



Clare Davies (Head teacher and Designated Safeguarding Lead)
 Kere Ascot & Sharon Bisby (Dep Safeguarding Leads)
 Robert Oxborough, Sharon Claridge (Safeguarding Governors)

Dear Families, 23rd January 2026

As we reach the mid-point of the half term, I am so proud of the accelerated progress the children are making across our curriculum. The standard of their written work across the subjects demonstrates increased stamina, care, attention to detail and accuracy in evidencing their enhanced retention. Essentially and most importantly they are continuing to demonstrate they are remembering more. This week I have been focussing on their written work across the wider curriculum, looking to ensure there is consistency. At MTB Primary, we are dogmatic in our approach that every child will enjoy school, develop a love of learning and achieve their potential. By the time they move into secondary education, our children will be well-rounded, confident learners, questioning and curious in their approach to their studies, prepared to take the next step in their educational life

Everything we do is underpinned by a whole-school approach to our school values, which promotes the moral and social considerations required to be a positive citizen in Britain today. Our School Values are embedded in our whole school approach, threaded through assemblies and the wider curriculum.

Please note the addition to the calendar of the Parent Teacher Consultations. It is imperative that **every parent/carer** makes an appointment to come and meet with your child/ren's class teacher and to take time to look in their books.

This week I met with the School Council to set our priorities for the remainder of the academic year. As always it is such a privilege to hear all the ideas that the children have about how we can improve our offer even more. The chair and Vice Chair proudly shared the school council's ideas with the PTFA – seeking funding from them to deliver their ideas. Please do have a read over the initial thoughts and ideas and do not hesitate to contact me if you can assist in anyway. Clare Davies

Diary Dates:

- 26th – Mrs Davies at Devon head's locality meeting at Buckfast Abbey.
- Swimming
- 27th – Outdoor Classroom meeting for governors and PTFA
- 28th- Forest School Class 1
- 29th – PM Mrs Ascot and Miss Vallance Year 6 writing moderation
- 30th –Student teachers' last day

February

- 4th – Forest School Class 2
- 5th- Mrs Bisby Support Services Conference
- Methodist assembly
- Full Governing Board Meeting
- 9th- 13th Mental Health Week
- 10th – Mrs Davies out at Devon strategic Leaders committee meeting
- Safer Internet Day
- 11th- Forest School Class 3
- PTFA Valentine's Disco
- 12th – 1st X Country race at Tavistock meadows Yr. 3/ 4 team and Yr 5 /6 team.
- 13th- Break up for Half Term
- 23rd – All back -new student teacher Miss Sarkar in Class 3
- Swimming and Muddy Monday
- 24th – Parent/ Teacher meetings
- 25th – Devon finance budget planning Parent/Teacher meetings
- 26th – Mrs Ascot out at Math's CPD Parent/Teacher meetings
- 27th – Mrs Ascot out at Improving Oracy Project

March

- 2nd- Swimming & Muddy Monday
- 3rd – Reception vision screening Reception PTC
- Class 2 residential meeting with Encompass Ed.
- 4th – Parent Teacher meetings
- 5th – World Book Day – Children to dress up as a character from a book

Intent Drivers – Our Core Values

Perseverance

Aspiration

Respect

Collaboration

Headteacher Award's

Reception: Sybil: for your perseverance and aspiration in your phonics. This week Sybil has been applying her knowledge of phonics in her written work to write independently – Well done Sybil you are a writer!!

Class 1: Elsie epitomises all our school values and always conducts herself ensuring she is the best version of herself. Most recently Elsie has demonstrated significant perseverance when things get difficult.

Class 2: Lorien- For your general attitude to ALL aspects of the curriculum and for always ensuring you are aspirational when completing your daily written tasks. This week Lorien has been a wonderful 'Buddy' to our new team member being super kind, thoughtful and for welcoming and supporting her transition to TeamMTB – well done.

Class 3: Iona - has shown collaboration this week supporting her peers articulating her understanding of the concept and breaking it down into smaller steps to not only consolidate her own understanding but also to support her peers. We have all been really impressed with the way Iona takes on more leadership roles within the class and school – well done Iona for being so supportive and kind what wonderful personal qualities.

Special Headteacher Award – Nora – who has joined us this week in Year 4. Nora has been swiftly welcomed into our school family, today she has put herself forward for a XCountry team trial session and is keen to embrace all that we have on offer. Well done Nora on a wonderful first week with us.

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.

This week there will be a roll over due to the postponed celebration for Doe Tor on their success last half term. We are hopeful that next week we will have an opportunity to get up to the field for their well earned celebration.

House	Captain and Vice-Captain	Highest earners This week:	Points this Week	Points total
Hound Tor House	Iona	Rec: Mia C1- Freddie C C2- Florence C3- Alaia- Mai	235	650
Doe Tor House	Elizabeth	Rec: Elspeth C1- Sophie C2- Joseph C3- Theo	163	583
Fox Tor House	Harrison	Rec: Rosie C1- Beth C2- Andrii C3-Aston	173	628
Hare Tor House	Lottie	Rec: Zach C1- Aaron C2- Evelyn C3-Ruby	244	548

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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Launch of our Respect value

Aspiration, Respect, Collaboration, Perseverance

This coming week children will receive house points for demonstrating **RESPECT**.

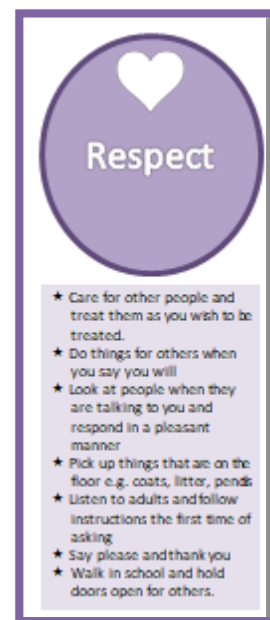
Our school ethos is value driven with good values taught integrally in all that we do. We want all our children to grow up valuing themselves, others and the environment. Our Values are the principles that guide our behaviour. At MTB all adults are encouraged to model our values and to give time for reflective practices. We believe that this empowers individuals to be effective learners and good citizens. We promote and teach these values to our children

Each half term begins with a special values assembly focusing on the half terms focus values. Throughout the half term, we particularly celebrate children's behaviour which embraces these values.

Please could you discuss **'Respect'** with children at home and explore ways to reinforce it.

We show respect and tolerance for everyone in our community. We respect ourselves and others alike, taking care of friends, family, our community and the environment.

We value what others say and do, and we enjoy learning about different beliefs and cultures. We respect each other and share our opinions, skills,

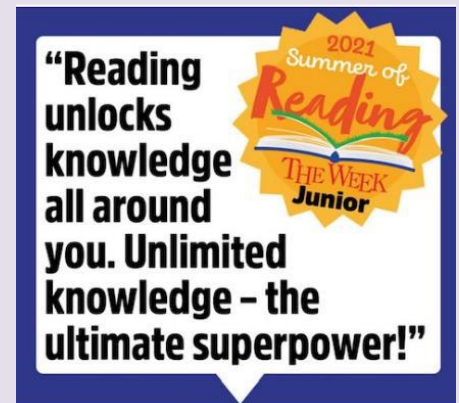


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Thank you to all parents/carers who are supporting our drive to reading excellence in school. Our amazing SAT results proved we are a 'Reading School' Please do try to keep up the rigour and sustain the daily reading. We cannot emphasise enough how 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.



Child Protection and Safeguarding

Safeguarding Leads and contact information

Members of staff who are Safeguarding Leads are as follows:

- Mrs Clare Davies
sendco@marytavyandbrentor.devon.sch.uk
- Mrs Kere Ascot : Deputy Safeguarding Lead and Online Safety Lead
kascot@marytavyandbrentor.devon.sch.uk
- Mrs Sharon Bisby : Deputy Safeguarding Lead.
admin@marytavyandbrentor.devon.sch.uk

Safeguarding Governors who are responsible for overseeing the management in school of safeguarding are

- Mrs Robert Oxborough roxborough@marytavyandbrentor.devon.sch.uk
- Mrs Sharon Claridge sclaridge@marytavyandbrentor.devon.sch.uk

If **any** parent has a safeguarding concern or query about **ANY** child within our community, please email for advice.

If you are worried that a child may be at risk = If you think it, you have a duty to report it **CALL MASH (Multi Agency Safeguarding Hub)**

You can contact them via the Devon Safeguarding Children Partnership

<https://www.devonscp.org.uk/>

<https://www.devonscp.org.uk/make-a-request-for-support/further-info/>

"If you are worried about a child or young person in Devon and want to speak to someone, or if you are a child or young person worried about your own safety, please contact Devon Children's Front Door : on **0345 155 1071** or out of hours weekends/ bank holidays **0345 6000 388** and give as much Information as you can. Calls are confidential and you can choose to remain anonymous"

Devon Safeguarding Children Partnership



Curriculum Enrichment Spring 1 2025 / 26-

	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday
3:15-4:30	Tag- American Football Mr. Finnimore KS2	Plymouth Argyle Year 1 +	Chess – Mr Hinton KS2	Craft – Miss Porter Coding/ Microbits Mrs Ascot – KS2 Netball - Miss Vallance Yoga – Mrs Davies	Lunchtime 12pm XC team Yr. 3,4,5,6 Mrs Davey Mr Hinton Mr Finnimore
Lunchtime Prefect Led Clubs	Book Club			Choir whole school with Mrs Higham	Lego Club

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



Musician

We are Musicians

Dan will commence 1:1 music tuition again next week.

For those who are yet to sign up this, it is an amazing opportunity for your child to learn an instrument during the school day.

Dan is a multi-instrumentalist specialising in saxophones, clarinet, EWI and flute with over 11 years' experience in the music industry. He has both classical and jazz



training.

As a teacher, Dan is on the faculty of colleges and schools in the Devon teaching individuals and classes. He freelances for the Tavistock Area Learning Community as a class instrument tutor. Please do check out Dan's promotional video following the link

https://drive.google.com/file/d/1FEgZuX3l3aKzg0red_mLt3iDzxQhoKit/view?usp=sharing

Tel: (01208) 833070 | Mon to Thu 9am-4.30pm & Fri 9am-2pm

wovina

School Uniform

Thank you for all your help in ensuring your children are wearing the correct uniform and that they are looking super smart and ready to learn. Please follow the link below to order new uniform.

<https://uniformsales.co.uk/school/mary-tavy-and-brentor-primary-school/>

Affordable uniforms are now the law.

No parent should be kept up at night by worries about their child's uniform.



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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 week??????

Numbots highest user:

Reception: Sophia

Year 1: Freddie C



Rockstars highest user

Class 1: William F

Class 2: Evie

Class 3: Theo



"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.**



Enjoy,
The m
'Educa



Artist Athlete Author Engineer Geographer Historian Musician Linguist Mathematician Philosopher Scientist Writer



Team MTB PTFA



MTB Cake Raffle Congratulations to Sybil on winning the cake raffle today. A huge thank you to Jack (Yr3), and his mum Mel for generously donating the Rocky Road.



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 events.

Our next event is the highly anticipated MTB Valentine's Disco.



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MTB VALENTINE'S PARTY

11TH FEBRUARY

KS1 4:30-5:45 PM

KS2 6:00-7:15 PM

£4 PER CHILD - INCLUDES A DRINK & SNACK

BOOK ON PARENTMAIL

AT MTB PRIMARY SCHOOL



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Community News



A local resident has been in touch to ask if there are any families who have a passion for music. The resident is looking to donate her late husband's baby grand pian to a family who will cherish and care for it. Please contact Mrs. Bisby if you would like to be considered.



Half Term Activity: Paper and Cardboard Tree Workshop

Date and time
Monday 16 February
10:00 – 12:00
[Add to your calendar](#)

Location
Tavistock Library



Half Term Activity Painting from Nature

Date and time
Tuesday 17 February
10:00 – 12:30
[Add to your calendar](#)

Location
Tavistock Library

<https://discover.librariesunlimited.org.uk/whats-on#/events/72cf7e39-bab6-4ee6-afb1-319f202a9099?q=tavistock>

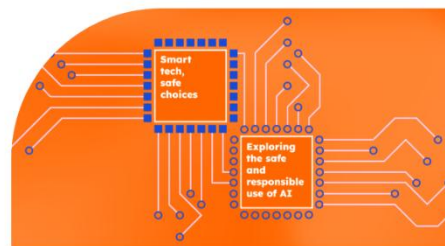
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Safer Internet Day



Safer Internet Day
2023 'Together for

a better internet' will take place on the 10th February 2026, with celebrations and learning based around the theme with celebrations and learning based around the theme 'Smart tech, safe choices – Exploring the safe and responsible use of AI'.



.Coordinated in the UK by [UK Safer Internet](https://saferinternet.org.uk) The celebration sees thousands of organisations both in the UK and across the 170 Countries worldwide get involved to promote the safe, responsible and positive use of digital technology for children and young people. At MTB Primary we are celebrating by putting our children's voices at the heart of the day. We are asking parents/ carers, to take time to listen and make positive change together.

The main goal of Safer Internet Day is to raise awareness and start a conversation about online safety, particularly with young people who may not be fully equipped with how to stay safe when using the internet. Unfortunately, one company alone cannot make the whole internet safe, but lots of people working together can have a big impact. The aim is to make a safer and better internet for everyone, children and adults alike! If you would like additional resources to scaffold conversations at home, please follow the link below.

<https://saferinternet.org.uk/safer-internet-day/safer-internet-day-2026/top-tips-for-parents-and-carers>

Tavy 13- Primary School Challenge



Every week you run 1 mile. The challenge is to try and reach an overall total of 12 miles before running your final mile at the home of Tavistock Athletic Club on Sunday 26th March.
13 miles, HALF MARATHON DISTANCE



The final celebration mile of the 13-mile half marathon challenge

ALL children are invited to take part. Parents need to enter your child/ren following the links and then complete the 12 miles before the 29th of March. <https://www.entrycentral.com/Tavy13PSC>

On the 29th of March children then complete their final mile in front of proud friends, and, of course, parents. This is a spectacular event and will take place at Tavistock athletics track. There is a medal for all finishers and a T shirt £11 Start time: 10:00. Registration will open at 08:45 They will continue to take entries up to the 26th of March.

See their website www.tavistockathletics.co.uk and our Facebook page for all the latest news.

This event is supported by OCRA www.ocrasport.org.uk

If you have any questions please email mhairi@ocrasport.org.uk

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Democracy in action



As Ocean Scientists Class 3 spent the day at the @nationalmarinaquarium today.

What a truly amazing day they had engaged in practical hands-on workshops demonstrating their knowledge and skills 'working scientifically!'

They attended workshops on the impact of global warming on our oceans; the planet's largest ecosystem which most importantly regulates the climate.

Thank you to @oceanconservationtrust who facilitated our day! A huge thank you to our dedicated Schools Officers who set us dedicated challenges.

Our Ocean Scientists were able to explain how fossil fuels are used to generate electricity and they had a small model which lit a bulb.

They shared how the co2 from burning fossil fuels produces co2 which is causing global warming.

They learnt how acidic our oceans are becoming due to the rise in co2. And that this is evidenced by acid breaking down the calcium carbonate in sea animals with exoskeleton.

Finally our ocean scientists used VR headsets to see sea grass growing in the Plymouth sound National Marine park. Sea Grass is amazing at taking co2 out of the sea and storing in its roots so it helps combat damage and climate change.

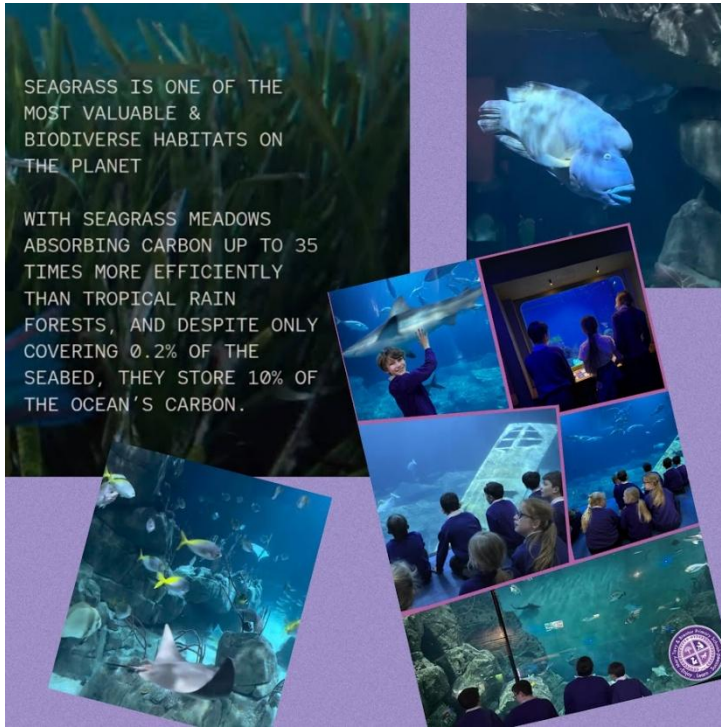
Our environmental scientists made us so incredibly proud with their prior knowledge and skills demonstrating their substantive and disciplinary



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SEAGRASS IS ONE OF THE MOST VALUABLE & BIODIVERSE HABITATS ON THE PLANET

WITH SEAGRASS MEADOWS ABSORBING CARBON UP TO 35 TIMES MORE EFFICIENTLY THAN TROPICAL RAIN FORESTS, AND DESPITE ONLY COVERING 0.2% OF THE SEABED, THEY STORE 10% OF THE OCEAN'S CARBON.



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And finally, Class 2 Forest School



Class 2 had a wonderful forest school session. All children persevered using flint and steel and of course the cotton wool to start their fires. Mr Finnimore was incredibly impressed with their determination even when it took numerous times to light.



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