



Clare Davies (Head teacher and DSL)  
Kere Ascot & Sharon Bisby (DDSL)  
Robert Oxborough (Safeguarding Gov)  
24<sup>th</sup> October 2025

Dear Parents and Carers.

Well, what a first half term of the academic year 2025-26 that was!!

Simply compiling the above montage reminded me that we really do pack in as much as is truly possible to ensure our school days really are the very best of days. It has been so lovely to hear how appreciative you are of all that we do and the exceptional progress the children are making following the recent PTC's but most importantly how much the children are enjoying their learning and all the enrichment activities that have been planned.

The children and staff have worked incredibly hard over the course of the half term, and it seems to have flown by. As I reflect upon our first half term of this academic year, I am struck by support and faith that I have received both from parents/carers and those in our wider community and the huge resilience and determination shown by our children, the professionalism and dedication of our staff that teach and nurture them and by the support and encouragement for all we are doing from you, their parents and carers.

As I concluded in a previous newsletter, please call, email, chat to me on the gate regarding absolutely anything, we are here to support both your child/ren and you as we navigate all that we encounter and to ensure that the children in our care surpass their potential and are equipped with the prerequisite skills to flourish in KS3 and beyond.

This half term has been unprecedented as we have navigated significant changes here at MTB, with our staffing, our wonderful ECT's Mr. Finimore and Miss Porter have taken on the responsibilities of their own classes with true conviction and the utmost professionalism. We have also welcomed new staff team members, Mrs Gregory, Mrs Miller and most recently Mrs Campbell and they have done exceptionally well to embed themselves in our offer so seamlessly. I cannot articulate how grateful I am to all the staff for their flexibility and stoic determination to ensure that the children were not phased in any of our transitions and to ensure that they go above and beyond at all times. A final thank you to our Governors and to our PTFA committee who truly do go above and beyond to deliver for our children from the behind the scenes constant deliberation with Dartmoor National Park Planning, to the digging of the trench for the water supply to the Outdoor Classroom, from the Comedy Night, Movie Night, Pumpkin Patch and Halloween Disco – what a truly exceptional, loyal and supportive community we are.

I am incredibly blessed to lead MTB- I wish you all a wonderful break – Clare Davies



## Diary Dates: November 4<sup>th</sup> – ALL return

We welcome Evelyn into Year 4 – Evelyn transfers to us from Boasley Cross.

Student Teacher starts in Class 3

Mrs Davies, Chair of the GB Mr. Mansell and Mrs Higham Clerk to the GB to attend training in Exeter.

5<sup>th</sup> – Open Morning

### Forest School Class 2

7<sup>th</sup> – Mufti day – What I want to be when I grow up theme PTFA

10<sup>th</sup> – 14<sup>th</sup> Anti- Bullying week

10<sup>th</sup> – Odd sock day

11<sup>th</sup> – Remembrance Service at the war memorial in Mary Tavy from 11am. Prefects to lead service.

12<sup>th</sup> – Mr. Simber - Mock Ofsted.

Flu vaccinations

Forest School Class 3

13<sup>th</sup> – Castle Drogo XCountry competition KS2

14<sup>th</sup> – Children In Need – wear something spotty

21<sup>st</sup> – Funky Socks Day

Devon and Somerset Fire and Rescue Education officer to deliver sessions in classes

24<sup>th</sup> - Funky Hair Day

26<sup>th</sup> – Forest School for Class 2

Mrs. Bisby to attend Attendance Hub at Marine Academy Plymouth

27<sup>th</sup> – Mrs. Higham Sustainability Conference

Class 3 Theatre Trip

28<sup>th</sup> - Christingle @ St Mary's Church Mary Tavy

PTFA Wreath making evening

## December

1<sup>st</sup> = 5<sup>th</sup> – Unwanted Gifts collection PTFA

2<sup>nd</sup> - Indoor athletics KS2

3<sup>rd</sup> – Forest School Class 3

5<sup>th</sup> – Dickensian Evening – whole school to sing

## Intent Drivers – Our Core Values

Perseverance

Aspiration

Respect

Collaboration

## Headteacher Award's

**Reception – Daphne** – has commenced her journey with us with a real sense of purpose and desire to succeed. ALL staff have commented on how positive and confident she is. This week Daphne has been working hard on developing her mark making skills and writing her name – her eagerness to write has been fantastic -well done Daphne.

**Class One: Emmeline** – This week you have worked really hard showing a developing independence and desire to produce work that is better than your previous. Emmeline, we know that you can do it you just need to believe in yourself.

**Class Two: Harriet** – You can always be relied upon to be doing the right thing at the right time and for always having a dogmatic determination to be the very best version of yourself both academically and within the wider sphere of curriculum enrichment. You are demonstrating in every area of our curriculum and wider school life your commitment to succeed, and we are incredibly proud of you – well done Harriet for always living our school values in all that you do.

**Class Three: Rupert** – has risen to the challenge of Year 6 with true conviction and determination to achieve. Rupert has responded to- in the moment feedback with developing maturity which has enabled him to elevate his work further. Well done, Rupert, you should be incredibly proud of yourself.

Enjoy, Learn, Succeed **Reading** is to the mind, as exercise is to the body,

The more you **read**, the more you know, the more you learn, the more place you go – *Dr Seuss*

'Education is the most powerful weapon you can use to change the world' *Nelson Mandela*

# Our Tor House System

Our Tor House System promotes a positive and inclusive culture. The system is embedded to promote our School Values and promote a caring and supportive environment; where all are valued and can demonstrate loyalty and allegiance while contributing to the success of their House.

House	Captain and Vice-Captain	Highest earners This week:	Points this Week	Points total
Hound Tor House	<b>Iona</b>	Rec: Mia C1- Freddie CC C2- Florence C3- Bertie	125	1044
Doe Tor House	<b>Elizabeth</b>	Rec: Elspeth C1- Bodhi C2- Finnley C3- Violet	143	1093
Fox Tor House	<b>Harrison</b>	Rec: Rosie C1- Emmeline C2- Harriet C3- James	116	974
Hare Tor House	<b>Lottie</b>	Rec: Zachary C1: Maya C2- Woody C3- Ruby	118	941

We continue with our values education project this term. **Our house system is based on our Core Values** The values that make up our intent drivers are **Aspiration, Respect, Collaboration, Perseverance**

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Mary Tavy and Brentor House System 2025-26			
 <b>Fox Tor</b>		 <b>Hound Tor</b>	
Harrison Aston James Leo Reuben Charlotte J Tayah Persephone Harriet Henry C Ammanuel Dexter Andrii Archie	Emmeline Ember Max Darcy Beth Edward Axel Milla Rosie Daphne Connie N	Alana-Mai Iona Bertie Emma Otto Eleanor Loren Rafferty Florence LR Jack William H Niamh Emmy	Sebastian Louis Lottie H Elwyn Freddie CC Elizabeth H Rosie Logan Mia Sophia Matthew Isabella
25		25	
 <b>Hare Tor</b>		 <b>Doe Tor</b>	
Lottie Thomas Harry Ruby Bill Chloe Charlotte G Woody Anuví Evie Bobby Lily Savannah	Rix Aaron Thomas William F Ottie Maya Freddie D Annabelle Zachary Reuben A Willow Gracie	Rupert Elizabeth Theo Violet Frederick Henry M Florence B Anya G Cameron Albie Luna Joseph Finnley Baelyn	Roseanna Freddie S Connie J Elsie Bodhi Charles Sophie Sienna-Grace Lily-Rae Jack Sybil Elspeth
25		26	

## Congratulations Doe Tor

our Autumn1 Leading house.  
Doe Tor will celebrate with an  
additional Forest School  
session on Thursday 6<sup>th</sup>  
November 2025.

Please remember to send  
your child in with their  
Forrest School kit on that day  
if they are in Doe Tor.

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Please continue to support and drive home our Positive Behaviour Policy, three warnings on the board will lead to reflection time either in a parallel class or with myself. The children complete a reflection sheet to assist with de-escalation, regulation and engagement.

## MTB's 3Rs Reflect, Reset, Ready to Learn

Thank you to all parents/carers who are supporting our drive to reading excellence in school. Our amazing SAT results proved we are a 'Reading School' Please do try to keep up the rigour and sustain the daily reading. We cannot emphasise enough how vitally important it is that the children read with you for at least 20mins daily !!



At Mary Tavy and Brentor we believe that all pupils should have the opportunity

to be fluent, confident readers who are able to successfully comprehend and understand a wide range of texts. We want to foster a love of reading exposing children to a good knowledge of a range of authors. We want our school to be a place where children are read to, enjoy, discuss and work with high quality books.

At MTB we love to celebrate all the reading opportunities that the children have at home.

We ask that you hear your child read for a minimum of 20 minutes a day at home.

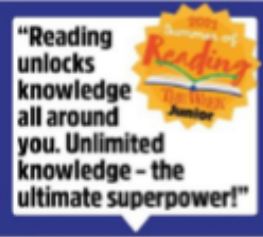
There is compelling data on the benefits of taking the time to do this. If you do this they will hear 1.8 million words per year and they will have read 821 hours each year and they will likely score better than 90% of their peers.

Reading helps in language development.

From the time your child is born, reading out loud is a positive influence. As your child grows, daily reading will help the brain make connections between the written and spoken word, widening vocabulary in the process. Adding to that benefit, vocabulary knowledge equates to masterful spelling. In fact, reading, spelling and vocabulary are critically important to a child's lifelong achievement. Through daily reading, children are exposed to a world outside their own reality. It expands their know-how, opens their minds and creates the potential for a continuation of ideas and an endless number of possibilities.

There is nothing quite like reading together as a family. Whether you are looking through picture books with your little ones or sitting in the same room with older children while, each immersed in a piece of literature.

*Over half term I have asked children to send in photos of themselves engaged in Extreme Reading opportunities. Please do support them to do this as we will share them in assembly on the first Tuesday back and the children are so proud to see themselves on the big screen.*



## Pen Licence



Congratulations to Florence (Yr.4) and Albie (Yr.4) on receipt of their well-deserved pen licences today.

Pen licenses are awarded to children who demonstrate a beautiful Joined cursive script across all curriculum areas. Their stamina for writing long extended pieces was praised by Mr. Finnimore.

Elizabeth and James, our English Curriculum Lead Prefects proudly presented Florence and Albie with their certificates in Celebration Assembly today.

We use the Nelson handwriting scheme in school, and you may be interested to know that they have a parental link for additional practice at home. <https://home.oxfordowl.co.uk/english/primary-handwriting/>

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# We are mathematicians.



Mathematician

Please do encourage your child/ren to spend time each week accessing our online platforms. It is vitally important that they have this additional time consolidating their 'quick fire' mental math's recall.

**We will be introducing weekly times table test from Year 2 and would encourage you to support your children with learning these at home. It is vital that they know all their timetables to 12 – quick-fire as in year 4 they will undertake a National Assessment against the clock.**

It is imperative that all children continue to learn and practice their times tables; recall is a skill that the children must continually practice. Please do support your child/ren to access the <https://www.timestables.co.uk/multiplication-tables-check/> and another site Math Frame has many free math's games linked to the National Curriculum <https://mathsframe.co.uk/> I would encourage all children from year 2 to access these and to test themselves on the multiplication –tables check.

It is vitally important that they have this additional time consolidating their 'quick fire' mental math's recall.

## Who will be on our leader board next ??????

**Numbots highest user:**

**Reception: Lily-Rae**

**Year 1: Freddie D**



**Rockstars highest user**

**Class 1: William F**

**Class 2: Bobby**

**Class 3: Harrison**



"Pupils should be taught to recall multiplication and division facts for multiplication tables up to 12 x 12."

GOV.UK

**Annually in June the Year 4's sit the Multiplication test.** This is a randomised test of 25 times tables up to 12.

**Aspiration** we aspire to get a 100% pass rate. In order to achieve this, **we need you** to practice times tables daily.

Children in Reception and Yr.1 should be accessing this platform for at least 10min per week. Logins in your child's reading record

Children in all years from Yr. 1 should be accessing the TTRS platform weekly for at least 20min. Children in Yr. 1 need to know their 2's, 5's and 10's timetables and children in Yr. 2, need to know their 2's, 5's, 10's, 3's, and 4's times tables by the end of the year.

It is imperative that from Yr 1 upwards that you practice their times tables at home with them to ensure that they commit these to their long-term memory. **Please make this as fun as possible for maximum success.**

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## Curriculum Enrichment 3:15-4:30pm

Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday
Dodgeball	1:1 Music lessons with Dan Hilman AM  Plymouth Argyle football Club Year 1 + £6.60	<b>Dance Club</b> £4  Drums	Craft  Computer Club  Yoga	<u>Cross Country Club</u>  Yr 2 3,4,5,6

**Wrap Around Care.** Breakfast Club daily is available from 7:45- 8:45am at a cost of £4:00 before 8:15am and £1:50 after 8:15am

Our After School Provision 15:15- 17:30 is available at a cost of £9:50

Please contact the admin team if you would like to book your child into either of these last minute as I wish for the provision to be as helpful as possible to our families. For those who know their requirements in advance please complete the parent mail form that is sent out a week in advance.

I am delighted to share with you some more fantastic news.

One of our areas of School Development this year is around Oracy – the children’s ability to communicate and be confident in sharing their voice. We have once again commenced the NELI intervention course with our Reception children. This is a programme that has been developed by the Nuffield Foundation. The Nuffield Early Language Intervention (NELI) is a programme for children in Reception (4-5 years) which has been found to improve children’s language and early literacy skills. The programme involves targeted small group and one-to-one support for children who would benefit from additional support with their language and early literacy skills.



## KS3 Provision



KS3 provision – in this section of our weekly newsletter we will continue to bring you updates from our Alumni as they navigate the transition to Year 7 at our various feeder schools. We will also signpost you to events that we think you may be interested in. Please do not hesitate to contact me if you would like to discuss thoughts that you have regarding your child’s future provision, I am more than happy to talk through the various local providers. I will arrange a parent meeting for parents of children in Year 6 to meet with parents / teachers/ transition staff from local schools which are more bespoke and personal than the ‘Open days’ to ensure that you are armed with as much information as is possible to support your decisions.

Online applications for places to Devon secondary school are open now.

**The closing date for applications is the 31<sup>st</sup> of October 2025**

**Huge Congratulations to Elizabeth – who has successfully smashed the 11+ examination coming 75<sup>th</sup> out of 428 students who set the examination. This is a truly remarkable achievement and is testament to your commitment and aspiration to achieve.**



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# Homework- Sent out on a Thursday to be returned completed on a Tuesday.

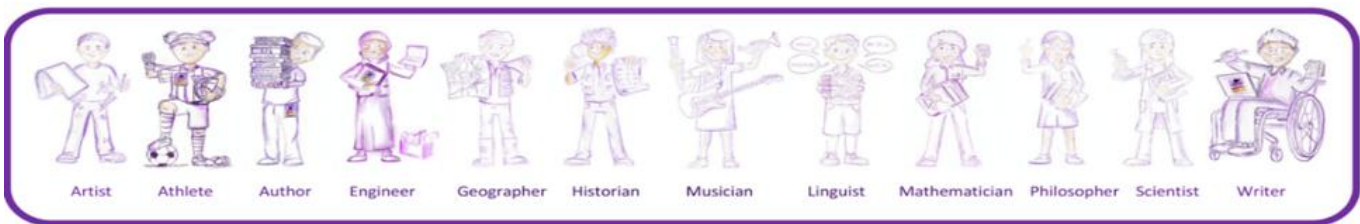
Please contact your child's class teacher if you have any concerns.

Homework plays an integral part in ensuring that we collectively support your child to achieve their very best whilst with us. It provides a window into what they are learning in school and affords you as parents/carers direction in how you can support them to achieve.

I am aware that you all have very busy lives and that for many the children have a full calendar of extra-curricular commitments e.g. swimming, rugby, cycling, football etc. but I really do encourage you to spend time with your child completing their homework activities. I know that staff have prepared activities that your child can access and for some with additional support, but it is imperative that this additional time to consolidate their learning takes place if we are to commit their learning into their long-term memory.

If you need additional

What we know about how children learn, is that when we teach children skills and knowledge in isolation, like punctuation in English, they rarely make links to other subjects. Even when they are writing about Brunel in History or how plants grow in science, they tend to forget how to apply the same English skills. This is in part because the information stored in the brain is locked up in the 'English folder', and why would they open that box when they are in History or Science? We believe States of Being move away from content in subject folders and uses clusters of knowledge that can easily be applied between subjects. By learning how to punctuate as an Author, they can use this knowledge when they are being Scientists as they start to understand that Scientists also need to write to convey what they have discovered. Please remember to ask your child As a Historian, Engineer, Mathematician what have you been discovering today????



## MTB's 3Rs Reflect, Reset, Ready to Learn

Please continue to support and drive home our Positive Behaviour Policy, three warnings on the board will lead to reflection time either in a parallel class or with myself. The children complete a reflection sheet to assist with de-escalation,

<b>MONSTER MASH MONDAY</b> Creepy Cricket Ghooley Benchball Frightening Football Pumpkin Carving Swimming	<b>TERRIFYING TUESDAY</b> Ghost Hunter Dodgeball Tennis Masterclass Creepy Cricket Zombie Zorbing Halloween Woodland Games, Den Building & Blind Trails	<b>WITCHCRAFT WEDNESDAY</b> Ghost Hunter Dodgeball Halloween Longball Haunted Hockey Zombie Zorbing Vampires vs Werewolves Team Soft Archery Tournament	<b>TRICK OR TREAT THURSDAY</b> Ghost Hunter Dodgeball Tennis Masterclass Creepy Cricket Zombie Zorbing Halloween Woodland Games, Den Building & Blind Trails	<b>FANG-TASTIC FRIDAY</b> Ghost Hunter Dodgeball Haunted Hockey Halloween Longball Swimming Fancy Dress Dance Party <small>Fancy Dress optional but encouraged, prizes for best costume!</small>
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Every Day includes Haunted Halloween Arts & Crafts and finishes with Gruesome Grabs & Awards Ceremony!

Ofsted | [www.high5sportsamps.co.uk](http://www.high5sportsamps.co.uk) | Facebook | Instagram

**"UNEXPECTED KINDNESS IS THE MOST POWERFUL, LEAST COSTLY, AND MOST UNDERRATED AGENT OF HUMAN CHANGE."**

Bob Kerrey

# TAVISTOCK HALLOWEEN TRAIL

25TH OCT - 1<sup>ST</sup> NOV

Visit  
**Tavistock**

# LET'S GO GHOSTBUSTING!

FIND THE SOURCE OF THE  
PARANORMAL SURGE AND CAPTURE  
ALL THE GHOSTS FOR YOUR FREE PRIZE.

TRAIL SHEET FROM:  
ROOTS & VINES, TAVISTOCK LIBRARY,  
VISITOR INFORMATION CENTRE  
OR DOWNLOAD FROM

VISIT-TAVISTOCK.CO.UK/  
TOWN-TRAILS

29TH  
OCTOBER  
2025

# HALLOWEEN PARADE

BEDFORD SQUARE

12 NOON -  
5 PM

CIRCUS  
WORKSHOPS  
12-2

FREESTYLE FOOTBALL  
WITH  
SAM CUNNINGHAM  
2-3 PM

FACE  
PAINTING  
12-3

GHOSTBUSTERS  
DANCE  
WORKSHOP  
3-5

HALLOWEEN  
PARADE  
4-5

[WWW.VISIT-TAVISTOCK.CO.UK/HALLOWEEN](http://WWW.VISIT-TAVISTOCK.CO.UK/HALLOWEEN)





# Team MTB PTFA



MTB Cake Raffle  
Congratulations to Anya (y.r4) on winning the extremely chocolatey, fabulous cake and to Mia (Rec) and her daddy Miles for kindly making it.



**Chairs:** Kayleigh Goodman and Millie Bickell  
**Treasurer:** Gemma Insole  
**Secretary:** Janna Sanders

*Involvement, help and support in any capacity will be welcomed at any time throughout the year. We have decided that for each event planned in our calendar we will have a Working Party for parents/carers to volunteer their time to organise and run these events. The next event is the Team MTB Pumpkin Patch. Please do come forward to offer your time and support to enable this event to be truly memorable.*

Mary Tavy and Brentor  
Primary School

SPOOKTACULAR  
**HALLOWEEN  
DISCO**

£5

THURSDAY 23 5-7PM  
OCTOBER

Coronation Hall, Mary Tavy

- ENTRY INCLUDES PIZZA, DRINK & A SELECTION OF HALLOWEEN GOODIES
- KSI PARENTS MUST STAY ONSITE
- TICKETS MUST BE PRE-BOOKED ON PARENTMAIL

WEAR YOUR SCARIEST COSTUME!

Enjoy, Learn, Succeed  
The more you read  
'Education is the m

S



# PTFA EVENTS

PLEASE BOOK VIA PARENTMAIL

NETS OF LOGS £5 EACH  
COLLECTION FRIDAYS 3-4PM  
FROM SCHOOL

PUMPKIN PATCH 20TH OCTOBER  
3.15PM AT SCHOOL FIELD

HALLOWEEN PARTY 23RD OCTOBER  
5-7PM CORONATION HALL

WILLOW WORKSHOP 18TH  
NOVEMBER 7PM AT SCHOOL

WREATH WORKSHOP 28TH  
NOVEMBER 7PM AT SCHOOL

CHRISTMAS FAIR 12TH  
DECEMBER 3.15PM



## MARYTAVY & BRENTOR PRIMARY PTFA

NETS OF LOGS AVAILABLE

£5 PER NET

ALL PROCEEDS DIRECTLY

SUPPORTS OUR

WONDERFUL PRIMARY

SCHOOL ♥ TO ORDER

PLEASE CALL

07787994220

Enjoy, Learn, Succeed Read  
The more you read, the more  
'Education is the most powerf

— Dr Seuss  
Harrison

# MTB News



Gracie (Rec) found a very special pebble in Tavistock this week and brought it into share with us. The pebble is part of an initiative called #Rockingallovertheworld. Gracie is thinking of somewhere very special to hide it for someone else to find and to enjoy.

How wonderful was it this morning to be greeted with a double rainbow over our school playground. The children were mesmerised and we watch with eager anticipation as the second rainbow gradually appeared.



Congratulations to Woody (Yr.4) and his brother Oscar (Yr.7) who along with their fellow Chatterboxes' were awarded their Blue Peter Badges this week. Chatterbox is run weekly at Tavistock Library

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**Mary Tavy and Brentor Community Primary School**

Are you looking for a community school with a nurturing and child centred approach?  
**COME AND VISIT US !**



Wrap around care - breakfast and afterschool club.



An aspirational curriculum & learning excellence.



Outdoor learning on the edge of Dartmoor. Forest School for ALL at our school field



A caring and inclusive school community.

Open Mornings: 5<sup>th</sup> October, 12<sup>th</sup>, 19<sup>th</sup>, 26<sup>th</sup> November

Tel: 01822 810384 | email: admin@marytavyandbrentor.devon.sch.uk



We are a school who love to read!  
 2024-25  
 100% achievement in:  
 Reading KS1 & KS2

**Mary Tavy and Brentor Primary School**  
 Perseverance, Aspiration, Respect, Collaboration

Please join us for a tour of our wonderful little school where all our children are nurtured and their passions and interests enhanced.

We are proud of our exciting, ambitious, creative and challenging curriculum. Our extensive extra-curricular activities include: Chess, Cross country running club, Bike club, STEM club, Musical Theatre, Coding, Choir and much, much more.

We pride ourselves on academic, sporting and artistic excellence.

Discover the MTB approach at our Open Mornings :

Tel: 01822 810384 or

email: admin@marytavyandbrentor.devon.sch.uk



# Admissions September 2026

Online applications open for a place in next year's Reception on the 15<sup>th</sup> November 2025 for children born between 1 September 2021 and 31 August 2022. The deadline for Reception applications is Saturday 15 January 2024

<https://www.devon.gov.uk/children-families-education/education/school-admissions/>

I will be hosting visits to our wonderful little school in the coming weeks for parents of children due to begin Reception in September 2026. If you have a child who is due to begin school in September 2026, please book onto one of the open mornings. Also, if you have any neighbours or friends who would be interested, do let them know what a wonderful school we are! We have fliers that we can share with you to give to local nurseries or drop through doors – please like and share our social media pages to spread the news far and wide.

## We are athletes

Please ensure your children have their PE kit in school **every day** as we have decided to be a little more responsive to the weather forecast and will take the runners out mid-week if the weather forecast looks to deteriorate come Friday. It is essential to enable us to offer this level of flexibility that ALL runners have their PE kit in school every day to ensure they do not miss out on ad hoc extra running sessions.



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# And Finally .....



Woooooo what a wonderfully spooktacular afternoon we had at our inaugural Pumpkin Fest meticulously organised by our fabulous PTFA 🎃 ✨ ❤️

Our school family enjoyed 🍡

- 🔥 Marshmallow toasting
- 🍫 Hot chocolate with all the toppings
- 🎃 Pumpkin patch in our school orchard 🌳
- 🍔 Delicious homemade food - burgers and hotdogs
- 🍬 Sweet shop
- 🍏 🍏 Apple bobbing with apples from our school orchard
- 👻 Spooky merch
- 🍩 🕷️ 🍪 🕸️ Spooky cupcakes

We all had a gourd-geous time! 🎃 🍩 🍪 🍩 📸



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