monday 10th July

Wednesday 12th July

**Wednesday 26th July –
Tuesday 5th
September inclusive**

Half Term Break

Collaton Cuppa

Class Photos

Year 5 Sports Festival

Sports Day

Reserve Sports Day

Collaton Summer Fayre

Year 6 Residential

**Year 6 Transition days at
secondary schools**

Collaton Cuppa

Y6 Civic Award Ceremony

Summer Holidays