



## Clawton Primary School Newsletter | 24th May 2024

Dear Parents and Carers,

This term has gone by in a flash! I can believe that we are almost at the end of the academic year. Our Year 6 children were brilliant during their SATS and were a credit to the school. We were all very proud of them.

I have seen some brilliant displays of our character virtues around the school, and for the first time, a parent was awarded one of our Character Certificates in assembly! This is really important as the children see our character virtues on display by all members of our school community.

It is with sadness that we are saying goodbye to Miss Smith today. She has been a fantastic team member to work with, always offering to help and support all over the school. We know that she has an exciting opportunity ahead of her in Barnstaple, but will miss her very much. "Thank you, Miss Smith, from all of us at Clawton!"

Over the past two weeks, it has been great to see so many classes visiting Beer Mill and enjoying the gardening activities that Wendy and her fantastic team have set up for us. Next term, we have some exciting events happening in school. I am particularly looking forward to a visit from the son of the author Dick King-Smith. If you do get an opportunity to read any of Dick King-Smith's books over the half term, please do!

Kind regards,

Mrs Steyn



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**Key dates:**

Non-pupil day - 24th May  
Half-term - 26th May - 2nd June  
Sports Day - 19th June  
Whole school beach trip - 28th June  
Sports Day Back Up - 4th July  
Production - 11th July  
Whole school Beer Mill - 12th July  
Last day of term - Tuesday 23rd July

**Focus virtue this week:**

Cooperation



**Alumnis**  
Multi-Academy Trust



## Parent Safeguarding Advice

On the school website, we have some very useful safeguarding tips around online safety, social media, devices, gaming and mental health to provide some support or guidance if needed.

To find what these look like, follow this link [👉 https://alumnismat.org/online-safety/](https://alumnismat.org/online-safety/)

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## PTA News

We will keep you updated on any future events that will come up through the rest of the year, so keep an eye out for any dates that are communicated out.

Thank you for your continued support, from the PTA

## **Attendance Expectations**

### **What YOU must do:**

- Try to telephone the school before 8.30am each day of your child's absence.
- Tell the school in advance of any medical appointments and bring in appointment cards/letters.
- If you are not sure whether your child is well enough to attend school, send them in anyway as they often perk up on arrival.
- Have a backup plan for if your child misses transport, call on a family member, neighbour or friend.
- If you and your child are experiencing difficulties with school attendance then talk to us as a first step so we can help!

### **What WE will do:**

- ★ Check your child's attendance every day.
- ★ Phone home to discuss your child's attendance with you.
- ★ Invite you into school for attendance meetings if we are concerned.
- ★ If we cannot establish a reason for absence, then we may make a welfare home visit.

## Owls

### Academic:

We have had an amazing adventure raising froglets over these past few months. Nicky bought us some tadpoles back in March and placed them into an old fish tank. We watched and fed them. Soon they were big enough and started to transform into frog-poles. Their back legs were growing and they were getting fat! They then started to transform into froglets. We have now released them all back into their original habitat. This has carried on with our learning on metamorphosis.



### Character:

During our trip to Beer Mill last week, many character virtues were carried out - confidence when asking Elaine many questions, determination and motivation for walking all the way (especially with our youngest owls), caring and respect for our mini beasts we found, and curiosity and reflection with the landmarks we spotted.



**Community:**

Owls had a wonderful trip up to Beer Mill last week. We were very lucky with the weather too. All children enjoyed spotting local landmarks, they saw a wind turbine, a farm, some cows, a farmer with his landrover feeding the cows and a solar farm. We played a game of colour bingo to see how many colours we could spot. We walked through the woods and saw all the beautiful bluebells. Then we finished up with a game of pooh sticks by the river.



**Digital and Innovation:**

From story maps, to singing and signing and making love potions. What a Wonderful World has been so much fun. Owls have learnt a lot about what wonderful things we can find in our world. From colours to animals and how important it is to look after the world.



# Hedgehogs



### Academic:

The children have continued to learn about different classifications of animals and last week they had fun collecting 'poo' from the field to help them understand the difference between herbivores, carnivores and omnivores. They dissected the 'poo' to see if they could find berries, seeds, grass and flowers, bones, or a mixture of both. They then had to place it in the correct section of the Venn diagram.



### Character:

Our focus virtue this week has been cooperation so we enjoyed reading the story, 'That Fruit is Mine' by Anuska Allepuz to teach us about the importance of working together as a team. When five fruit-loving elephants spot a scrumptious hard-to-reach fruit high up in a tree, it's a race to see who can claim it first! But after one too many fumbles, the elephants begin to lose their cool, and the highly coveted fruit is whisked away by the teeny-tiniest of all jungle creatures--mice! The elephants soon realise they have a lot to learn from this cooperative little bunch.





**Community:**

Despite the wet weather, the children had a wonderful time learning about pond life at Beer Mill on Wednesday. They found lots of interesting creatures such as tadpoles, froglets, water stick insects, dragonfly nymphs, newts and water boatman and it was amazing to be able to see different stages of metamorphosis taking place.



**Innovation:**

After our trip to Beer Mill, the children continued to explore how lines can be used in drawings and worked collaboratively to create two fantastic pieces of artwork. They learnt how to draw certain types of lines such as cross-hatched, horizontal, diagonal, broken lines and wavy lines etc. and then used this skill to create large drawings called 'Pond Life'.







## Squirrels

### Academic:

Over the last couple of weeks Squirrels have finished their unit on Fractions. They have been embedding multiplication and division this week so that the children are secure with this and have reviewed what they already know. TTRockstars has helped a lot, so please keep this up at home! In English the children have finished writing their stories neatly and have typed these on the Chromebooks. The skill of typing has been practised, including using punctuation and remembering where this needs to go.

Squirrels have also finished their unit on David Attenborough and Mary Anning. The children have been enthusiastic about this unit and were fascinated how the two Inspiring Changemakers have so many similarities. They have even sent letters to David Attenborough and we hope he will reply!

### Character:

Last Friday Squirrels went on a trip to Beer Mill. Cooperation, which is our focus virtue, was demonstrated at all times, especially when walking and following Elaine's instructions. Squirrels also demonstrated curiosity, resilience, respect, friendliness and motivation.



### Community:



Elaine took us on an adventure around Beer Mill on Friday, where we were able to explore the woodland and pond area. The children were fantastic and it was a lovely day. We are very lucky to have this facility on our doorstep!



### Digital and Innovation:



The children took their learning outdoors when we went to Beer Mill by learning all about which habitats are local to us and which animals live in and around our school. The children were fascinated by the pond life and were super lucky to see tadpoles, froglets, frogs, newts, and dragonflies. When we recapped all of this learning in the classroom this week it was amazing how much they could all remember!

## Foxes



### Academic:

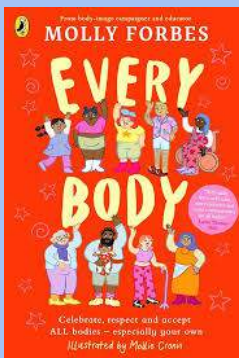
Over the past two weeks, Foxes have been learning about centimetres (cm), metres (m), and kilometres (km). They measured various objects and distances, compared lengths, and discussed the differences between these units of measurement. Parents can support this learning at home by involving their children in simple measuring activities and encouraging practical applications of these skills.

The Foxes class have been looking at first-person diary entries. Over the past few days, students have been exploring what

makes a diary entry special, learning how to express their thoughts and experiences from a first-person perspective. We will be continuing this unit after half-term and I am excited to read their creative ideas.

### Character:

Our character virtue focus has been on cooperation, I have been impressed at how well the children have been living this virtue. The students have shown excellent teamwork and cooperation while playing benchball, working together to strategize and support their teammates. This spirit of cooperation has extended into the classroom, where children have been actively helping each other with their work, sharing ideas, and collaborating on projects.



### Community:

The Year 4's were very lucky to be visited by Molly Forbes the Author of the book 'My Body, My Business'. They, along with the Badger class learnt all about body positivity and they seemed to come back confident with what they had learnt. It was also nice for the Year 4's to spend time with their future classmates.

They have also been starting to look at our school production which the Foxes have been keen to get started with.

### Digital and Innovation:

The class have summarised everything they have learned about the Romans by creating their very own light-up museum displays! The students have been learning about various aspects of Roman history, culture, and how they brought this to Britain, and now they have the opportunity to showcase their knowledge in a creative and interactive way. Each display will highlight key facts and artefacts, brought to life with lights to make the exhibits even more engaging.



## Badgers

### Academic:

Year 6 were totally amazing last week with their SATs tests. They remained extremely focussed and put in so much effort. While Year 6 were working hard on their tests, the Year 5 children were writing letters to the council to express their displeasure over the speed of traffic through Clawton. These will be sent and the children are hoping for a reply.

### Character:

Badger children had a visit from author Molly Forbes from Body Happy this week. They learnt about Body Image and the phrase 'My Body My Business'. They learnt to be caring and compassionate and to respect each other's shape and size. They also looked at images online and decided if they were real or fake.



### Community:

Badger class had their visit to Beer Mill as part of their science learning. They were looking at how animals are adapted to life in the pond. They found lots of different species including water stick insects which breathe underwater through the adaptation of a snorkel



**Digital and Innovation:**

As part of their art work and also to link with the Body Happy workshop Badgers continued with their portraits this week. They moved on to photography and looked at how they could use different lighting and colours to emphasise their portraits.



## Clawton Toddler Group

We run every Friday throughout term time 9am-11am in the school hall, it would be great to see some new faces, so please spread the word.

Everyone is always welcome, we are quite good at a cup of tea and a chat too.

Clawton Parent and Toddler Group

<https://m.facebook.com/groups/222733272986271/?ref=share>



## Free School Meals

Could your child be entitled to Free School Meals? If you are in receipt of any of the following your child should be entitled to Free School Meals:

- Universal Credit (provided you have an annual net earned income of no more than £7,400, as assessed by earnings from up to three of your most recent assessment periods).
- Income Support (IS).
- Income-based Jobseekers Allowance (IBJSA).
- Income-related Employment and Support Allowance (IRESA).
- The guaranteed element of State Pension Credit.
- Support under Part VI of the Immigration and Asylum Act 1999.
- Child Tax Credit (provided you're not also entitled to Working Tax Credit and have an annual gross income that does not exceed £16,190).
- Working Tax Credit run-on (the payment you get for a further 4 weeks after you stop qualifying for Working Tax Credit).

To check eligibility and apply visit

<https://www.devon.gov.uk/educationandfamilies/school-information/school-meals/> This is the quickest and easiest way to apply and will result in you getting an instant decision. Alternatively, call the Education Helpline on 0345 155 1019.



## Do you receive any of the following?

- Income support
- Employment Support Allowance (Income Related)
- Income based Job Seekers Allowance
- Guaranteed Pension Credit
- Child Tax Credit and your income (as calculated by the Inland Revenue) is less than £16,190
- Universal Credit
- Receiving support under Part VI of the Immigration and Asylum Act of 1999
- In the Armed Forces

**If you can answer yes to any of the above you may qualify for free school meals/Pupil Premium**

The school office will help with your application. If your application is successful not only will your child receive free school meals, but our school will receive £1,300 additional funding (per child). This is called Pupil Premium.

All applications are confidential.

