



Clare Davies (Head teacher and Designated Safeguarding Lead)
Kere Ascot (Deputy DSL)
Mr. Oxborough & Mrs. Claridge (S. Gov)
Dear families. 22nd October 2026



Well, what a first half term of the academic year 2026-27 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 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. I cannot articulate how grateful I am to all the staff for their flexibility and stoic determination to provide the very best offer we can.

As I concluded in a previous newsletter, please call, email, chat to me 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.

A final thank you to our parental volunteers who have gone above and beyond to assist with maintenance of our school site to Jed Bolt and Charlie Mudge and to Governors and to our PTFA committee who truly do go above and beyond to deliver for our children from the behind-the-scenes project managing the Outdoor Classroom which really is now so close to completion, to the PTFA, 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 3rd – All back –

Mrs. Ascot and Mr. Finnimore attending math's CPD
PTFA meeting 3:15pm in the school hall.

4th – PC Peart discussing online safety CL 2 and 3

Hound Tor Forest School PM

FGB meeting at 4:15pm

5th – Mrs. Doubtfire The Theatre Royal Class 3.

9 & 10th PTFA Willow Lanterns whole school

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

12th – Castle Drogo XCountry competition.

16th – 20th Anti- Bullying Week

16th – FLAG competition

17th – Odd Sock Day

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

23rd – 27th Parliament Week

26th – Methodist Assembly

27th – Mrs. Jackman and Mrs. Davey math's CPD

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

28th – PTFA MTB Wreath Making 6:30pm

W/C 30th Assessment Week whole school

December

2nd – Christingle 2pm Christ Church in Brentor

Rec and Yr.6 parents are warmly invited to attend

4th – Dickensian Evening – All children invited

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 -Coronation Hall

18th – Break Up for Christmas

Intent Drivers – Our Core Values

Perseverance

Aspiration

Respect

Collaboration

Headteacher Awards

Reception: Ayda– has commenced her journey with us with a real sense of purpose and desire to succeed. ALL staff have commented on how positive, confident and articulate you are, we are so proud of how well you have settled.

Class One: Connie – This week you have worked incredibly hard showing a developing independence and desire to produce work that is better than your previous. Connie, we know that you can do it you just need to believe in yourself. I can't wait to see what next half term will bring and to see your confidence blossom to record your ideas with pace and accuracy as we know you can. Well done Connie we are so proud of you.

Class Two: Douglas– Wow what a week you have had Douglas !! All staff have commented on your cheery disposition and your perseverance. Most importantly, your developing self-belief to demonstrate your understanding. You have so many wonderful ideas and reflections to share regarding your learning and wider school life and it has been so rewarding to see your confidence flourish and to see you proud of yourself – well done we are so proud of your progress with us.

Class Three: Woody–Woody you are an incredibly proud ambassador of TeamMTB and always live out our school values in all that you undertake. 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.

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	Otto 	Rec: Ayda C1- Rosie ER C2- Douglas C3- Rafferty	227	1201
Doe Tor House	Frederick 	Rec: Lyra C1- Sienna C2- Roseanna & Connie C3- Flo & Frederick	171	978
Fox Tor House	Leo 	Rec: Grace C1- Rosie. C C2- Andrii C3- Charlotte. J	182	895
Hare Tor House	Chloe 	Rec: Wilbur C1: Maya C2- Noah C3- Charlotte G & Bill	172	1032

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 Evelyn Ammanuel Dexter Andrii Archie Toby Emmeline Max Darcy	Beth Edward Axel Milla Rosie Daphne Connie. N Noah Grace Josh Poppy	Emma Otto Eleanor Lorien Rafferty Henry. C Jack William H Niamh Emmy Douglas Louis Lottie. H Elowen	Freddie CC Elizabeth H Rosie Logan Mia Sophia Matthew Isabella Archie Charlotte Izaria Ayda
26		26	
Hare Tor		Doe Tor	
Bill Chloe Charlotte G Woody Axel Eve Tobias Lily Savannah Noah Rex Aaron Thomas William F Taviya	Orlita Maya Freddie D Annabelle Zachary Reuben A Willow Grace Agnes Evie Wilbur Hazel	Frederick Henry M Florence B Any G Cameron Albie Luna Joseph Finley Baelyn Roseanna Freddie S Connie J Elsie Nora	Bodhi Charles Sophie Sienna-Grace Lily-Rae Jack Sybil Elspeth Lyra Eddie Arabella Ivy
26		27	

Congratulations

Hound Tor

our Autumn1 Leading house.

Hound Tor will celebrate with an additional Forest School session on Wednesday 4th November 2026.

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

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?

1 3 minutes
Practice sounds, words, or spelling patterns being taught at school.

→

2 4 minutes
Have your child read something at an appropriate level.

→

3 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

20 is plenty!

Children who read for 20 minutes a day...

- Will have a world of imagination & creativity opened to them
- Will be exposed to 1.8 million words a year
- Will have better general knowledge
- Will improve their communication skills
- Will have a broad vocabulary
- Will learn how to develop empathy
- Will improve their test results
- Will have reduced stress levels
- Will improve critical thinking skills



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

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: Wilbur

Year 1: Sybil

Year 2: Freddie. D



Rockstars highest user

Class 1: Otilie

Class 2: Douglas

Class 3: Evie



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.**

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

GOV.UK

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.



Our Lionesses



Just look at those super, smiley faces of our awesome Lionesses as they took part in OCRA - Okehampton Community Recreation Association Get Girls playing Football!!!

Our amazing athletes demonstrated our school values in action with their collaborative teamwork, resilience and respect for all.

Our determined athletes really did give it their all and without any subs really did have to persevere, but their smiles and enjoyment say it all and they made us so incredibly proud ❤️

🙌 Thank you to our MTB coaches who encouraged our lionesses from the touch line!!

What a wonderful display of girl power ❤️

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*

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

Curriculum Enrichment 3:15-4:30pm Autumn 2 2026 / 27

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

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 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.

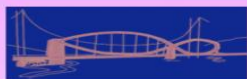
This will be a ticketed event and will open to the wider community to enjoy also.

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

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/1FEgZuX3l3aKzq0red_mLt3iDzxQhoKit/view?usp=sharing



Musician

Community News



Congratulations to Lily (Yr4) on her recent achievement.

Lily confidently swam 200m in three strokes. Lily has been invited to join the Tavistock Development Squad.

Huge Congratulations Lily

Enjoy reading 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*

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.



KS3 Provision

KS3 provision – in this section of our weekly newsletter I continue to bring you updates from our Alumni as they navigate the transition to Year 7 at our various feeder schools. I 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.

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

The closing date for applications is the 31st of October 2026

Huge Congratulations to Elanor, Charlotte. J, Charlotte. G, Henry and Leo – on their 11+ examination results. We are so incredibly proud of your application, resilience and approach to sit this examination. It really is a remarkable achievement and is testament to your commitment and aspiration to achieve.



Our Alumni

This week I have had the utmost pleasure of catching up with a number of our alumni who have taken the opportunity to come and see us. Elizabeth came to visit us on Monday and brought us in the most delicious cake to share. It was so lovely to hear how well she has transitioned to Plymouth High and how prepared she has felt in terms of the rigor of our curriculum.

On Tuesday Ruby came along to the Pumpkin Patch and spent time with me sharing all her news and how much she is enjoying her time at Tavistock College. Finally, yesterday I received the most wonderful email from Thomas' parents who wrote to share with me the news that Thomas had been selected for an enhanced programme at St. Boniface's

Dear Mrs. Davies,

I just wanted to say a heartfelt thank you to you and everyone in the MTB team community. The support, encouragement, and opportunities Thomas has received through the school have helped him grow in confidence and given him every chance to succeed. His recent recognition as a High Prior Attaining student and invitation to the ARC programme are wonderful achievements, and while some of the hard work is down to Thomas, it would not have been possible without the strong foundations and belief that you and the team have shown in him over the years.

Thank you for all that you do and have done!!

Tina Cossens

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*

We have been having a spooktacular time in our EYFS unit



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



Team MTB PTFA



MTB Cake Raffle.

Huge congratulations to Elsie (Yr3) who won the cake raffle today and a huge MTB thank you to Elspeth (Yr1) and her family for kindly donating the most enticing apple cake



Chair: Kayleigh Goodman (Mum to Anya (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.

Our next PTFA meeting is
Tuesday 3rd November
in the School Hall.

At this meeting we will be planning our Christmas Festivities, please do come along it would be so lovely to see you.



MARYTAVY &
BRENTOR PTFA
Wreath Workshop
& Festive Evening
£25PP
MULLED WINE & MINCE PIE
INCLUDED.

NOV ☆ 28TH ☆ 7 PM
AT- MARYTAVY
CORONATION HALL
TO BOOK 07787994220

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

EYFS Sponsored Walk



TeamMTB EyFS sponsored
walk to fund our Mud
Kitchen



We did it yyyyyyyyyyyyyyy



Yyyyyyyyy our wonderful youngest TeamMTB ambassadors have had the very best morning completing a grueling sponsored walk in aid of the EYFS outside area.

A huge MTB thank you to the family and friends of the children who have generously supported this venture.

So far, they have raised over £300 - what an incredible achievement they have made. 🧡💜

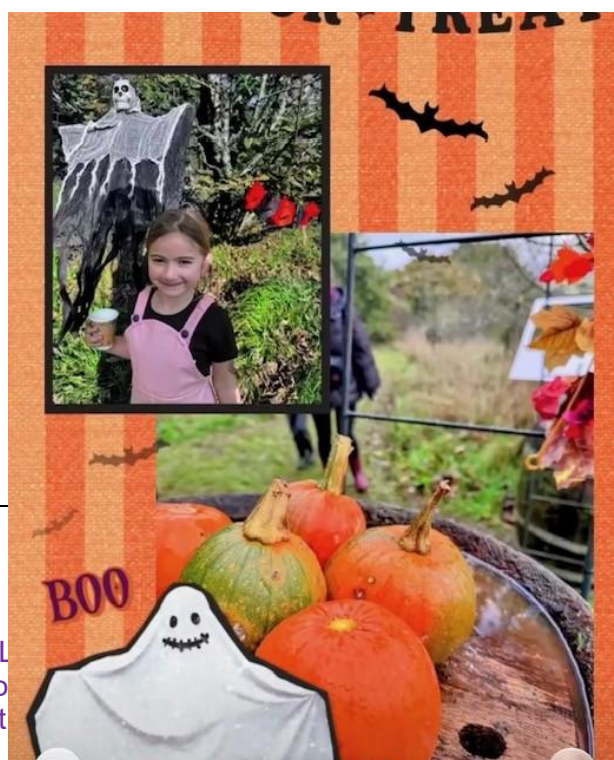
“UNEXPECTED KINDNESS IS THE MOST POWERFUL, LEAST COSTLY, AND MOST UNDERRATED AGENT OF HUMAN CHANGE.”

Bob Kerrey

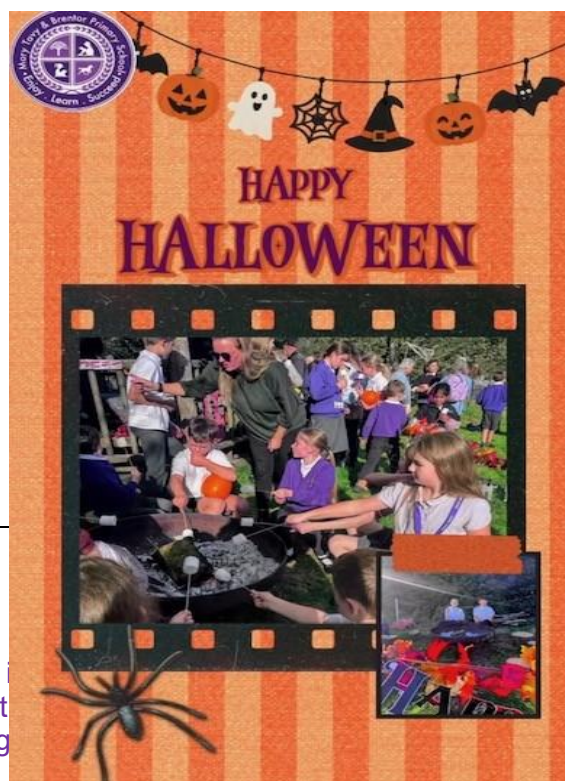
And finally

A huge TeamMTB thank you to our wonderful PTFA committee who followed up on their hugely successful Halloween Disco last week by staging a Spooktacular Pumpkin Patch extravaganza on Tuesday 🎃💜

It really does bring us sooo much joy to see our school family spending time together- and how incredibly lucky were we with the autumnal sunshine 🧑🏻🎃💜🧑🏻🎃💜🧑🏻🎃💜



Enjoy, L
The mo
'Educat



ercise i
learn, t
o chang