

Clare Davies (Head teacher and Designated Safeguarding Lead) Kere Ascot (Deputy DSL) Robert Oxborough & Sharon Claridge (S. Gov)

Dear families. 9th October 2026

Thank you for all your support in making our Mental Health awareness day today such a success. It is so important that we support our children and young people to understand that we need to label and understand our thoughts and feelings in order to be mentally healthy. Here at MTB our Mental Wellbeing is one of our Core Principles that drives what we do and our determination to support our community with their emotional health and wellbeing. Taking time to understand our mental health as well as how you feel day to day or in certain situations is vitally important to our quality of life. We actively open up conversations calmly and confidently encouraging the children to understand that mental health is something we should be aware of and learn skills to look after it. Importantly, we also teach the children they can also ask for help when they need support. We believe it is vitally important that they understand how there can be changes in their bodies which are connected to their feelings and thoughts. For example, when our heart beats very quickly after we have been running, the same is true when we are nervous or scared. Please ensure that you 'check in' regularly with your child/ren to chat with them and ask the opening questions to help them talk about their mental health and to ensure that they know who they can talk to when they are feeling worried, anxious, uncomfortable about something. It is imperative that children know who to talk to and to ask for help when they need it. Please do not hesitate to come and chat with me if you are worried about your child or yourself. You, as parents/carers, are primary care givers and your mental health is as important. If you need support or are worried and need signposting for help do not hesitate to pick up the phone or speak to me on the gate and we can have a cup of tea and a chat – my door is always open to anyone in our MTB community and everyone and everything matters however small or large– I am here for you. I wish you the most wonderful weekend

Diary Dates: October

- 12th – 16th Parent Teacher Consultations
- 13th– DCC finance team in.
- 14th - Mrs. Davies, Mrs Higham and the Chair Of Governors attending Heads, Clerks and Chairs CPD Class 3 Forest School
- 15th – PC Peart to discuss criminal responsibility Cl.3.
- 16th - Harvest Festival – 2pm St. Mary's Church Reception and Yr.6 parents are warmly invited to attend PTFA Halloween Disco in the Coronation Hall
- 19th – Girl's football tournament
- 20th – Pumkin Patch Festival in the school field 3pm
- 21st – Maternity Cover interviews.
- 22nd – Mental Health Team support for parents 9am Reception Sponsored Walk in aid of the Mud- Kitchen

Break up for half term.

November 3rd – All back –

PTFA meting 3:15pm

- 4th – PC Heart discussing online safety Cl 2 and 3
- 5th – Mrs. Doubtfire The Theatre Royal Class 3.
- 12th – Castle Drogo XCountry competition.
- 16th – FLAG competition
- 13th – Miss Vallance's last day before maternity.
- 20th – PTFA MTB Wreath Making 6:30pm
- 26th – Methodist Assembly
- 27th – 6pm KS2 music concert supported by the Tamar Valley Male Voice Choir
- W/C 30th Assessment Week whole school

December

- 2nd – Christingle 2pm St. Michael's church Brentor Rec and Yr.6 parents are warmly invited to attend
- 4th – Dickensian Evening – All children are invited to join us on stage for this celebration of TeamMTB
- 7th & 8th KS1 Christmas Production 1:30- 3pm
- 10th – Class 2 to the pantomime at the Theatre Royal.
- 11th– Christmas Jumper Day
PTFA Christmas Fair after school.
- 14th – CHSW Santa Run in our school field.
- 16th – School Christmas Lunch in the Coronation Hall
- 18th – Break Up for Christmas

Intent Drivers – Our Core Values

Perseverance

Aspiration

Respect

Collaboration

Headteacher Award's

Reception: Agnes: 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. Agnes is a true ambassador of TeamMTB displaying our school values in all that she does and is a role model to all – Well Done Agnes

Class One: Annabelle: for always living out our school values in all that you undertake both in school and within your wider opportunities. This week you have excelled in your written work, which has demonstrated your aspiration to complete work to the very best of your ability. Your pace and stamina of your writing, coupled with your perseverance, has enabled you to produce the most exceptional work.

Class Two: Niamh: Your final write this week has been exceptional and your creativity has really impressed all staff who have had the pleasure of reading your work. You have responded to- in the moment feedback with developing maturity which has enabled him to elevate your work even further. Well done, Niamh, you should be incredibly proud of yourself.

Class Three: Persephone: Your perseverance and aspiration is a credit to your intrinsic desire to achieve your very best in your learning. We have been so impressed with how you have transitioned to Class 3 and how your

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

determination to be the very best version of yourself both in your daily task work and in the way that you conduct yourself around the school. Well done, Persephone.

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	Otto	Rec: Ayda C1- Rosie ER C2- William & Elowen C3- Elanor	150	789
Doe Tor House	Frederick	Rec: Ivy C1- Sienna C2- Freddie C3- Anya & Cameron	128	627
Fox Tor House	Leo	Rec: Grace C1- Edward C2- Toby C3- Tayah	168	578
Hare Tor House	Chloe	Rec: Agnes C1: Maya & Freddie C2- Aaron C3- Bill	142	711

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.

Mary Tavy and Brentor Primary House System 2026-27			
Fox Tor		Hound Tor	
Leo Reuben Charlotte J Tayah Persephone Harriet Evlyn Ammanuel Dexter Andri Archie Toby Emmeline Max Darcy	26	Emma Ono Elanor Loren Rafferty Henry C Jack William H Niamh Emmy Douglas Louis Lottie H Elowen	26
Hare Tor		Doe Tor	
Bill Chloe Charlotte G Woody Ansel Evie Bobby Lily Savannah Noah Rex Aaron Thomas William F Tadhana	26	Frederick Henry M Florence B Anya G Cameron Abbie Luna Joseph Finley Baelyn Roseanna Freddie S Connie J Eile Nora	27

First week of our Perseverance value

TALK ABOUT PERSEVERANCE TOGETHER...

Teachers often say that **perseverance** is something that many children find difficult.

Very little that is really worthwhile in life can be achieved without **perseverance**. An athlete may train for years before they are ready to compete at the highest level. A musician must practice every day, sometimes for hours at a time, if they are to really master their instrument.

- How would each family member rate themselves on a scale of 1 - 10 at **perseverance**?
- Can you give an example of something you have achieved by determined **perseverance**?
- Is there a skill that you think you could improve with **perseverance**?

Launch of our Perseverance Value

Perseverance is our next focus and it is a great value to start this half term. This value links in with our Growth Mindset work that we do in class and also our ethos of learning. Life is full of challenges that we need to overcome and over the next fortnight we are talking about the value of perseverance.

Perseverance means having the self-control, grit and determination to overcome the struggle or challenge that we face and use our growth mind-set to overcome it. It is about not giving up, having a 'never quit' attitude and working to reach the goal as best as we possibly can. Perseverance also requires time and effort to ensure that we succeed.



FASCINATING FACTS

Perseverance in the Natural World

Many birds show remarkable **perseverance** as they build their nests, piece by piece often in cold, wet and windy weather and at risk from predators.

The long-tailed tit is just one example. Weighing just 9g, this little bird takes 3 weeks or more to build a nest. The oval shaped nest is made from moss, cobwebs and hair, covered on the outside with lichen and lined with up to 2000 tiny feathers!



THINK TOGETHER ABOUT WORDS OF WISDOM
"If at first you don't succeed try and try again."
W.E. Hickson

Enjoy, Learn, S
The more you re
'Education is the

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.

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*
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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: Izaria

Year 1: Elspeth

Year 2: Logan

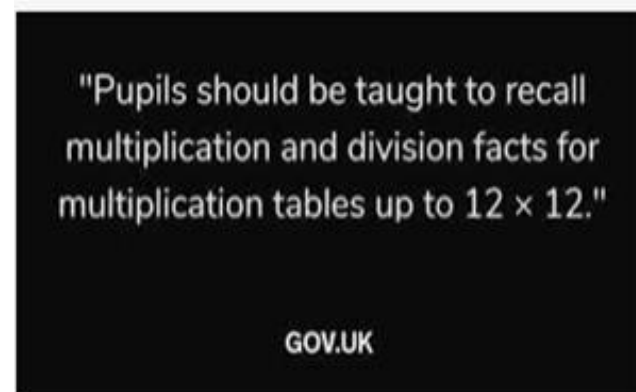


Rockstars highest user

Class 1: Freddie C

Class 2: Darcy

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.



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



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: 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.



Harvest Festival – Autumn is here again

Working with organisations in our local community is an important part of life here at MTB primary school. We are very proud of the work our children do in supporting local, national and worldwide organisations in different ways across the school year. Following on from previous years when we have run a soup kitchen in the Coronation Hall and the work that we did with Tavistock Foodbank last year, we are again working in partnership with local organisations for our Harvest Festival.

This year we will be holding our Harvest Festival on 16th October from 2.00 pm in Mary Tavy Parish Church

Due to our numbers on roll and of course the size of the church we will only be able to invite Reception and Year 6 parents/ carers to attend the event in person. We will attempt to Live Stream the celebration for all of those who are unable to attend due to this restriction.

Please can you contribute a Harvest box with items for those who are less fortunate than ourselves in our local community.

It would be appreciated if you would provide non-perishable items in a decorated box to be presented prior to the Service.

As always, this is completely voluntary, but all your support would be greatly appreciated. Thank you for all your help with this as we think about and reach out to those in our local community



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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.

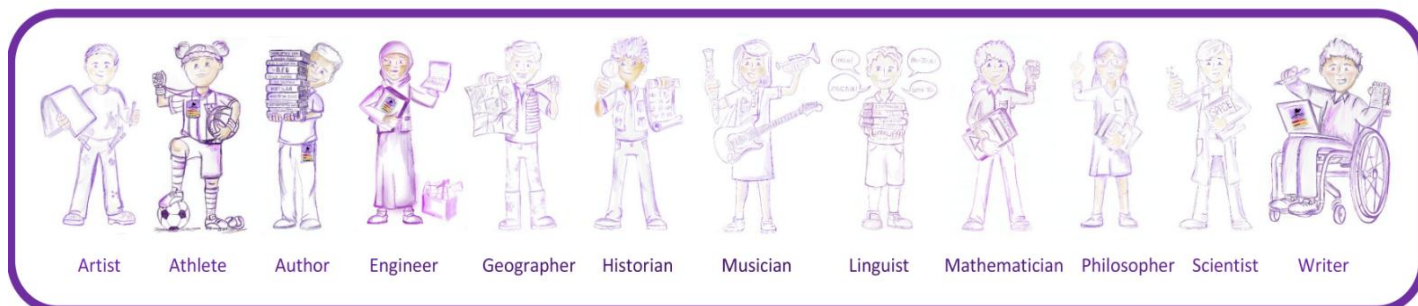
Please do check out Dan's promotional video following the link

https://drive.google.com/file/d/1FEqZuX3l3aKzq0red_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

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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.



MoST

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



Team MTB PTFA



MTB Cake Raffle.

Huge congratulations to Sienna- Grace who won the cake raffle today and a huge MTB thank you to Henry (Yr5) and his mum Vicky for generously donating the Halloween themed cupcakes and cauldron hamper full to the brim with Halloween goodies.

♥ ♥ **Chair:** Kayleigh Goodman (Mum to Anja (Yr5)
Vice Chair: Natalie (Mum to Freddie Yr1 and Emmy Yr4)
Treasurer: Gemma Insole (Mum to Leo (Yr6) and Max (Yr3))
Secretary: Mel Mansell (Mum to Jack Yr.4)

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 Halloween Disco next Friday.



MTB Forest School



Time at Forest School is simply the most wonderful time. Reception this week enjoyed time sharing stories within our Story Circle and exploring all that the provision has on offer. Class 2 built a camp fire to cook their 'nettle stew' and enjoyed time creating their own potions and lotions whilst others chose to build a protective fence.



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

Dr Seuss
Mela

And finally



Hello Yellow!

Today, our pupils join thousands of people across the country wearing a little piece of ☀️ to support @youngmindsuk and raise awareness for young people's mental health #helloyellow

At TeamMTB we know a happy school life plays an important role in growing healthy, confident and successful young minds.

Mental health and well-being is an important part of life at MTB Primary School. We are proud of the work we do every day to help keep our children, staff and community happy and healthy.

♥️ Today, we wore yellow to support the Young Mind's #helloyellow campaign to show young people they are not alone with their mental health. We have had some thought-provoking conversations today, sharing ideas of little things we can do each week to improve our mental health.

@youngmindsuk

#learning #excellence #opportunity

#primarylearning #primaryschool

#mentalhealth #mentalhealthawareness



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