October 2025 Newsletter

Marldon C of E Primary School

'Within the love of God, working together, growing together, for all to flourish.'

Dates for the diary:

Monday 3rd November
First day of Autumn Term 2

Tuesday 4th November
School Photographs

Wednesday 5th November
Year 2 and 6 The Box visit

Thursday 6th November
Year 5 swimming begins

Monday 10th November
School Football at Paignton Academy

Thursday 13th November
Year 5 swimming

Friday 14th November
Outddor club - Caving

Monday 17th November
Year 4 Roman Day

Thursday 20th November
Year 5 swimming

Thursday 27th November
Year 5 swimming

Friday 28th November
Outdoor Club - Climbing

Wednesday 3rd December
Nativity at teh Princess Theatre

Friday 19th December
Last day of Autumn Term

I am writing this newsletter not quite believing we have come to the end of our first half term. It has been so lovely watching the children settle into their new classrooms; espeically our newsest school members in Venus class. It has been a busy half term and I'm excited to share some of the things we have been up to as well as some important news, information and dates.

Harvest:

A huge well done to year 3 and 4 who led our Harvest service at the end of last week. Not only did they speak confidently and clearly, but reminded us about the importance of sharing and appreciating what we have.

I would also like to thank all of you, who donated so generously to the churches food collection. This has been shared with Stepping Stones Cafe and Totnes Foodbank will be used to make a big difference for local families.

School Events:

The whole school enjoyed welcoming Clare Walsh, a local author, into school as part of our reading celebration day. Through the day the children enjoyed sharing stories and participating in workshops led by Clare. To top it off we loved welcoming so many of you into school to share some reading time and visit the book fair. Thank you so much for all of your support with this event.

A selection of children from Years 3, 4 and 5 have taken part in Tag Rugby Festivals at South Devon College. The children have enjoyed a day competing agaisnt other schools from the USF and showing off their rugby skills.

Year 5 welcomed a Master Thatcher into school to support their learning about Anglo-Saxons. They were able to experience thatching as well as learning about the materials used.

As always if you want to find out more about any of these events please check out the class blogs on our website.

A message from Mrs Alix Harding, our Federation Mental Health Lead:

World Mental Health Day was held on Friday 10th October.

The theme this year was Access to Services, reminding us that we should all have the right to high quality and timely support for our mental health, if and when we need it. MHST (The Mental Health Support Team) delivered assemblies across our federation that week and we are delighted to have their involvement and support.

You can find out more about the work they do at: https://childrenandfamilyhealthdevon.nhs.uk/our-pathways/mental-health-support-team/

We also offer counselling sessions for our children with our fully qualified team of counsellors who can support your child with a wide range of issues, helping them to recognise, understand and process those big, difficult emotions that can come up for us all!

If you feel your child would benefit from working with MHST or spending time with a counsellor, please see your child's class teacher in the first instance.

Online Safety:

From using them for communication, work, shopping and entertainment, devices such as smartphones, laptops and the rest are now deeply ingrained into modern society. Small wonder, then, that young people – who've grown up surrounded by such gadgets – can sometimes struggle to put them down, switch them off or keep themselves occupied without them.

While limiting our screen time may require a great deal of restraint, the effort can be rewarded with significant benefits to our physical and mental health. Our #WakeUpWednesday guide has simple tips for helping to manage the amount of screen time in your household – encouraging the whole family to spend more quality time together and live in the moment.

Parking Safely:

Just a reminder that the yellow zig zags outside of school are placed there to ensure the safety of our children through the school day.

The markings mean that between 8:00am and 4:00pm **no vehicles should stop, park or wait within the marked areas**. There are no exceptions to this.

These markings are crucial for maintaining visibility for both drivers and pedestrians, especially children crossing the road.

Lets put our children's safety first and ensure they are clear at all times.

ARTICLE 28 - Every child has the right to an education

School Photos:

Shortly after our return to school, on Tuesday 4th November, we will be welcoming our school photopgrapher into school.

On this day children will have their individual and sibling photographs taken. As usual any non-school age siblings may have a sibling photo taken before the school day begins (we will share exact timings on the Monday we return).

If your child has PE on a Tuesday, please send them to school in their uniform and they may bring a change of shoes and clothes to get changed into before their sessions in the afternoon if required.

Coats:

With the Autumn weather upon us, please can we remind you that all children need be bring named coats into school each day. We will do our best to get children outside what ever the weather and it is important they can stay warm and dry.

Planned Absence

Please remember that you must notify school of any period of planned absence. This needs to be done through collecting and completing an S2 request form from the school office. At this time, can I also remind you that we are only able to authorise requests if there are 'exceptional circumstances.' Devon County Council's advice is that we must be extremely cautious about approving any requests if a pupil's education is likely to be significantly impacted upon.

It is important that these forms are handed in with adequate time to respond as any unauthorised absence will likely result in a penalty notice or court summons being issued to each parent for each pupil affected.

As always, I end my newsletter by reminding you that if you have any questions or queries please do not hesitate to catch me at the school gate.

Have a fantastic two weeks and we will look forward to seeing all on Monday 3rd November.

Kind regards,
Jon Arnold
Head of School

At National Online Safety, we believe in empowering parents, carers and trusted adults with the information to hold an informed conversation about online safety with their children, should they feel it is needed. This guide focuses on one of many issues which we believe trusted adults should be aware of. Please visit nationalcollege.com for further guides, hints and tips for adults.

Top Tips for...
MANAGING SCREEN TIME

According to the latest stats, people aged between 8 and 17 spend four hours on digital devices during an average day. Obviously, a new year is ideal for fresh starts and renewed efforts – so lots of families are trying to cut down their combined screen time right now, creating more moments to connect with each other and relying less on gadgets to have fun. Our top tips on reducing screen time are for everyone, so you can get your whole family involved in turning over a new leaf this year!

BUY MILK

GET OUT AND ABOUT

If the weather's decent, spend some time in the garden or go for a walk. Even a stroll to the local shop would do: the main thing is getting some fresh air and a break from your screen.

TRY A TIMED TRIAL

When you're taking a screen break to do a different activity or a chore, turn it into a game by setting yourself a timer. Can you complete your task before the alarm goes off?

GO DIGITAL DETOX

Challenge yourself and your family to take time off from screens, finding other things to do. You could start off with half a day, then build up to a full day or even an entire weekend.

LEAD BY EXAMPLE

Let your family see you successfully managing your own screen time. You'll be showing them the way, and it might stop some of those grumbles when you *do* want to go online.

AGREE TECH-FREE ZONES

Nominate some spots at home where devices aren't allowed. Anywhere your family gathers together, like at the table or in the living room, could become a 'no phone zone'.

HOLD A SCREEN TIME AMNESTY

As a family, agree specific windows when it's OK to use devices. This should help everyone to balance time on phones or gaming with enjoying quality moments together.

BE MINDFUL OF TIME

Stay aware of how long you've been on your device for. Controlling how much time you spend in potentially stressful areas of the internet – like social media platforms – can also boost your wellbeing.

'PARK' PHONES OVERNIGHT

Set up an overnight charging station for everyone's devices – preferably away from bedrooms. That means less temptation for late-night scrolling.

SWITCH ON DND

Research shows that micro-distractions like message alerts and push notifications can chip away at our concentration levels. Put devices on 'do not disturb' until you're less busy.

TAKE A FAMILY TECH BREAK

Set aside certain times when the whole family puts their gadgets away and enjoys an activity together: playing a board game, going for a walk or just having a chat.

SOCIALISE WITHOUT SCREENS

When you're with friends, try not to automatically involve phones, TVs or other tech. Having company can be loads more fun if your attention isn't being split.

WIND DOWN PROPERLY

Try staying off phones, consoles, tablets and so on just before you go to sleep. Reading or just getting comfy in bed for a while can give you a much more restful night.

DEVICE BOX

Meet Our Expert

Minds Ahead design and deliver the UK's only specialist postgraduate mental health qualifications. They also provide training and support to education organisations and local authorities – empowering school leaders and staff with the knowledge and tools to shape their settings into inclusive communities where the mental health of pupils and personnel is prioritised.

The National College

National Online Safety

#WakeUpWednesday

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ARTICLE 28 - Every child has the right to an education