



# The Morning West Yarn...er

## Newsletter

## June 2022

### Headteacher's update

Hello all,

We have come to the end of another successful year. Our team has doubled in size and I am very pleased to say that all the children have settled in well, they found new friends and built good relationships with the staff.

After our difficult spring term with Covid, it seems to have largely left us alone for the summer term. I am sure we will see a few more cases in the autumn and we will deal with them as we have this year. If your child has any symptoms of a cold, then please keep them off until they recover and if possible test them just to be sure.

Through out the year, we have had some great times with multiple trips around Devon and Cornwall including the Eden Project, coastal trips looking at erosion and developing geographical skills. The enrichment days have also been a great success with the support staff allowing the children to complete multiple activities whilst working on their social and emotional skills.

At the end of the year, the children had Activities weeks, which have been very successful and have provided the children with a range of opportunities to socialise in mixed year groups. The activities have included: the Bear Trail, River Dart Country Park, a beach trip to Bantham, Go Ape centre, Crealy park, Belliver forest on Dartmoor. Some of which we will book again for next year. One of the highlight of this year was our International Mud Week, which you can read more about further on within this newsletter.

Looking at the autumn term, as you already know, there are big changes for our KS 3 team ( year 7 and above) moving to Seale Hayne. Many thanks for your time to come and have a look around on that Friday afternoon, it was great to see you all. We have been in contact with the school transport team, I am confident that the transition will be smooth at the beginning of next term. It has been nice to hear the students talk positively about the move and they are looking forward to the move. The finishing touches to Seale Hayne are now being completed and should be ready to go in September.

Many thanks for all your support over the past year and we look forward to seeing everyone in September.

Have a lovely summer.

Simon,

Headteacher.

# Forest school

Through out this year we were developing our new Forest School site. At the start of the year, we created the walkway to the stream, the wildlife corridor and the cooking area, which allowed the children to engage with a range of focused activities.

Our children attended the site every week, despite the weather conditions. While on site, throughout the year, the children learnt to recognise certain plants and widened their knowledge about them. The children also had a range of opportunities to observe animals in minibeasts in their natural habitats. Lots of children were fascinated to observe the life cycle of a frog.

During the sessions, the children also enjoyed playing a range of games in the woods such as manhunt and they also explored and enjoyed a range of camouflage activities. A lot of children also learnt how to tie the knots needed to put up a hammock. Some children became more confident in it and can do it almost independently. This activity supported the development of the children's motor control skills as well as built resilience and concentration skills.

The children also further developed their advanced fire making skills, building on their knowledge from the previous year. The teams have taken advantage of the good weather to develop different fire lighting techniques. They have used the sun to light 'char' cloth using both a parabolic dish and a lens.

One of the biggest highlights of the year on the Forest School Site was the celebration of international Mud day. Some children were not sure if they wanted to get muddy, but once they were on site and saw what was involved, they really enjoyed the activities and were embraced the idea of Mud Day including the staff.





# International Mud Day

## History of International Mud Day

International Mud Day is celebrated every 29<sup>th</sup> of June each year. This day encourages everyone to take time off from their work and studies and instead focus their time on being one with the earth by laying on mud or playing with it

The International Mud Day started in 2009 at the World Forum event. **Bishnu Bhatta** from Nepal and Gillian McAuliffe from Australia got together to talk about the many different ways for the community to appreciate the world all around us. One of the activities that they think of that people can do is spending their time literally playing and relaxing on mud. This collaboration soon became an inspiration for families, children, and educators all over the world. This is how the International Mud Day started.

## Why Celebrate Mud Day!

- **Play with Your Children**

This day is also the perfect opportunity for you to play with your children. They will surely love this activity since we all know that children love to play with dirty things.

- **To Get the Health Benefits of Mud**

Another good reason to celebrate this day is that you can actually get some health benefits from playing on mud. It contains minerals that are healthy and beneficial for the skin. Aside from that, simply playing with mud gives you the chance to be happy and lift up your mood. Thus, mud is beneficial both physically and mentally.

## Interesting Facts

- Playing in mud will make you happier. Scientific studies suggest that playing in the mud can boost mood due to a microscopic bacteria called Mycobacterium Vaccae. These microorganisms increase the production of serotonin in our brains. Serotonin is a chemical known to boost mood and happiness.
- Mud is an old English word that has been around since at least 1400.
- Other words for mud in the Oxford English dictionary include slobber, slabber, slutch, and slushiness.
- Some snakes live in mud. Mud snakes usually grow to a total length of 40 to 54 inches. The record total length is over 80 inches. Mud snakes inhabit the edges of streams and cypress swamps
- Clay mud pottery dates back to as early as 27,000 BC.
- Volcanic mud is a great hair moisturizer and is sold by several companies
- There is such a thing as mud crabs. Mud crabs are found in Australia. They like sheltered waters such as estuaries and mangrove areas. Most adults live in shallow areas below the low tide mark, where they bury themselves in the mud during the day
- The Mud Dauber wasp uses mud to build its huts. They also fly alone, not in a swarm

There are walls built from mud in China, India, and Africa. Even up until this day, they still provide shelter.



# Mud Day in Yarner

The students at Forest School celebrated International Mud Day in style this year with a whole week of muddy fun! It is fair to say they fully embraced the mud in all its glory. We had targets to throw wet splats of mud, and mud kitchen to mix up a variety of potions and mud soup



A collection of different coloured mud made great paint for our mud art and graffiti wall – it even worked as tattoos!



It was fun to stick dry soil on top of wet mud!

.... and then there was the mud pit!!

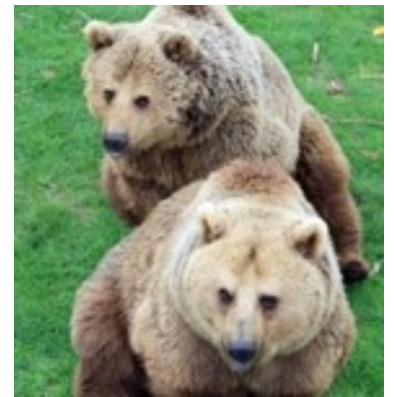




# Activity weeks 2022

## Escot Wildwood

We got lost in the maze, saw the bears at feeding time, played team games and spent hours on the drop slide. It was lovely to see the students encouraging each other and being supportive. A real pleasure to spend the day in their company.



## Bear Trail

Students had a great day out at Bear Trail scrambling over nets, zooming down the zip line and mud slide, and tumbling through tunnels. They enjoyed tackling the assault course and getting suitably muddy.



## Bellever - Dartmoor

On Monday 18th July, we went to Bellever forest in Dartmoor, where we spent the day playing games, cooling off in the river and picnicking in the shade of the trees.



# Go Ape!



On Tuesday the 19th July, the students went to Haldon Forest. After walking the green route and having a picnic, they harnessed up and got climbing. They all did so well and some pushed themselves to conquer their fears. A very proud moment for them and us.

# Crealy Theme-Park

With over 60 rides and attractions, the students had plenty to do and enjoyed a great day out. It's definitely one of the highlights of the week as our children demonstrated good levels of behavior, supporting and encouraging each other through out the day.



# Plymouth Marine Aquarium

One of the alternative activities for our primary classes was a trip to Plymouth Marine aquarium.

It was an amazing day, looking at many different anemones and the 'super' sharks. The puffer fish spent some time looking at us as we looked at him. A great day had by all.



# Key Dates for your Dairies

## **Autumn Term 2022**

Wednesday 7th September 2022 - Friday 16th December 2022

Half term Holidays - Monday 24 October - Friday 28th October 2022

Christmas Holiday: Monday 19 December 2022—Tuesday 3 January 2023

## **Spring Term 2023**

Wednesday 4 January - Friday 10 February 2023

Half-term holiday: Monday 13 February - Friday 17 February 2023

Monday 20 February - Friday 31 March 2023

Easter holiday: Monday 3 April – Friday 14 April 2023

## **Summer Term 2023**

Monday 17 April –Friday 26 May 2023

Half-term holiday: Monday 29 May – Friday 2 June 2023 ☞ Monday 5 June - Friday 21 July

2023 Monday 1 May is a Bank Holiday

## **SAFEGUARDING CONCERNS**

### **Multi Agency Safeguarding Hub Devon:**

0345 155 1071 email [mashsecure@devon.gov.uk](mailto:mashsecure@devon.gov.uk)

### **Torbay Multi-Agency Safeguarding Hub:**

01803 208100 email [mash@torbay.gov.uk](mailto:mash@torbay.gov.uk)

### **Out of hours please call:**

0300 4564 876

### **Multi Agency Referral Unit Cornwall:**

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