Marldon C of E Primary School

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

Dates for the diary:

Monday 23rd February
First day of Spring ½ Term 2.

Tuesday 24th February
Start of Torbay Tigers PE for Year 5 and 6.

Wednesday 25th February
Year 6 Viking Workshop

Monday 2nd March
Y5/6 Paignton Schools League Football

Thursday 5th March
Achieve 4 All Sports Festival

Wednesday 11th March
Year R and Year 6 Health checks

Thursday 12th March
Achieve 4 All Sports Festival

Tuesday 12th March
Recycle Devon to see KS1

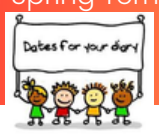
Week of Monday 23rd March
Parents Evenings
Year 2 Dental Visits

Thursday 26th March
Year 2 and Year 5 Fire Safety Talk

Friday 27th March
Dance Club Showcase

Wednesday 1st April
Year 3 and 4 trip to Buckfast Abbey

Thursday 2nd April
Easter Church service
Last day of Spring Term



Wow, where have the last 6 weeks gone! It has been great watching the children settle back into school routines and even with the wet weather we have managed to have a great half term.

Young Voices:

A First for Marldon (but definitely not the last!)

Mrs Sozzi and 14 of our choir children recently travelled to Birmingham to take part in an exciting Young Voices Choir performance. It was an unforgettable experience, with our singers joining over 100 children from across the USF and more than 5,000 children altogether for a spectacular evening of singing and dancing.

After spending the last term and a half learning the words and actions to 11 different songs, the children performed with huge smiles, confidence and enthusiasm. They truly sang their hearts out and represented Marldon beautifully.

We are incredibly proud of all the children who took part in this amazing experience — well done, choir!

Paignton RFC Tag Rugby:

A huge thank you to Ella Fielding, from Paignton RFC, who has been running Tag Rugby sessions for our Year 5 and 6 children on a Friday afternoon. This afternoon is their last session and the children have had a great time developing their invasion game skills and learning about the game of rugby.

Wonderstruck Science:

Year 5 had an amazing science and technology filled day at Brixham College. The children were first entertained and educated through a science show full of rockets and physics led experiments followed by time to design and build their own rockets which were then launched from an air cannon.

I would like to thank Brixham College for inviting us to this event.

Absence from school:

The school's attendance rate is currently at 95.2%. This year, our school is aiming to be above 97%, so we are a little below where we need to be.

If your child is unwell and not attending school, please make sure that you contact the school office by 9:30am to report the reason for their absence. In line with our safeguarding policies and protocols, if we have not heard from a parent by this time, we will contact you to check the reason for your child's absence. If we are unable to contact you, the absence is recorded as unauthorised.

We complete weekly attendance monitoring to look for unusual patterns of absence. This includes a high number of individual days of illness, repeated illness, absence on the same days each occasion and patterns of illness before and after school holidays. Continued illness absences above an average expectation may no longer be authorised by the school without medical confirmation or evidence.

A reminder that, inline with local authority policy, we are unable to authorise absence during term time unless there are exceptional circumstances. We also ask that you seek approval for planned absence through the school using the absence request form; which is avaliable from the school office.

If your child's absence has fallen below the required rate you will receive an attendance update in the first week of next half term.

A message from Mrs Alix Harding, our Federation Children's Mental Health Week:

From 9th to 13th February, we'll be celebrating Children's Mental Health Week. This national event is supported by the children's mental health charity Place2Be.

The theme for 2026 is "This is My Place", all about belonging and feeling part of something meaningful, whether that's at home with family, in class with friends, at after-school clubs, within cultural / faith groups or hobby groups where children feel safe and accepted. A sense of belonging helps children feel secure, valued and confident to learn and grow.

The Mental Health Support Team will be delivering an assembly that week and our mental health ambassadors will be encouraging games and activities to promote belonging. You can find out more at Place2be's family pages:

https://www.childrensmentalhealthweek.org.uk/

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.

Please read the guide below to find out more.

As always, I would like to end my newsletter by reminding you my door is always open. If you have any questions or worries please catch me at the gate, call the office or email the school.

Have a fantastic (and hopefully dryer) half term and I look forward to seeing you all return to school on Monday 23rd February.

Kind regards,
Jon Arnold
Head of School

ARTICLE 28 - Every child has the right to an education

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