



Clare Davies (Head teacher and Designated Safeguarding Lead)
Kere Ascot (Deputy DSL)

Robert Oxborough & Sharon Claridge (S.Gov)

Dear families.

25th September 2026

Gosh, we have really noticed a change in the weather this week as the September sunshine has finally made an appearance. We have taken every opportunity to get the children outside and have had a great week with our children, now really settled in their classes and enjoying their learning. Our comprehensive club list is now up and running and it has been so lovely to have the school so incredibly busy after school with our extended days. Running Club on Wednesday lunchtime made the most of the September sunshine as they took on a hill climb exercise a huge thank you to Mrs. Davey, Mrs. Miller and Mr. Hinton for their commitment to our offer.

Our newest Team Members across the school are enjoying their first experiences fully immersed in the day-to-day life of our school community. I have the absolute pleasure of welcoming many of our Reception into Breakfast Club in the morning and it is such a privilege to watch the older children taking care of them and chatting to them over their communal breakfast time. We can most definitely agree that we have seen our Core values our Intent Drivers in action across our school MTB community.

This week, we have been looking at British Values and learning all about what living in a Democracy means. Today eight of our prefects stood for the positions of Chair and Vice Chair, bravely pitching their manifestos to the school in a special assembly. We then held a ballot with a ballot box and ballot paper, and all the children passed their individual vote. In our Celebration Assembly this afternoon I announced the successful candidates Chair of the School Council Charlotte Gilpin and the Vice Chair is Tayah Dumbrek. Next week, our prefects will hold their first event of the academic year with their Macmillan Cake Sale – please do support this venture to make it a collaborative experience for them all.

In our Celebration Assembly this afternoon I announced the successful candidates Chair of the School Council Charlotte Gilpin and the Vice Chair is Tayah Dumbrek. Next week, our prefects will hold their first event of the academic year with their Macmillan Cake Sale – please do support this venture to make it a collaborative experience for them all.

Diary Dates:

September

28th – Student teacher starting in Class 3.

Whole School Live assembly on Allergies

29th – Upper KS2 Mixed Football tournament

Class 1 Forest School

PTFA AGM 3:15pm

30th – Phonics workshop for Reception Parents at 3pm.

Class 3 Forest School

October

1st – Junior Life skills Yr6.Tavistock

Flu vaccinations- pls. complete consent by 30th Sept.

2nd – Prefect Macmillan Cake Sale at pick up

7th – DCC Inclusion Partner learning walk and meeting with Mrs. Davies

Full Governing Board Meeting

8th – Methodist assembly

9th – World Mental Health Day- wear yellow

12th – 16th Parent Teacher Consultations

15th – PC Peart to discuss criminal responsibility with Class 3.

16th – Harvest Festival – Reception and Yr6 parents are warmly invited to attend

PTFA Halloween Disco in the Coronation Hall

22nd – Mental Health Team coffee morning for parents 9am

PTFA Pumpkin Patch extravaganza in the field 3pm

Break up for half term.

November

3rd – All back

4th – PC Heart discussing online safety CI 2 and 3

5th – Mrs. Doubtfire Royal Theatre Class 3.

12th – Castle Drogo XCountry competition.

13th – Miss Vallance's last day before maternity.

27th – 6pm KS2 music concert supported by the Tamar Valley Male Voice Choir

Intent Drivers – Our Core Values

Perseverance

Aspiration

Respect

Collaboration

Headteacher Award's

Reception: Noah: What a fantastic start to your school life with us Noah, this week you have shown increasing confidence and familiarisation with our school routines, and it has been so lovely to see you confidently demonstrating your knowledge of number– well done Noah we are so incredibly proud of you.

Class One: Sophia: for a truly tremendous week demonstrating our school values in all that you do and aspiring to complete all the challenges that are set above and beyond your daily task work – we are so incredibly proud of you.

Class Two: Connie: Your drive and determination to produce task work that is aspirational and produced with meticulous care and attention. Connie, you live out our school values in all that you do and have transitioned to Class 2 with the intent and self-belief that has shone – well done Connie I can't wait to see all your progress this year.

Class Three: Rafferty: For fully embracing the transition to Class 3 and UKS2 with enthusiasm and confidence. Rafferty you are a true ambassador of our MTB Approach embracing all the opportunities and aspiring to be the very best version of yourself. You are a role model to all, and we could not be any more proud of your progress with us.

Special Head teacher award to our amazing Year 6 prefects who put themselves forward as candidates in our school council election today – your meticulous preparation of your speeches, your confidence in your delivery and your conduct during the election process was impeccable – huge congratulations to you all. To Elanor, Tayah, Florence, Leo, Frederick, Otto, Charlotte and Henry.

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	To be announced	Rec: Charlotte & Izaria C1- Elizabeth C2- Louis C3- Rafferty	213	424
Doe Tor House	To be announced	Rec: Arabella C1- Sophie C2- Connie & Elsie C3- Florence	190	362
Fox Tor House	To be announced	Rec: Josh C1- Beth C2- Toby C3- Reuben	179	343
Hare Tor House	To be announced	Rec: Agnes C1: Otilie C2- William.F C3- Aruvi	186	372

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

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

The aims of the of our House system are

- ✓ Promote positive self-esteem, self-identity, belonging, integrity and pride amongst all children
- ✓ Peer support to help promote positive mental health.
- ✓ Promotion of responsibility and pupil voice, teamwork, cooperation, communication and leadership skills for the prefects
- ✓ Constant and consistent encouragement for children by their peers to achieve their best.
- ✓ Develop a common goal so that children **feel more connected to and involved with the school community around them.** It facilitates discussions between the most infant and most senior of our school and foster friendly competitive spirit along the way.

Launch of RESPECT value

Our second value for this term is **Respect**.

Some examples of behaviours that demonstrate this value are:

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** one another and share our opinions, skills, knowledge and talents.

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Mary Tavy and Brentor Primary House System 2026-27			
Fox Tor		Hound Tor	
Leo Reuben Charlotte J Tayah Persephone Harriet Evelyn	Beth Edward Axel Millie Rosie Daphne Connie. N	Emma Otto Elanor Lorien Rafferty Henry. C	Freddie CC Elizabeth H Rosie Logan Mia Sophia Matthew Isabella
Ammanuel Dexter Andri Archie Toby Emmeline Max Darcy	Noah Grace Josh Poppy	Jack William H Niamh Emmy Douglas Louis Lottie. H Elowen	Archie Charlotte Izaria Ayda
26		26	
Hare Tor		Doe Tor	
Bill Chloe Charlotte G Woody Aruvi Evie	Otilie Maya Freddie D Annabelle Zachary Reuben A Willow Gracie	Frederick Henry M Florence B Any G Cameron Albie Luna	Bodhi Charles Sophie Sienna-Grace Lily-Rae Jack Sybil Elspeth
Bobby Lily Savannah Noah Rex Aaron Thomas William F	Agnes Evie Wilbur Hazel	Joseph Finley Baelyn Roseanna Freddie S Connie J Elsie Nora	Lyra Eddie Arabella Ivy
26		27	

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.

Helping Your Child Become a Stronger Reader

Simple, research-based ways to support literacy at home

You don't need to be a reading teacher to help your child grow as a reader. Small, consistent moments at home can make a big difference!

WORD READING

Help your child connect sounds with letters.

- Practice the letter-sound and spelling patterns your child is learning at school.
- Encourage your child to look carefully at all the letters in a word.
- Practice blending sounds together to read unfamiliar words.
- Practice breaking spoken words into individual sounds to support spelling.

When your child gets stuck, try:

- "Look carefully at the word."
- "What sounds do these letters represent?"
- "Blend the sounds together."
- "Now reread the sentence."

Try not to encourage guessing from the picture or the first letter. Pictures are wonderful for discussing a story, but developing readers need practice reading the words on the page.

FLUENCY

Accurate reading comes first. Smooth reading grows with practice.

- Have your child reread familiar books or short passages.
- Read a sentence aloud and have your child read it after you.
- Encourage appropriate phrasing and expression.
- Focus on accuracy and understanding—not speed alone.

VOCABULARY & KNOWLEDGE

The more children know about the world, the more they can understand when they read.

- Read aloud books that are more challenging than your child can read independently.
- Explain interesting new words during everyday conversations.
- Talk about science, nature, history, places, people, and experiences.
- Visit libraries, museums, parks, and other places that spark conversation and curiosity.

COMPREHENSION

Reading is about understanding—not just saying the words.

- Before reading, talk about what your child already knows about the topic.
- While reading, pause occasionally to wonder, predict, or clarify.
- After reading, try questions such as:
 - "What happened?"
 - "Why do you think that happened?"
 - "What did you learn?"
 - "What was your favorite part? Why?"

KEEP READING ALOUD!

Even when children begin reading on their own, keep reading to them.

Reading aloud gives children access to richer vocabulary, more complex language, new knowledge, and wonderful stories that may be beyond what they can currently read independently.

HAVE 10 MINUTES?

- 3 minutes**
Practice sounds, words, or spelling patterns being taught at school.
- 4 minutes**
Have your child read something at an appropriate level.
- 3 minutes**
Read aloud to your child and talk about what you read.

Most importantly...
Make reading a positive experience.

Notice effort. Celebrate progress. Talk about books. Be curious together.

Embracing Literacy ©



Enjoy, Learn, Succeed

Intent Drivers - Our Core Values
Perseverance | Aspiration | Respect | Collaboration

We are proud to implement the Little Wandle Synthetic Phonic Scheme

"Reading unlocks knowledge all around you. Unlimited knowledge - the ultimate superpower!"

2021 Summer of Reading
THE WEEK Junior

It is incredibly important that your child does not lose their reading folder, and I ask that you are meticulous about ensuring that you keep it in a safe place at home.

Each class has its own personal reading challenge.

The children will be rewarded for their incremental progress towards their 100 read aspirational total.

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The more you **read**, the more you know, the more you learn, the more place you go – *Dr Seuss*
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We are mathematicians.

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: Wilbur

Year 1: Sophia

Year 2: Sienna



Rockstars highest user

Class 1: Matthew

Class 2: Freddie S

Class 3: Reuben



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.**

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.





The first event for our Prefects to plan and deliver is our Annual Macmillan Cake Sale which this year will be held on the 2nd of October

Please do provide as many cakes and bakes as you are able to for both this worthy cause and to support our new prefects. Last year we raised £270 we are hoping to surpass this, this year. If you are able to bring cake, either homemade or shop-bought, please deliver it to school on Friday morning when the prefects will be outside awaiting your deliveries. We then need lots of you to come along and buy a slice of cake so we can raise some funds for this wonderful cause. Please remember to bring some coins at the end of the day to buy a cake. Thanks in advance for your support for Macmillan - and your cakes.



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

Admissions September 2026

Online applications open for a place in next year's Reception on the 15th of November 2026 for children born between 1 September 2022 and 31 August 2023. The deadline for Reception applications is Saturday 15 January 2027

<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 2027, please book 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.



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, coding, choir and much, much more. We pride ourselves on academic, sporting and creative excellence.

Discover the MTB approach at our Open Mornings :
Tel: 01822 810384 or
email: admin@marytavyandbrentor.devon.sch.uk



Enjoy,

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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: Every Wednesday throughout
November**



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



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Curriculum Enrichment 3:15-4:30pm Autumn 1 2025 / 26

Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday
Art Club – max 20 children.	1:1 Music lessons with Dan Hilman morning KS1 sports club – max 20	<u>Cross Country Club</u> Yr 2 3,4,5,6 Chess club Yr2 up	Choir 8:15am Yr1 up Computing Homework – Yr1 up Yoga KS2 sports club Yr3 up.	Board Games Yr 1 up.

Our school choir is open to all our children from Yr1 upwards.

We are delighted to share that we will be rehearsing a catalogue of songs to perform at a very special choral performance that we have arranged with the Tamar Valley Male Voice Choir.

This will be ticketed event and will open to the wider community to enjoy also.

We are so looking forward to sharing our rehearsals with you as we prepare for this fantastic opportunity to showcase our talents

Together in Song!

A joint choral performance

Mary Tavy & Brentor Primary School

TAMAR VALLEY Male Voice Choir

Friday 27th November 2026

6PM

Mary Tavy Coronation Hall

£5 adults under 16 free

Tickets available to purchase from Mary Tavy and Brentor Primary School and Mary Tavy Post Office

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 support, please do not hesitate to contact my team.

Parent / Carer Teacher Consultations

Please save the date for our first PTC of this academic year on the **12th, 13th, 14th 15th 16th October 2026 15:30- 17:00**

You will be able to book in for your 10-minute slot via the MCAS in due course.

At these meetings you will have an opportunity to look through your child/ren's daily evidence books and of course to discuss their academic progress with their teacher.

As always please do not wait for these meetings if you have a concern or question regarding your child. As a staff team we work in collaboration with you to enable your child/ren to flourish and to surpass their potential. Please do not hesitate to contact the office if you would like to arrange a meeting with your child's class teacher at any time of the year



We are Musicians.

Dan delivers 1:1 music lessons on a Tuesday morning weekly.

We love our mornings when Dan is in to deliver the 1:1 music lessons as part of our Music Wider Opportunities Offer. Our Musician in Residence Dan Hillman will again this academic year be providing Flute, Piano, Guitar and Clarinet. Lessons. 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.

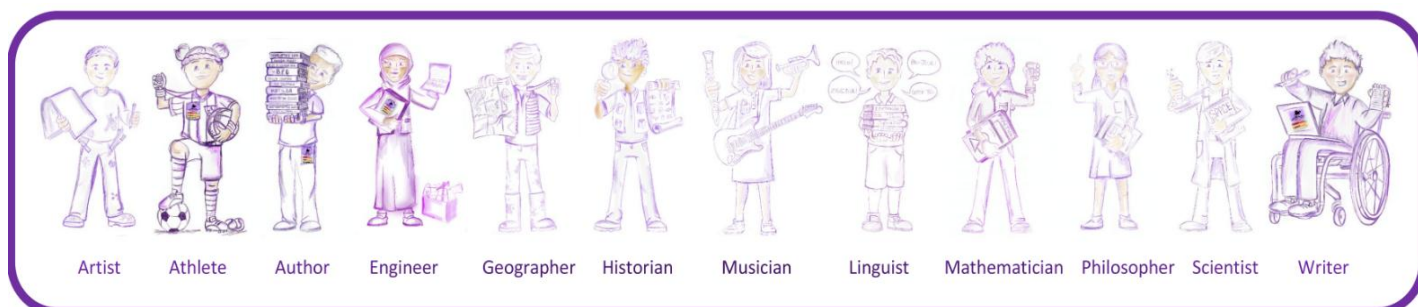
As a teacher, Dan is on the faculty of colleges and schools in Devon teaching individuals and classes. Please do check out Dan's promotional video following the link

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



Musician

Our states of being



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, regulation and engagement.

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Coffee Morning

Come for a cuppa and find out how we can help



An informal get-together for parents to learn more about the Mental Health Support Team. Our mental health support team is here to support your child's wellbeing, and we'd love to meet you, share what we do, and answer your questions.



All parents, guardians and carers are welcome!



Thursday 22nd
October 2026

09:00am - 10:00am



The School Hall

Together we can support happy, health minds

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

Bob Kerrey



Team MTB PTFA



A huge TeamMTB thank you to Louella, mum to Izaria (Rec) and Elowen (Yr3) for kindly donating the rather splendid Biscoff extravaganza today. A huge congratulations to Annabelle (yr2) on winning the cake raffle – we are sure you, your family and friends will enjoy it immensely.

☀ Come and Join Us! ☀

We'd love to welcome both new and familiar faces to our PTFA Annual General Meeting on Tuesday 29th September at 3:15pm in school. It's a relaxed chance to hear what we've been up to, share your ideas, and see how you can get involved (big or small!) in supporting our children and school. We hope to see you there! Xx



PTFA AGM
All Invited
3.15pm
29th September
School Hall



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MTB Athletes



Our intrepid runners set off in the Devon late September for their 'long run'; this week. After negotiating the uneven terrain of the wooded path, they were then put through their paces as they practised hill climbs against the clock. A huge congratulations to all our runners who demonstrated our school values – persevering and aspiring to beat their times. They were most definitely appreciative of their hearty lunches when they returned.

Our new orienteering makers



Class 2 and Class 3 have been using the new Cross-Curricular Orienteering markers in the playground.

With maps at hand and markers to find them, they aimed to complete the different activities labelled on each marker 💖 🏃

We have also had the School Field surveyed and the markers installed and we can't wait to develop our navigation skills to further enrich our curriculum offer, enjoying action-packed adventures in our classroom under the sky.

Enjoy, Le

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MTB Forest School



Reception had a wonderful time at Forest School this week exploring the wooded enclave. They clambered, swung and practised their balancing before assembling around the fire pit for stories and songs. We can't wait to see what they get up to next week as they become more adventurous and explore our very special forest school further. Class 2 had a wonderful afternoon at Forest School creating Michaelmas Dragons.



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And finally

Today we held our School Council Chair and Vice Chair elections.

Our brave candidates stood up in assembly and individually spoke to the electorates sharing their manifestos. The candidates then had the opportunity to pitch once again, before our electorate took to the ballot box, finally, folding up their paper and posting their ballot. Every child cast their vote including our newest Reception children who cast their votes supported by their teachers. Congratulations to Charlotte Gilpin who has been duly elected Chair of the School Council and Tayah Dumbrek the Vice Chair.

#democracyinaction #democracy #democracyatschool #schoolcouncil #smallschoolbigheart #DepartmentOfEducation #BritishValues



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