



# October 2021 NEWSLETTER

Achieving and flourishing in our Christian Community



## Dear Parents & Carers

Just like that, we are already at October half term!

I would like to thank all the parents who have attended parent meetings over the last few weeks - I hope you found it useful discussing how well your child has settled in this half term and the progress they have made across the curriculum. If you were unable to attend a meeting and would like to, please get in contact with the class teacher.

Our coverage across the curriculum is already off to a flying start! This half-term, the children have completed a narrative writing unit linked to compassion and a geography enquiry in their year groups. We look forward to introducing a science and RE experience next half term.

As always, we like to work closely with our families and we are continuously looking to improve further. If you have any questions or concerns, please speak to your class teacher in the first instance, followed by the team leaders: Miss Postlethwaite (Deputy Head teacher) leads EYFS and Key Stage 1 and Mrs Jones leads Key Stage 2. I can also be contacted to make an appointment or can be often found on the car park gate in the morning.

I hope you have a wonderful October half-term break and look forward to seeing you back on Monday 1st November.

Best wishes,

**Ben Nelson-Smith** Headteacher

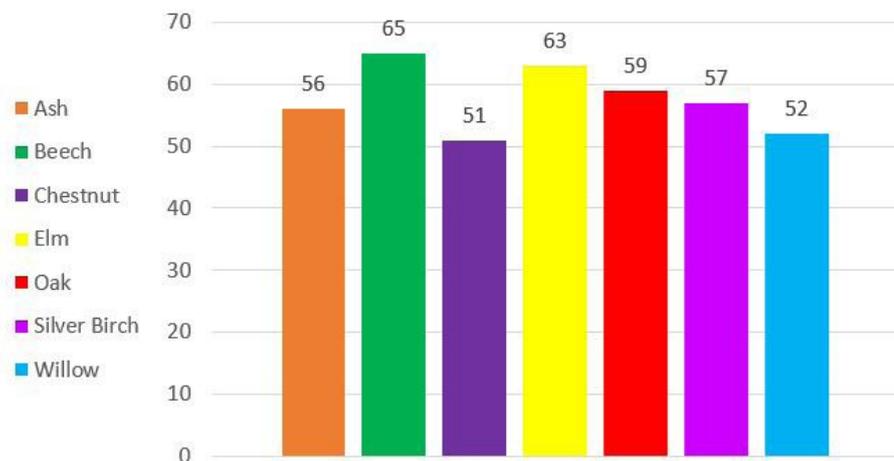
## Family Points System

Our pupils have been working hard to gain points for the family team this half term. Family points are earned for exemplifying our character focus for the half-term. This half-term, our learning and worships have explored how we can be a compassionate citizen.

Our pupils are regularly showing compassion towards others and examples seen by adults, or shared by the pupils, are rewarded with character points for their team.

It's a close race for the leading family team, but the BEECH family team are in the lead at this stage of the year. Regular updates will be posted throughout the year so watch this space!

Collaton Family Points





# Reading achievements at Collaton

Reading achievements play a key part in our celebration worship on a Friday afternoon. We have lots of incentives to help embed a love for reading.

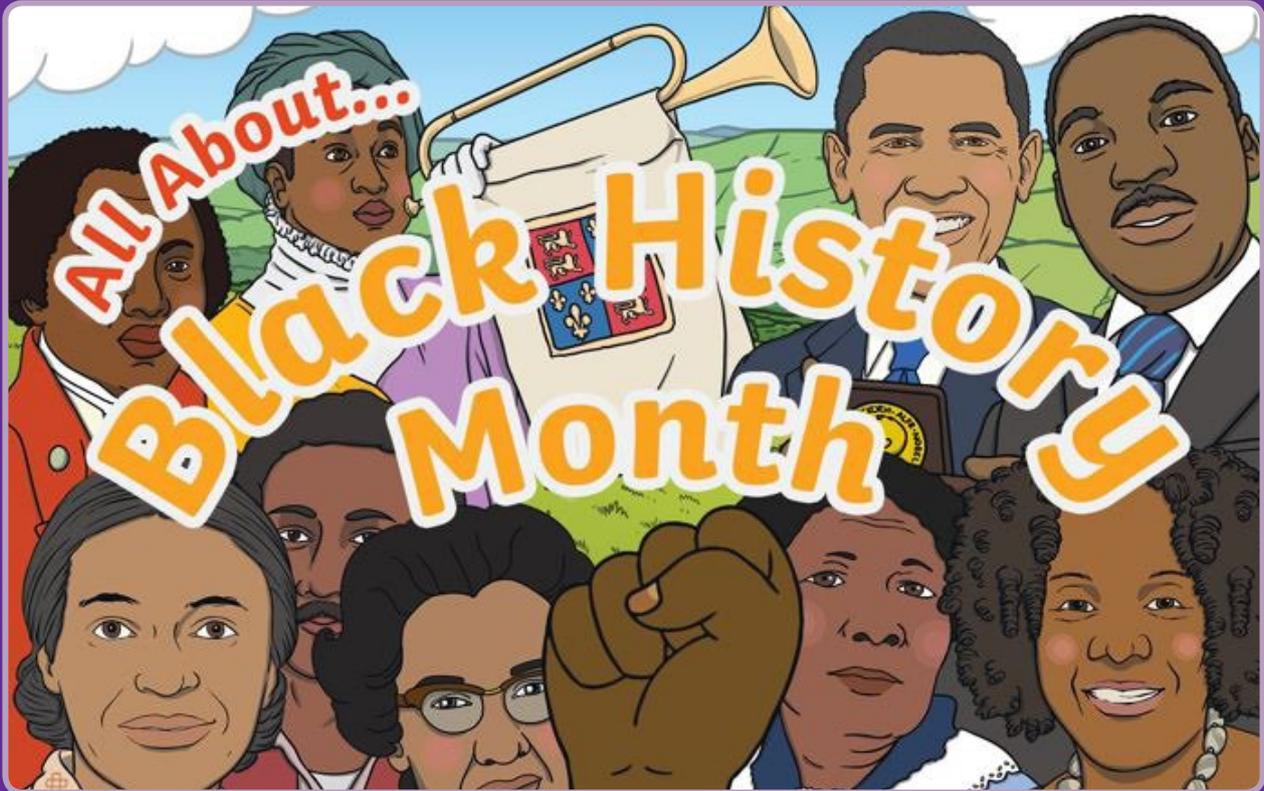
**Author Challenge** – Mrs Jones Author challenge has been very popular in Key Stage 2! Pupils are challenged to read books from different authors and are awarded bronze, silver, gold or platinum certificates for their efforts. If you want to know more, speak to Mrs Jones.

**KS1 Certificates** – We have been blown away by the amount of reading going on Key Stage 1! Pupils are

getting a certificate for every 10 books that they read. We have even had some children receive their '30' certificate this week!

**Super Readers of the week** - Our book vending machine is now in full use and lots of children have been awarded for their efforts in reading! Teachers select a pupil from their class who they believe have stood out for their reading efforts. Pupils receive a 'Golden Token' from Mr Nelson-Smith to use with the book vending machine.





**Black History month is celebrated in the UK every year in October. It provides an opportunity, not just for October, for the pupils to celebrate the achievements of black people from the past and present.**

Our pupils have been celebrating Black History Month in their family Worship on a Thursday afternoon and have been discussing and sharing key figures in black history and the impact they have had on the fight towards equality for all.

**Key stage 1** have focused on the importance of diversity and how skin colour shouldn't impact on how someone is treated.

**Key Stage 2** have explored the 'Black Lives Matter' movement and have discussed ways we can support anti-racism.

I'm sure you will all agree that educating this generation now will have a long lasting impact on the future of equality.

KS2 Black History Month – 14.10.21



Challenge: who are they? What were their achievements?

Celebrating the achievements of Black men and women



**BLACK LIVES MATTER**

How can we fight racism?

## Holidays During Term Time

Thank you to families who are completing an absent request form when time is taken off during term time. Each request is taken into consideration on a case-by-case basis. Holidays during term time will be classed as 'unauthorised' and could result in a fine. The pandemic has caused enough disruption on learning for pupils and being in school as much as possible is the best way to avoid further disruption.

## Collaton Attendance Oct 2021

Year Group	% Attendance
Reception	99.2%
1	98.3%
2	95.2%
3	96.4%
4	98.4%
5	96.8%
6	97.5%

Well done to Reception, our attendance winners for October

# Safeguarding

## What to do if you are concerned about a child?

Research from the NSPCC states that it often takes 3 months after someone is concerned about a child to report a safeguarding concern to the appropriate authority.

If you are concerned about a child, in or out of our school community, there are a number of ways that you can help and get advice:

1. On our website, under the safeguarding tab, there is a document called 'What to do if you are concerned a child is being abused'. This provides details of abuse and contacts you can call.
2. Contact Torbay MASH. MASH stands for Multi Agency Safeguarding Hub and aims to safeguard families in Torbay. They can be called to get advice or make a referral. Torbay MASH can be contacted via phone: **01803 208100** or via email [mash@torbay.gov.uk](mailto:mash@torbay.gov.uk)

Remember – it could be nothing, but it could be something!



In today's digitally connected world, children and adults are constantly presented with new ways to engage, react and contribute. We're sociable beings; it's a natural human instinct, especially amongst younger audiences, to want to belong and join in. Viral Challenges (as they're often known) draw on these emotions and, as the name suggests, spread and gather pace very rapidly. New challenges are constantly emerging and evolving. They're often completely innocent, raising awareness of worthy causes or simply providing amusement. However, they can have much more sinister undertones, putting children at risk of physical harm or, in extreme cases, fatal injury.



# What parents need to know about ONLINE CHALLENGES

## MENTAL HEALTH & WELLBEING

As well as having the potential to cause actual physical harm, some challenges can be extremely upsetting for children. Many are created with the sole purpose of instilling fear in an individual in order to coerce them into doing things that could have a long-term emotional effect on them.

## VARYING LEVELS OF RISK

As a parent or carer, it's important to take a balanced view and understand that not everything online has the potential to do harm. Mass-following and interaction can be a force for good. For example, the Ice Bucket Challenge, which swept the nation, set out to raise money and awareness of Amyotrophic Lateral Sclerosis (ALS). At its height, over 28 million people uploaded, commented on, or liked Ice Bucket Challenge related posts on Facebook. It's equally important to be aware though that online challenges often have a darker side. Malicious trends and challenges can expose children to dangerous or even life-threatening situations, so it's critical that parents and carers are aware of the latest risks and understand what steps to take to mitigate them.

## 'FOMO' - FEAR OF MISSING OUT

The 'Fear of Missing Out' (FOMO) is a strong emotional characteristic, particularly displayed in young people. The nature of viral challenges encourages children to explore and push boundaries. They tap into FOMO by feeding on a child's natural desire to join in, be accepted and share experiences with their friends and the wider online community. A recent study also found that FOMO is one of the greatest causes of Social Media addiction.



## STRIVING FOR LIKES

In a major study by the Children's Commissioner, it was found that children as young as ten years old are reliant on 'Likes' for their sense of self-worth. A major concern around viral challenges is not knowing how far children will go to earn 'Likes'. Couple this growing appetite for acceptance with commonplace peer pressure and the potential problem is compounded. The result is that when young people are drawn into online challenges, because it is what all their friends are doing, saying 'no' can seem like a very hard thing to do.

"The coolest person at school will start a trend and then everyone copies her"  
Merran, 12, Year 7

"If I got 150 likes, I'd be like that's pretty cool it means they like you"  
Aaron, 11, Year 7



National Online Safety®



# Top Tips for Parents



## COMMUNICATION & MONITORING

It's important to talk to your child regularly and monitor their online activities. Encouraging honesty and openness, will give you a much clearer viewpoint of how your child is interacting online and what concerns they have. Create an atmosphere of trust. Ensure they feel they can confide in you or another trusted adult regarding anything they may have seen or experienced online that's upset them.

## THINK BEFORE ACTING

As with most concerns in life, let common sense prevail when it comes to Viral Challenges. Young people need the freedom and space to explore and going in all guns blazing may well be counter-effective. Address the importance of safety and wellbeing, both online and offline, by getting the facts and understanding the risks. Start a discussion about the Online Challenges that may have captured your child's interest, gauge their likely involvement and explain the importance of thinking and acting independently when it comes to participating.

## SETTING UP EFFECTIVE PARENTAL CONTROLS

As with all online activity, ensuring you have effective parental controls set up on all devices will help filter and restrict the dangerous or inappropriate content you don't wish your child to access. Additional measures for protecting your child include checking the privacy settings on your child's devices, monitoring their friends list, ensuring their personal information is safe and secure and keeping a watchful eye on the content they're sharing.

## REPORTING & BLOCKING

Parental controls can only go so far in blocking potentially harmful content. A rise in the decoding of social media algorithms, has led to age inappropriate content increasingly appearing on platforms and apps used by children. Where possible, you should regularly monitor what your child sees online and flag/report any content which is inappropriate or dangerous. You should take the time to talk to your child, define what you consider to be appropriate content and show them how to report and block users/accounts themselves.

## VALIDATE SOURCES

Not everything is as it seems. Some people create fake content that's designed to 'shock' in order to encourage rapid sharing. If your child has seen something online that has triggered concern you should encourage them to, check its origin, verify that it came from a credible source and check the comments made for any clues to its validity.

## FACING REALITY

Trends and Viral Challenges can be tempting for children to take part in; no matter how dangerous or scary they may seem. As a parent or carer it can be difficult to keep pace with the very latest Online Challenges emerging. In recent months these have included potentially dangerous crazes, including the 'Bird Box' challenge, which was inspired by Netflix's popular film and encourages followers to upload videos of themselves attempting everyday tasks while blindfolded. The best advice is to keep talking to your child. Show that your taking an interest and not just prying. Ensure your child knows they don't have to get involved and if they're unsure, let them know you're there to talk before they consider participating. Children often need reassurance that not everything they see online is real. If your child has viewed distressing or frightening content it's important to talk to them about their experience, support them and, if required, help them find additional support.

SOURCES:  
<https://www.independent.co.uk/news/science/fake-news-twitter-spreads-further-faster-real-stories-retweets-political-a8247491.html> | <https://www.dailymail.co.uk/news/article-2209452/Teen-dies-copying-pass-game-time-YouTube.html>  
<https://www.dailymail.co.uk/news/article-6307331/Boy-11-dies-YouTube-choking-challenge-mother-warns-parents-son-strangled-himself.html> | Children's Commissioner Life in 'likes' report - RSPH - Status of mind report  
<https://www.bbc.co.uk/news/magazine-29013707> | <https://www.independentie.life/health-wellbeing/fear-of-missing-out-fomo-one-of-greatest-causes-of-social-media-addiction-study-finds-36975296.html>  
<http://www.ttp.co.uk/news/children-as-young-as-eight-addicted-to-social-media-likes/>

# Collaton St Mary Primary School

# Diary Dates

<b>Monday 25th October- Friday 29th October</b>	<b>Half term</b>
<b>Thursday 4th November</b>	<b>Y5 Swimming starts for 6 weeks</b>
<b>Friday 19th November</b>	<b>Children in Need</b>
<b>Saturday 6th – Sunday 7th November</b>	<b>Year 5 Coastal Clean – Collect litter picker on 5th Nov and drop off on the 8th Nov</b>
<b>Saturday 13th – Sunday 14th November</b>	<b>Year 4 Coastal Clean – Collect litter picker on 12th Nov and drop off on the 15th Nov</b>
<b>Saturday 20th – Sunday 21st November</b>	<b>Year 3 Coastal Clean – Collect litter picker on 19th Nov and drop off on the 22nd Nov</b>
<b>Thursday 25th November</b>	<b>Y6 PCSA - Athletics</b>
<b>Saturday 27th – Sunday 28th November</b>	<b>Year 2 Coastal Clean – Collect litter picker on 26th Nov and drop off on the 29th Nov</b>
<b>Thursday 2nd December</b>	<b>Y3 &amp; Y4 PCSA - Athletics</b>
<b>Saturday 4th – Sunday 5th December</b>	<b>Year 1 Coastal Clean – Collect litter picker on 3rd Dec and drop off on the 6th Dec</b>
<b>Thursday 9th December</b>	<b>Y1 &amp; Y2 PCSA - Athletics</b>
<b>Friday 10th December</b>	<b>Christmas Jumper Day</b>
<b>Saturday 11th – Sunday 12th December</b>	<b>Year R Coastal Clean – Collect litter picker on 10th Dec and drop off on the 13th Dec</b>
<b>Thursday 16th December</b>	<b>Christmas Service</b>