



# March 2023 NEWSLETTER

Achieving and flourishing in our Christian Community



## Dear Parents & Carers

What an amazing half term we have had!

Huge thanks to everyone's support for World Book Day with submitting photographs and book reviews; they were all wonderful! Thank you also for your involvement in the Sponsored Read activity; the funds raised can buy some incredible books for our classrooms and the vending machine.

This half term we have been focussing on the character traits of honesty and confidence and the children have been delving deeper into what this looks like for each year group within our classes. There have been some fantastic conversations happening and examples shown around school.

This half term we have welcomed lots of visitors into Collaton and it's made me really proud that every person has commented on the superb environment, the excellent behaviour and attitudes of our pupils and the positive ethos around the school.

Last week we had pleasure of having our Key Stage 1 Mums and carers in for our Mums Service. It was wonderful to be able to welcome families back into one of our favourite services again. The children did a fantastic job of reciting poems and singing a song to say thank you. During the last week of term we will be celebrating Easter with our festive activities which our families are warmly invited to join us for. This time of year is always filled with hope as the season of spring begins and next half term promises to bring more opportunities for us to share the children's learning with you.

Wishing all our families and the school community, a happy and healthy Easter.

With best wishes,

*Nicky Postlethwaite*

Headteacher





# Year R



This half-term Reception children have been learning all about dinosaurs! The children have absolutely loved finding out about the creatures from our past. The children learnt about a dinosaur's diet and we sorted dinosaurs to show if they were a herbivore, carnivore or omnivore. We also learnt about fossils and how we can tell if something is living, not-living or has never been alive! Whilst learning about dinosaurs, we received a letter from the ghost of a Brachiosaurus who used to live in the forest school area! The children loved writing letters back to the dinosaur asking him questions about what his life was like back when he was alive.





# Year 1

## Science

We have been learning about the different seasons. We have learnt the similarities and differences between the 4 seasons. We used our new thinking tool which is a 'bubble map' to show what we've learnt about each season.



## RE Learning Experience

We have been learning about Easter. We acted out the story of Palm Sunday. This helped us remember what happens throughout the story. We then learnt about the Easter Story through godly play. This is helping us answering our enquiry question 'Why do Christians put a cross in the Easter garden?'

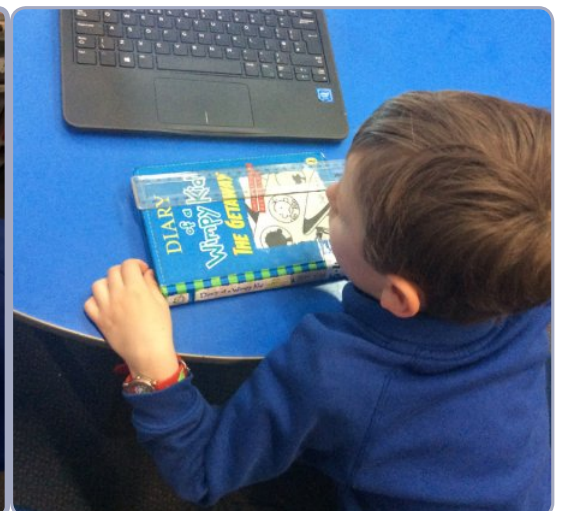
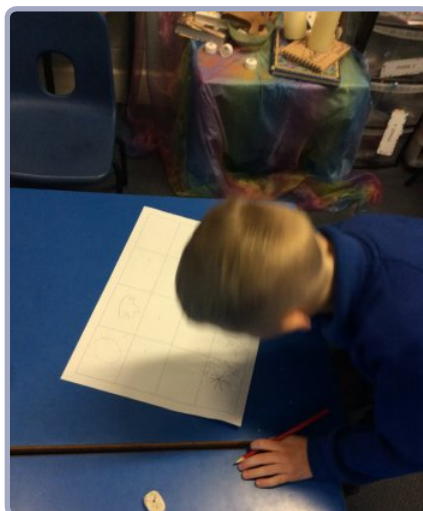


## Baking hot cross buns!

We measured out ingredients to make hot cross buns! We talked about the meaning of the hot cross buns. The cross represents Jesus dying on the cross and the shape of the bun represents the stone rolled in front of the tomb.

## Maths – measuring in cms

In our measuring unit, we have learnt how to measure the length and height of objects using cubes. We then moved on to learning how to use a ruler to measure objects with cms.

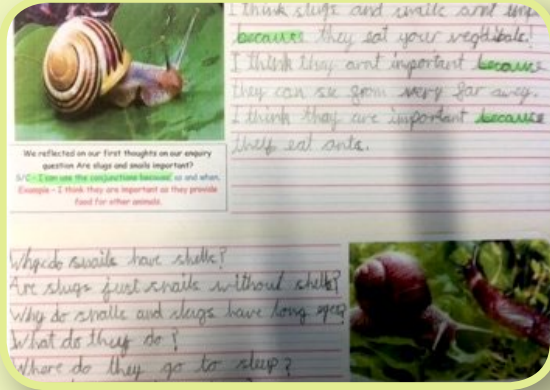




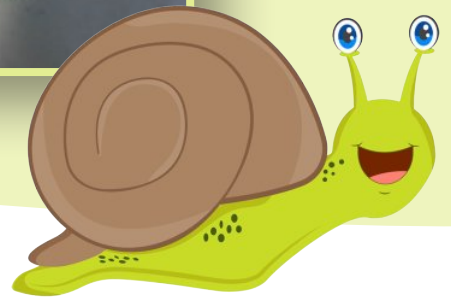


Year Two really enjoyed their science learning experience. Our enquiry question was "Are slugs and snails important?" We found out so many interesting facts about snails! Did you know they breathe through a respiratory pore? We even carried out an investigation into what snails like to eat, but it was a bit tricky to find snails at this time of the year!

We found out how important they are in a food chain; if you take out the small animals like slugs and snails, the bigger animals have nothing to eat.

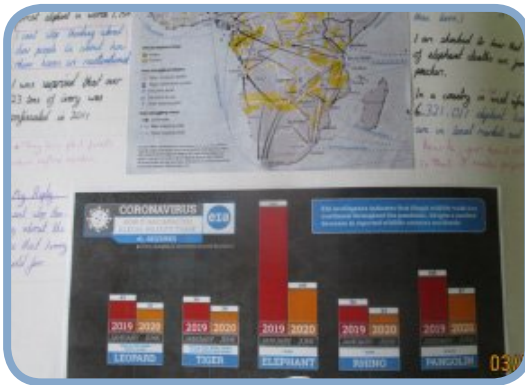
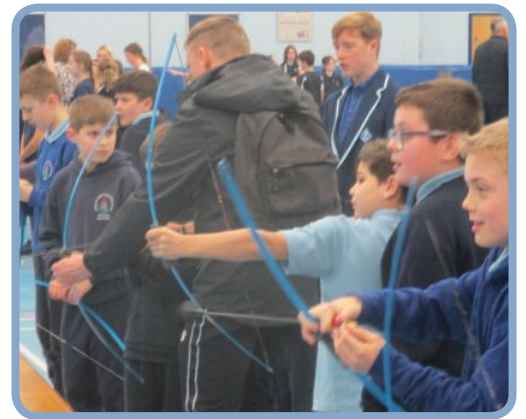


**Year 2**



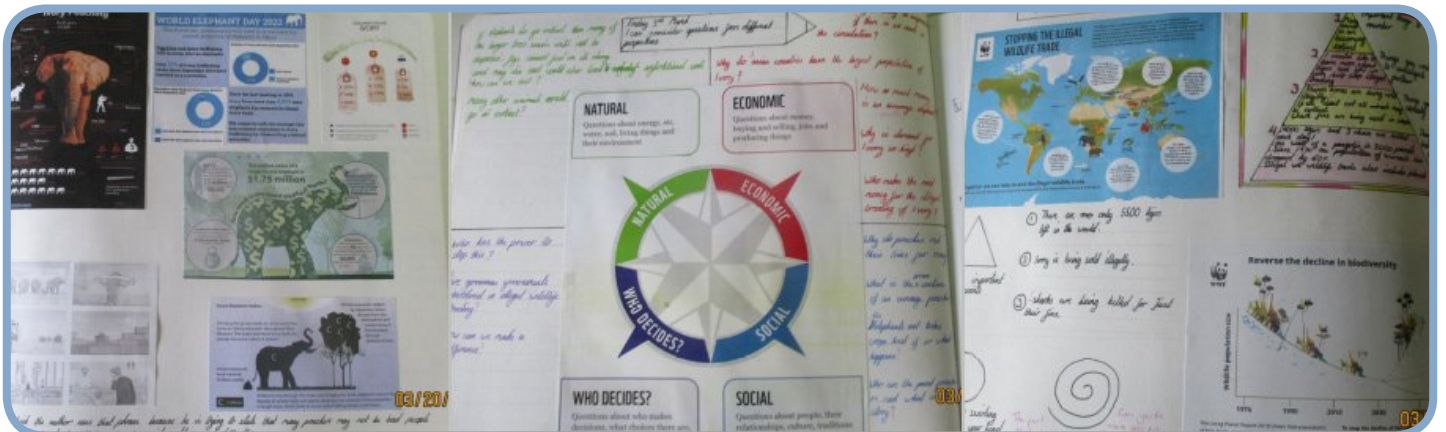
# Year 6

Year 6 had a wonderful time at their Outdoor Education Festival at Paignton Academy on Thursday 9th March. They took part in an incredible variety of sports and really enjoyed working as a team.



## Are humans exploiting the planet?

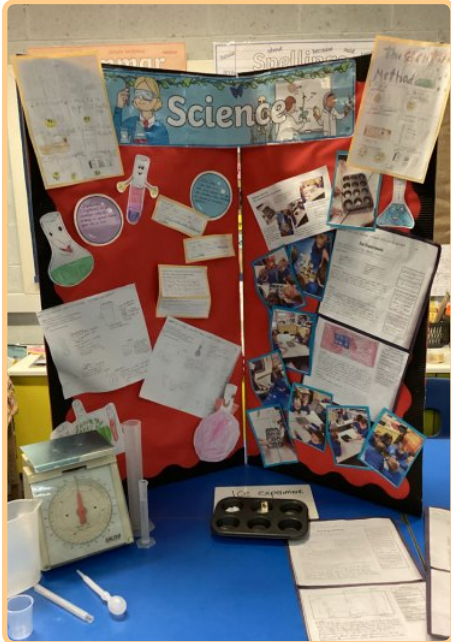
Year 6 have investigated the illegal trade in ivory. They have studied the latest data and read several National Geographic articles to develop their understanding of this complex issue. Their learning has culminated with a persuasive letter aimed at the consumers of ivory products.





# Year 3

Year Three have been learning about Solids, Liquids and Gases the last three weeks. They have learnt how the different states of matter differ from one another, as well as how they can change from one state to another. The children presented their work and created interactive games for parents to look at during our Science Fair Open Classroom afternoon.



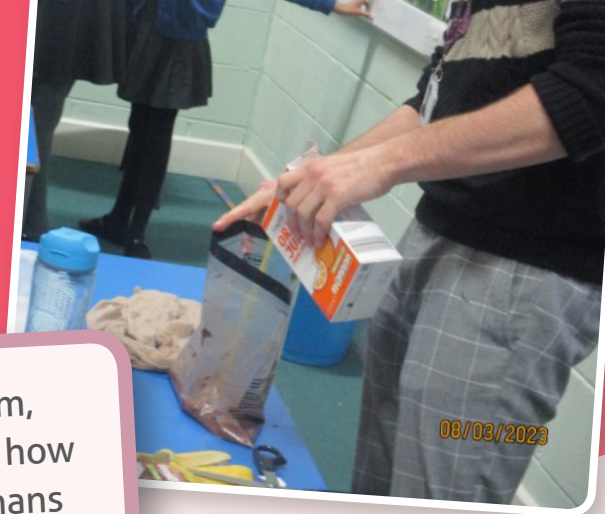
## World Book Day in Y3

The children in Year 3 enjoyed celebrating World Book Day. We had a class circle time where everybody was able to share their book and tell us about it. The children read a story called, 'Perfectly Norman' and they designed their own wings and wrote about adventures they would go on if they had wings like Norman, the main character. The children also sent in photos of reading in strange places. Harry even managed to read to some goats! The children also learnt and performed a poem to the rest of the school too.



# Year 4

In year 4 this half term, we have been studying how animals including humans get their energy from food. We learnt about the different types of teeth humans have and their functions. We investigated the digestive system, looking at the different organs involved and the role they perform within the system. We then created our own scientific videos modelling how the digestive system works.





Year 5 have been developing their skills in a wide variety of sports this half term. They had the great opportunity to attend a fantastic dance session at Paignton Academy, where they choreographed their own routines with the theme of friendship. The pupils have also been learning to play hockey and handball in their PE lessons recently. They have been focussing on passing, shooting and working more effectively as a team.

In our Science Learning Experience, Year 5 children have been investigating weird and wonderful lifecycles, including the platypus, seahorse and parasitic wasp. They have been writing their own explanation texts full of technical vocabulary with scientific drawings that show each stage of the unusual lifecycle.

# Year 5





## Collaton Attendance 'Spring 2' 2023

Whole School	94.43%
Reception	91.20 %
1	95.24%
2	91.71%
3	93.70%
4	90.54%
5	94.16%
6	94.29%

Well done to **Year 1**, our attendance winners for this half term!

*\*figures from 20/02/2023 – 20/03/2023*

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.

**Miss School Miss Out**

If you're not going to school you will miss out on...

- Learning new skills
- Your friends
- Support and help
- School activities
- Having fun

Being in school and on time is good for you.  
90% attendance may look impressive but it means missing 19 days of education in a year.  
Don't be one of the few to miss school and miss out!  
If you need help with school attendance, please talk to your school for advice

**A child who misses school just twice per month will lose out on 18 days' education across the school year – that's nearly four weeks!**

## SIGN LANGUAGE WEEK 13-19 MARCH 2023

Sign Language Week is celebrated every year in March to commemorate the first time British Sign Language (BSL) was acknowledged as a language in its own right by the UK Government on 18 March 2003.

The aim for Sign Language Week is to celebrate and educate the British public about British Sign Language (BSL), to encourage more people to start learning our beautiful, unique, visual language, and to protect and preserve BSL for future generations to come.

The children learnt some signs and also learnt about deaf culture – celebrating our differences.





# WORLD BOOK DAY®

World book day was a great success. The children enjoyed reading in unusual places.





# General info for parents:

School starts at **08:50** and finishes at **15:15**

## School Uniform

### Boys Uniform

- Royal blue sweatshirt with school badge
- Royal blue polo shirt with school badge (tucked in)
- Grey trousers (grey shorts may be worn in the summer)
- Grey socks
- Black shoes

Boots/trainers/football shoes are not permitted

Hats to keep safe in the sun

### Girls Uniform

- Royal blue sweatshirt/cardigan with school badge
- Royal blue polo shirt with school badge (tucked in)
- Grey trousers or skirt (Girls may wear a grey pinafore dress with royal blue polo shirt)
- White socks or grey tights
- Black shoes with flat heels

Boots/trainers/sandals are not permitted

\*Summer option – girls can wear a pale blue and white check summer light-weight dress with a royal blue cardigan

## Some gentle reminders...

- We are a **nut free** and **strawberry free** school
- **No dogs** allowed on the school grounds –  
*(we have pupils with severe anaphylaxis allergies)*
- Please **report absences** to the office before 08:50 on  
01803 556433 or email  
[admin.collaton@acexcellence.co.uk](mailto:admin.collaton@acexcellence.co.uk)
- **No 'Prime' bottles** are allowed in school

## Parish rooms available for hire.

For more information please call Jacqui Leigh -  
**07899 915707**

## Comic Relief

Thank you for your generous contributions!  
You raised an incredible **£148.65** for Comic relief!



# OUTDOOR LEARNING

Last year, Collaton was awarded an outdoor education grant. We put this to good use and created an outdoor classroom. We are pleased to announce this is ready for our Summer Term. The children and teachers are very excited to use this space and enjoy the natural environment. Research suggests that outdoor learning boosts confidence, social skills, communication, motivation, physical skills, knowledge and understanding. It has also been found to boost children's self-esteem, self-confidence, ability to work cooperatively and positive attitude to learning.

In addition to our outdoor class room, we make regular use of our Forest School Area. The children really enjoy connecting with nature and learning all about the wonderful things that surround our school.





## Empty Drink Cans

Thank you to all the families that have donated cans over the last couple of years and a huge thank you to Mr Jenkins for crushing each can, bagging them up and taking them to the recycling centre. We have raised an enormous £1029.53 for the PTFA. This will go towards some new outdoor play equipment that the school council are helping to chose.



## Collaton PTFA

### About us

Collaton PTFA is made up of staff, parents and friends of Collaton. We help fund raising for the school by hosting fun events throughout the year. These funds are used to purchase treats, help towards school trips and experiences, ipads and much more. We aim to give children an extra special experience during their time at Collaton.

### We need you!

We are a small group and would love to have more members. Ideally, we would like at least one representative from each year group. Could you spare some time to help and support our PTFA? Do you have any special skills you could bring to the PTFA? Our meetings are open for anyone to attend. You don't need to attend meetings, but any support or help during our events is greatly appreciated. There are many ways to help, for example:

- Prop making
- Time on a stall
- Contacts with suppliers, bands or raffle prizes or external stall holders.
- Help setting up events
- Clean up after the events
- Ideas and Input into the planning of events

### Meet the Collaton PTFA members:

Chair – Jo Costar (Staff)

Vice Chair – Claire Jackson (Parent)

Secretary – Sarah Gage (staff member & parent)

Treasurer – Roxanne Sayles (Staff member)

Committee member - Joanie Crowther (Staff member & Parent)

Committee member – David Jenkin (Year 2 parent)



**Save the date: Friday 30th June @ 14:30 – 18:00 – Collaton Summer Fayre**



# Clubs in Torbay that your child might like to try...

## Cubs & Scouts

*"Going to cubs is fun and you get to do safety and fun activities. You also get badges for doing good things each week like cooking, reading and art."*

**Isla - Year 3**



### Who are Cub Scouts?...

There are loads of fun things that you can do as a Cub Scout. You will get a chance to try lots of different activities like swimming, music, exploring, computing and collecting. If you do them properly you will get a badge which you can wear on your uniform.

We also get to go on trips and days out, to places like the zoo, theme parks or a farm. With the 1st Marldon Cubs you will be able to go camping with the rest of your Pack. This will mean you sleeping in a tent and doing loads of outdoor activities.

### How do I join Cub Scouts?...

If you would like to take part in the fun of Cub Scouting, and are interested in enrolling your child, please contact John Harrison, Group Scout Leader at 1stmarldoncubs@gmail.com for further details.

Our Cub Pack meets every Tuesday evening 6pm-7.30pm

Subs of £15.00 per Calendar month are due on the 1st week of the month





**EST. 2011**  
**TABLE TENNIS ACADEMY**  
[www.tttacademy.info](http://www.tttacademy.info)

## TABLE TENNIS FOR CHILDREN

Table Tennis England Club of the Year 2017

# TABLE TENNIS FOR EVERYONE

<p><b>Mini Table Tennis Club</b></p> <p><b>Beginners &amp; intermediate</b></p> <p><b>Individual Table Tennis Lessons</b></p>	<p>These sessions are open to children aged 8-16 who wish to master their table tennis skills, have fun and do more exercise after school.</p>	<p>1 to 1 table tennis coaching focused on YOUR child's game, the best way to improve any aspect of your child's game at any age.</p>
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**CHECK OUR WEBSITE FOR FULL INFORMATION**

**CHILDREN OF ALL AGES AND ABILITIES ARE ALWAYS VERY WELCOME !!!**

**CONTACT US**  
**07516 984707**

**BOOKING IS ESSENTIAL**

OUR PARTNERS AND SUPPORTERS



**OUR MAIN VENUE**  
**Torquay Academy**  
**Cricketfield Road,**  
**TORQUAY, TQ2 7NU**

## Table Tennis - Mondays & Wednesdays 5.15 – 6.30pm



*"Every week I come out of Table Tennis and think 'I loved that!' We do lots of fitness, some drills and then we play games too. The club is really friendly and I have a lot of fun"*

**Noah - Year 6**



**Free for Children on Free School Meals**

**For Children Aged 5-16**

**Fun Indoor & Outdoor Activities**

**Sports & Team Games**

**Cooking & Tasty Food**

**Singing, Dancing & Talent Show**

**Arts & Crafts**







**3RD -6TH April 2023**



**St Paul's Church Hall,**  
**Paignton TQ3 2DH**



**9:30am -1:30pm**



**To Book: Please call Roni on**  
**07780512745**

**If your child belongs to a club, why not let us know and we can advertise your local club here.**

Contact: [admin.collaton@acexcellence.co.uk](mailto:admin.collaton@acexcellence.co.uk)



# Resources for Young People & Parents

## YOUNG Mi MINDS



**YM** Parents  
Helpline  
0808 802 5544  
youngminds.org.uk  
Mon-Fri 9.30am-4pm

Text **YM** to **85258** for free 24/7 support

### A Sensory Life!



Self-help for  
Anxiety Management

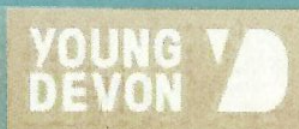
Good for:  
Coping with anxiety



### Healthier Together



Good for:  
Anxiety  
ADHD  
Autism  
Mental health crisis  
Bereavement  
Bullying  
Eating Difficulties  
and much more...



Good for:

Wellbeing, accommodation & careers

Good for:  
Free, safe and anonymous support





# What Parents & Carers Need to Know about VIRTUAL REALITY

Virtual reality (VR for short) has existed for decades, but it's only in the last 10 years that the technology has really become publicly available. With VR's rapid rise as a gaming and educational medium, there are plenty of unknowns regarding its use – for adults and children alike. Is it safe? How long should someone use VR for? How expensive is it? What's clear is that VR is becoming ever more ubiquitous in everyday life: from companies using it for training to at-home fitness. Knowing what the technology is capable of is more useful than ever.

## WHAT ARE THE RISKS?

### PREMATURE EXPOSURE

13+

While VR has already found its way into schools worldwide – allowing teachers to take their class on digital field trips – most manufacturers advise an age restriction of 13. This safeguard is based on the idea that children's brains, eyes and bodies are still developing. With the technology still in its infancy, not enough research has been conducted as to how VR affects children in the longer term.

### EYE STRAIN

One of the main worries about VR is that essentially having TV screens so close to your eyes could harm them with prolonged use. Lenses inside each headset have been specifically designed to trick the human eye into focusing to infinity (just as they would in the real world) to mitigate possible eye strain. Even so, longer VR sessions should be limited to adults only.

### PHYSICAL ACCIDENTS

When used correctly, VR isn't dangerous as there are safety features built in. A common concern is that a child wearing a headset could bump into real-world objects while playing – so creating a clear, tidy gaming space is essential. Headsets also come with 'Guardian' or digital barrier systems that can be set up beforehand, indicating where walls and furniture are located so nobody trips over and hurts themselves.

### SOCIAL VR

VR is more immersive than normal gaming and makes players feel very present in the moment. There are additional online safety fears, therefore, relating to trolling and abusive comments as players engage with each other in social VR spaces. Personal information shouldn't be given out and privacy and safety controls (who can see your real name, for example) need to be activated where possible.

### MOTION SICKNESS

Children who are prone to travel sickness might encounter what's known as 'simulator sickness'. This is nausea caused by the eyes seeing images which tell the brain that the person is moving, while the rest of the body knows it is stationary. Most apps have features to reduce this discomfort, while some games simply don't feature locomotion to make for a more comfortable experience.

### VIOLENT CONTENT

Among the growing range of VR games and apps, not all of them are appropriate for young players. Violent content can be far more visceral and disturbing in VR, so it's important to consider the age and maturity of your child before giving them access to this type of gameplay. As the majority of VR content is digital, online store access is easy – so careful curation is advised.

## Advice for Parents & Carers

### START OFF SLOWLY

Just like regular video games, if your child wants to try VR the best way to reduce risks is moderation. Keep their VR sessions to short stints – and for young adults new to the technology, build up their usage time gradually to let them get acquainted with it. If they feel any discomfort, remove the headset and try again at a later point.

### ANTI-NAUSEA OPTIONS

It's wise to get used to VR while comfortably seated and progress to standing or 'room-scale' VR (where players physically walk around an area) later. Look at the in-app options first: switching between seated and standing adjusts the player's height, while a vignette or 'tunnel' darkens the peripheral vision to reduce nausea. Teleportation Mode and Snap Turning are also important options for enhancing comfort.

### NO SURPRISES

It's easy to get lost in the moment in VR – and possibly forget where you might be standing in the real world. A minimum 2m x 2m play area is recommended, with no plant pots or other delicate objects within reach of flailing arms. Take pets into account, too: don't let the cat or dog walk into the room, for example, because a VR player won't see them and could certainly trip. A child is far more likely to get over-enthusiastic in VR, posing a risk to themselves and anything in their path.

### RESEARCH CONTENT

There will be information online about most games and apps, explaining what type of experience they provide. They'll list age ratings indicating how violent the gameplay might be; comfort, so you'll know the intensity of the experience; and how much access the game requires to personal information or features like the built-in microphone.

### KEEP A WATCHING BRIEF

It may seem that a VR player is in their own world, but all VR headsets allow external viewing via a linked monitor or mobile phone. This is the best way to ensure whatever a child is playing is appropriate. More VR supervision tools are on the way, such as securing specific apps behind unlock patterns or sending an approval notification to the parent if their child wants to purchase a game.

## Meet Our Expert

Peter Graham is the editor at XR (extended reality) and Web3 specialist site [gmw3.com](http://gmw3.com) and has been writing about VR, augmented reality and the Immersive tech industry for more than seven years. He's served as a panel speaker and a judge at awards events and game hackathons.



National Online Safety®

#WakeUpWednesday



# Collaton St Mary Primary School

# Diary Dates

# 2023

Monday 27th March	Year 3 Swimming
Thursday 30th March	Egg Rolling: KS1 @ 09:15 KS2 @ 09:45
Thursday 30th March	Easter Service
Friday 31st March	KS1 Bonnet Parade
Friday 31st March	Easter Card Design Deadline
Monday 3rd April – Friday 14th April	Easter Break
Monday 17th April	Collaton Cuppa
Thursday 27th April	Year 3 Sports Festival
Sunday 30th April	Family Service in School and Church
Monday 1st May	Bank Holiday
Thursday 4th May	Year 1 Sports Festival
Monday 8th May	Bank Holiday
Monday 10th May	Collaton Cuppa
Wednesday 17th May	Year 5 School Trip
Thursday 18th May	Year 6 Sports Festival
Monday 29th May – Wed 7th June	Half Term Break
Monday 12th June	Collaton Cuppa
Tuesday 13th June	Class Photos
Thursday 15th June	Year 5 Sports Festival
Tuesday 20th June	Sports Day
Tuesday 27th June	Reserve Sports Day
Friday 30th June	Collaton Summer Fayre
Monday 3rd July – Wed 5th July	Year 6 Residential
Thursday 6th July & Friday 7th July	Year 6 Transition days at secondary schools
Monday 10th July	Collaton Cuppa
Wednesday 12th July	Civic Award Ceremony (Y6)
Wednesday 26th July – Tuesday 5th Sep	Summer Holidays