



December 2022 NEWSLETTER

Achieving and flourishing in our Christian Community



Dear Parents & Carers

It has been a wonderful half term filled to the rim with learning and events and it has certainly been feeling a lot like Christmas over the past few weeks!

The half term started with six out of the seven classes going on school trips linked to their learning. Three classes visited Shillingford Farm where they explored and observed organic processes in action. They were able to pick in-season vegetables, tour the farm on a tractor and make apple juice from scratch – something the pupils have asked to do more of in school. Three different classes made their way to the recycle centre in Paignton as they linked up with SWISCO – who manage public waste for the whole of Torbay. These classes are learning about the issues facing Torbay with recycling and this visit supported them to understanding the magnitude of

waste that comes in from Torbay residents. We hope their learning has made a difference to the way some of our families dispose of their waste at home!

The end of the half term has been just magical! It has been the first full Christmas, in terms of school events, since 2019 and we have loved welcoming our families into school to share it with us. The Christmas season kicked off with our Christmas Fayre where the big man himself made an appearance. Thank you for everyone who attended – you helped the PTFA raise just under £2000 for future school projects for the pupils. We held our Christingle service in school and had our choir sing in the church carol service on Sunday. The Term finished off with a bang, with the return of KS1's nativity performance – Lights, Came, Action!

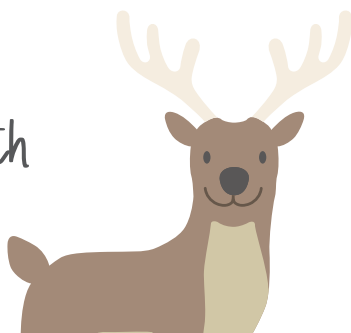
I want to take this opportunity to thank the pupils, staff, parents and carers for their support and commitment over the past five years. This newsletter will be my last as the Collaton Headteacher and I feel honoured to have taught and led in such a special school. I look forward to working with the school under Miss Postlethwaite's leadership and seeing the pupils continue to flourish.

I hope that all our families have an enjoyable and peaceful Christmas period and I wish you all the best in the new year.

With Best Wishes

Ben Nelson-Smith

Headteacher



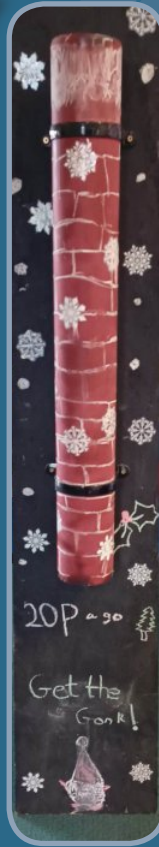
CHRISTMAS FAYRE



Christmas was launched this year in school through the Christmas Fayre. The afternoon commenced through the arrival of Father Christmas in the school car park which made the pupils, quite understandably, very excited!

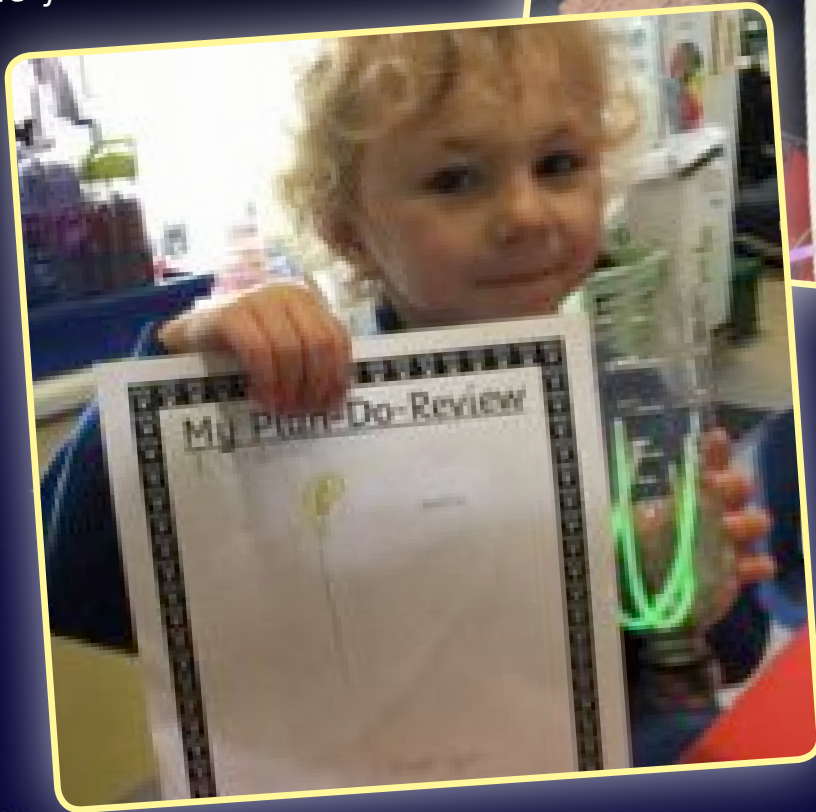
The Fayre had it all going on: craft stalls, gift wrapping stations, Santa's grotto, choir singing, raffles and lots more. Due to our family support, the event managed to raise just under £2000 for future school projects. Thanks to everyone who came!

The biggest thanks needs to go to all those who helped organise and prepare for the fayre. This includes our dedicated PTFA, parents collecting raffles prizes and parents who helped out on the day. Team work makes the dream work!



Year R

The children in Reception have been answering the question 'Why is Light Important?' We have explored light in different celebrations, learned about nocturnal animals and looked at sources of light. The children used the plan-do-review learning tool to make their own torches using recycled materials.



The children in Key Stage 1 have been working really hard on their nativity, 'Lights, Camel, Action!' This is the first school nativity for two years and some of the children's first experience with doing a play and performing. We are so proud of all of the pupils and how well they have done. We have seen incredible acting, singing and dancing. We have loved the return of the Key Stage 1 nativity!



Year 1



KS2 Netball Game

Our KS2 netball club played their first game against Galmpton primary school. The team really enjoyed playing against another school. It was lovely to see them practice their defending and attacking skills! Well done to all that played. Please can this section go onto a different page – perhaps notices?



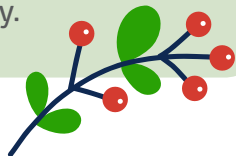
Sustainability

We had a visit from the Torbay Recycling Centre. They brought a recycling truck with them. They told us why it was important to recycle and what different materials you can recycle. We then pretended to be bin men and had to sort all of the recycling out!



Subtracting

In maths, we have been learning how to subtract. We learnt this by putting socks on a coat hanger and taking away a certain amount to see what we had left. We have then used tens frames and crossed out the amount we are taking away.



Lost and found story writing

We have been reading the story 'lost and found'. This week we have learnt what adjectives are and we have thought of adjectives to describe the boy and the penguin in our story. We have then also written adjectives to describe the story setting e.g. "The waves are crashing in the sea".



APPLE NEWS!

After our trip to Shillingford Organic Farm, Year Two used the apples that we collected to make apple juice and apple muffins. We learnt how to follow a recipe, weigh ingredients, cut and mix. The children shared their apple muffins with their parents at the end of the day.

Year
2



Year 3

This half term, Year Three have learnt about recycling and reducing the food waste in Torbay. We visited Torbay Recycling Centre to learn about what happens to our waste after it has been collected. We also visited MVV Energie in Plymouth to learn about where our food waste goes.



Year 4



This half term year 4 had the exciting opportunity to visit Shillingford Organic Farm in Exeter. We got a tour around the farm, harvested vegetables, prepared seeds and got to make our very own apple juice. Once we returned to class, we built upon what we had learnt at Shillingford by investigating what factors affect farming in different parts of the world, specifically in the Tuscany region in Italy. We then used google slides in groups to create presentations comparing farming in Devon to farming in Tuscany.



Year 5

Tag Rugby Festival

Year 5 had a fantastic experience at Paignton Academy competing against other local schools in a Tag Rugby festival. They learned many new tactics about how the game works and worked together as part of a team to ensure that everyone had a role to play.

Learning Experience

Year 5 have been learning all about sustainability and the importance of managing all waste appropriately. They were lucky enough to go on two trips to support their learning. The first was to the SWISCO recycling centre in Paignton, where they discovered how the different recycled items are sorted and crushed into bales. Here, they also found out more about food waste and garden waste. The second trip was to the MVV Incinerator in Plymouth, where they had a tour showing the general waste being burned at 1032 degrees! Back in school, the children found out about the waste hierarchy and which options on the waste journey are the most environmentally friendly.



Year 6

Our learning this term has focused on climate change and deforestation. The children have researched and reflected upon the impact of human behaviour and have learned about what action needs to be taken to reduce global warming.



SHILLINGFORD FARM TRIP

Year 6 had an incredible day at Shillingford Organic Farm.

They picked their own vegetables, made apple juice and even discovered a love of raw kale!





THANK YOU

Collaton St Mary

for raising a fantastic

£159.45

The money you have raised will be used
to help change the lives of children and
young people facing disadvantage in
communities across the UK.

B B C
CHILDREN
IN NEED

What Parents & Carers Need to Know about

TIKTOK

AGE RESTRICTION
13+

(certain features are restricted to over-18s only)

WHAT ARE THE RISKS?

TikTok is a free social media platform that lets users create, share and watch short videos ranging anywhere from 15 seconds to 10 minutes in duration. The app gained notoriety for its viral dances, trends and celebrity cameos and can be a creative, fun platform for teens to enjoy. Now available in 75 languages, it has more than a billion active users worldwide (as of spring 2022) and is most popular with the under-16 age bracket. In fact, a 2022 Ofcom report found TikTok to be the most-used social media platform for posting content, particularly among young people aged 12 to 17.

AGE-INAPPROPRIATE CONTENT

While TikTok's "Following" feed only displays videos from users someone follows, "For You" is a stream of clips based on their previously watched content. Most videos on a child's "For You" feed will therefore be light-hearted and amusing, but it could potentially surface something unsuitable. TikTok's guidelines prohibit the sharing of illegal or inappropriate content, but the sheer volume of uploads mean they aren't manually monitored and vetted.

18
CENSORED

DANGEROUS CHALLENGES

Due to TikTok's immense popularity, some young people have unfortunately been influenced by videos challenging them to perform harmful, criminal or even deadly acts. One extreme example was the 'blackout' trend, which encouraged users to hold their breath until they passed out from a lack of oxygen. It led to two families filing lawsuits against TikTok over the tragic deaths of their children.

CONTACT WITH STRANGERS

With around 1.1 billion users globally, the potential for contact from strangers on TikTok is high – especially as accounts created by over-18s (or youngsters using a false date of birth) are set to public by default. This not only means that someone's profile is visible to everyone else on the app; it also lets their videos be suggested to others and enables anyone to comment on them or download them.

IN-APP SPENDING

TikTok is free, but users have the option to buy TikTok coins, which can be used to purchase emojis in the app. These emojis are then sent as rewards (retaining their monetary value) to other users for videos they've created. Coin bundles range from £9.99 to an eye-watering £99; TikTok's policy is that they can't be bought by under-18s, but it's possible to bypass this with a fake birthdate.

ADDICTIVE NATURE

Like all social networking platforms, TikTok can be addictive: figures show that young people are investing increasing amounts of time in it. In the UK, children with TikTok spend an average of 102 minutes per day on the app, versus 53 minutes on YouTube. This compulsive repeated use can interfere with their sleep patterns – leading to irritability – and distract them from other activities.

TIKTOK NOW

Introduced in late 2022, the 'TikTok Now' feature lets users post a daily video or photo at the exact same time as their friends. Users receive a synchronised notification at a random time of day, giving them three minutes to take a video or real-time photo. This addition can not only be a distraction to young people but could lead to them inadvertently sharing private content such as their location.

Advice for Parents & Carers

ENABLE FAMILY PAIRING

Family Pairing allows parents to link their TikTok account with their child's and control their settings remotely. Parents can then, for example, turn on Restricted Mode (reducing the chances of a child seeing inappropriate content); set screen time limits; and manage their child's ability to send messages (and to whom). Children can't alter these settings without parental approval.

MAKE ACCOUNTS PRIVATE

Although under-16s will have their TikTok account set to private by default, bypassing this setting is relatively easy. However, parents have the ability to manually set their child's account to private – meaning that their videos won't be visible to strangers and they won't be able to exchange messages with people who aren't on their friends list.

LIMIT IN-APP SPENDING

If your child is using an iPhone or Android device to access TikTok, you can alter the settings to prevent them from making in-app purchases. We'd recommend that you enable this feature, as it's quite easy for a young person – without realising what they're doing – to spend a significant amount of real money buying TikTok coins so they can unlock more features of the app.

DISCUSS THE DANGERS

If your child wants to use TikTok and you're happy for them to do so, it's crucial to talk about the potential risks in this type of app. For example, ensure they understand not to share any identifying personal information – and that they realise they could be exposed to inappropriate content. Thinking critically about what they see on TikTok can help children become generally more social media savvy.

READ THE SIGNS

If you're concerned that your child might be spending too much time on TikTok, or that they've been emotionally affected by something inappropriate or upsetting that they've seen, it's important to know how to spot the possible signs. Increased irritability and a lack of concentration are potential red flags, as are failing to complete homework or regularly not eating meals.

Meet Our Expert

Carly Page is an experienced technology journalist with a track record of more than 10 years in the industry. Previously the editor of tech tabloid The Inquirer, Carly is now a freelance technology journalist, editor and consultant.



National
Online
Safety

#WakeUpWednesday



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REMEMBRANCE SERVICE

This year, we returned to a joint Remembrance Service between the school and the church. The service started in the school hall and included pupil readings and a craft poppy activity. Mrs Richards used her art creativity to create a collaborative poppy wreath to represent our Collaton community. We then went over to the church where we held the moment of silence. Thank you to the families who joined us.

Smiggle Winner



Congratulations to our Smiggle calendar winner!

Anti-Bullying Week Odd Sock Day

No child should be subjected to bullying – anyplace, anywhere, anytime. Anti-bullying week is an opportunity raise awareness of bullying and how to stop and prevent it. During this week, we took part in 'Odd Socks Day' to highlight how we are all uniquely different and that it should be celebrated.

This year's theme was 'Reach out' which reinforces that children should stand up to bullying and know who they can talk to if they are concerned. We reminded pupils of who they can talk to in school if they are worried about anything.



Collaton St Mary Primary School

Diary Dates

2023

Tuesday 3rd January

Monday 9th January

Thursday 12th January

Monday 16th January

Thursday 19th January

Monday 23rd January

Thursday 26th January

Monday 30th January

Thursday 2nd Feb

Monday 6th Feb

Thursday 9th February

Monday 13th – Friday 17th Feb

Wednesday 15th February

Monday 20th February

Monday 27th February

Thursday 2nd March

Return to school

Year 4 Swimming

Bikeability

Year 4 Swimming

Year 6 Sports Festival

Year 4 Swimming

Year 3 Sports Festival

Year 4 Swimming

Sports Festival

Year 4 Swimming

School Disco

Half Term Break

Ash Wednesday

Year 3 Swimming

Year 3 Swimming

World Book Day