# **AUSTIN FARM**

Academy

## Newsletter 19/04/2024

### Dear Parents/Carers,

Welcome back - I hope you all had a great Easter break, despite the rain! It has been so good to see the sunshine this week, it raises everyone's mood and means we are closer to being able to use the field for playing on at lunchtimes. The children have returned to school well rested; with an abundance of energy and enthusiasm, please see below for what they have been learning.

Years 2 & 5 had the fire service in today, they learnt how to prevent fires occurring around the home and how to stay safe in the event of a fire; I am reliably informed that "Stop, Drop and Roll" is useful to know.

#### Staffing news.

Miss Brokenshire returned from her maternity leave just before Easter and is teaching Year 2 (her previous class) Monday to Thursday, they have missed her and we gladly welcome her back. Mrs Harvie will continue to teach Year 2 on a Friday; we are pleased that she can provide continuity and a familiar face for the children.

Mrs Thomas left us officially today after 23 years working as a TA and HLTA, although an operation during the Easter holiday meant she has been off recovering this week. She has been a loyal member of staff and we wish her the best of luck in her future endeavours.

Reminder of the uniform policy regarding hair dye. Please support your children's self-esteem by reinforcing that they are perfect just the way they are, with their natural hair colour; dyed hair is not appropriate for primary school children.

New fences - As you may have noticed, new fences have been put up around the school, they look smart and, most importantly, are very secure. Thank you to West Country Schools' Trust for funding that for us.

Road safety - following on from the Year 2 road safety sessions, we have been given a banner which is now attached to the new fence where the bushes have been cleared away; hopefully it will make drivers think about slowing down at that point where most of our children cross the road. We are still talking to Plymouth highways department regarding cars speeding on that road.

New outdoor area - In the space by the entrance to the school we are having an exciting new garden area - please see the picture below for an impression of what it will look like. We will have a new outdoor classroom, a reading den, flower planters, digging planters, sensory pathways and 5 game boards - every class has chosen a game they would like in the new garden area. The funding from West Country Schools' Trust provided 4 of these and our PTA is paying for the last one.

### PTA news.

We have had 2 parents volunteer to re-form our PTA and we need more to make our summer fayre successful. There will be a PTA meeting at 2.30pm on Weds 8th May where we will plan the fayre - please come if you can, we will provide tea and biscuits! Our Summer fayre will be on Friday 5th July from 3.30 - 5.00 please put that date in your diaries.

As well as funding one of the game boards for our new garden area, their next goal is to raise money for gym equipment which we will put on the grass next to the playground where the hut has been demolished. Our Easter hamper and easter egg squares raised an amazing £140, thank you for supporting the PTA so that improvements to the school can be made, which will benefit all of our children.

Next week the whole school will be taking part in an orienteering session on Wednesday morning, please send your child into school in their PE kits.

Is your child due to start school in September? Please accept your child's primary school place by Tuesday 23rd April. If you know anyone who has a child starting, please remind them that they have to go back online to Plymouth admissions and accept their place, receiving the offer of the place does not mean it happens automatically.

Next Sunday (28th April) is the Plymouth half marathon where those KS2 children who have registered and paid will be running a mile. You should have had a letter yesterday, please contact Mrs Bojang if you were expecting your child to be taking part and didn't receive the letter. The rest of the school are welcome to come to Plymouth Hoe and cheer us on if you are at a loose end from 11.00 - 12.00. Fingers crossed for good weather!

I hope you all have a lovely weekend.

## Mrs Baptiste







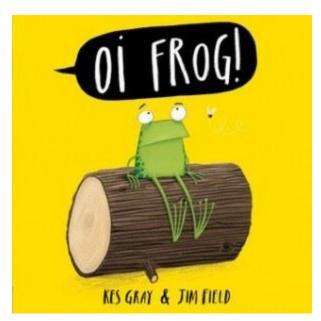


Foundation: the children have enjoyed being back at school and have had fun in the new role play area during Continuous Provision. They were also very enthusiastic about the new black board for them to draw or write on and the re-developed reading area. In maths they have been counting on from a given number, they were all very successful with this. What a great start to the Summer term!

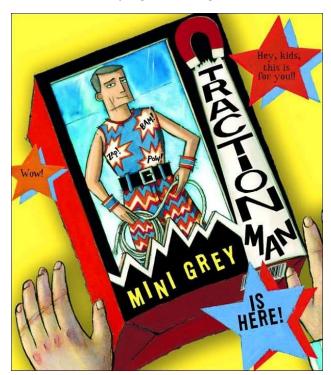


Year 1: the Year 1 children have settled back into school very well after the Easter break. They have enjoyed our new story for English 'Oi Frog' by Kes Grey. As a group they were able to follow the story

map (for the first 2 pages) and create actions to accompany that part of the story. It was very impressive to watch!

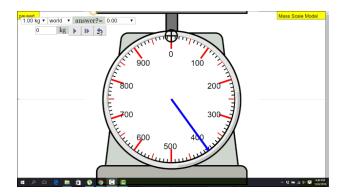


Year 2: this week, we have begun reading our new narrative text 'Traction Man is Here' by Mini Grey. We have created a text map which we have used to help us to retell parts of the story. For each sentence, we needed to come up with actions. We have found the story very amusing and we look forward to exploring the text further as we progress through the unit.

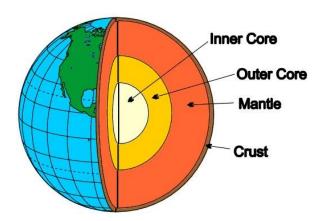


Year 3: we have worked hard to settle back in after a lovely Easter break! In Maths, the children have started to look at mass. They have been writing missing numbers on scales by dividing the end point

by the amount of intervals. This has proven to be very tricky, but everyone has persevered. Well done, Year 3!



Year 4/5: this week we have got right back into the swing of learning. The children have come back refreshed and well rested after the holiday and really learnt lots about the 4 layers of the Earth. We are excited to continue our learning about volcanoes. Well done to all the children who brought in fantastic pieces of homework.



Year 6: in Year 6, we have enjoyed exploring different versions of the fairy tale, Hansel and Gretel. We have agreed that this is a very dark fairy tale. We have acted the story out and thoroughly enjoyed doing so. In Maths, we have learned about diameter, radius and circumference and have been continuing our revision on our arithmetic. In PE, we have begun our athletics unit which started with interval running; there were some achy legs following this! Great resilience was shown throughout.



## Learners of the week, well done everyone!!



Foundation: M.Honeywill

Year 1: E.McGowan-Metters

Year 2: M.Jarousse

Year 3: Z.Sheridan-Ashton

Year 4: T.Reagan

Year 5: I.Danbury

Year 6: H.Wilson

## The attendance award goes to yr 1 for getting 100% this week. Well done!



## Dates to remember!!!



23.04.23 - Deadline to accept Primary school offers.

26.04.24 - Yr 6 hoodies ordered and paid deadline.

17.05.24 - Class photos.

26.06.24 - Sports day on the field (weather dependent) gates open at 12.30.

03.07.24 - Reserve Sports day on the field (weather dependent) gates open at 12.30.

05.07.24 - Summer fair on the field 3.30 - 5.00pm

## Menu Week 2



<u>Plymouth Information Advice and Support for SEND. - Supplying you with information, advice and support (plymouthias.org.uk)</u>



## Term time holidays- - Is it worth it?



Mulitple families have now been issued fines from Plymouth County Council due to taking their child/ren out of school during term time. Please follow the link below to understand the charges and potential legal action that these holidays can result in.

## 5 minutes late, does it really matter?



Lateness = Lost Learning

(Figures below are calculated over a school year)

- 5 Minutes late each day 3 days lost
- 10 Minutes late each day 6.5 days lost
- 15 Minutes late each day 10 days lost

- 20 Minutes late each day 13 days lost
- 30 Minutes late each day 19 days lost

## Attendance.

Every moment in school counts, and days missed add up quickly. The higher a child's attendance, the more they are likely to learn, and the better they are likely to perform in exams and formal assessments. We are implementing new procedures to help parents get their children to school.

## Do you know your child's attendance?

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95% Attendance - 2 whole weeks of school missed.
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90% Attendance - 4 whole weeks of school missed.

85% Attendance - 6 whole weeks of school missed.

80% Attendance - 8 whole weeks of school missed.

75% Attendance - 9 plus whole weeks of school missed.

School attendance and absence | PLYMOUTH.GOV.UK

## Term dates

# WeST Term Dates 2023 to 2024 . T F S S S 1 2 3 4 6 7 8 9 10 11 13 14 15 16 17 18 20 21 22 23 24 25 27 28 29

To view this calendar with all formatting and layout, on the View tab, choose Reading View.

Autumn Term Dates Monday 4 September to Friday 20 October then Monday 30 October to Tuesday 19 December

Term 1 33 days Term 2 38 days School NPD Monday 4/WeST NPD Tuesday 5 September/ WeST NPD Monday 30 O

Term 3 28 days Term 4 28 days WeST NPD Monday 19 February

Summer Term Dates Monday 15 April to Friday 24 May then Monday 3 June to Tuesday 23 July

Three Trust NPD's and three school NPD's, 189 teaching days in total.

Peach – holiday periods, Purple weekends, Green Trust NPD's, Blue School NPDs.

#### Agreed for wider distribution

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Spring Term Dates: Monday 6 Jasuary to Friday 1.4 February, then Monday 2.4 February to Friday 4 April Term 3 IO days (Inc. School NPO Monday 6 January)
Term 4 IO days

Summer Term Dates: Tuesday 22 April to Friday 23 May, then Monday 2 June to Tuesday 22 July (Note: NPDs on Mo 21 and Tu 22 Jul '25 are disappropriet for stuff twilight training throughout the year. The last day of the ac

## Children's NHS Dentist



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