

Dear Parents and Carers

April has felt like the wettest month ever! Our roof issues have meant that it has been raining inside as well! Thankfully, the repairs to our flat roof are almost completed and the new rooflights are really making a difference to our learning environment. Outside in the Millennium Garden, the younger children have been planting in the raised flower beds and we hope to harvest some produce later in the year.

It is at this time of year that our year 6 children start to think more about moving up to their secondary schools as transition visits and meetings start to happen. The Leavers Hoodies have been hugely successful and the colder weather has meant that they are at least getting some wear out of them this year! Our year 6 children are diligently preparing for SATs week, that commences on the 13<sup>th</sup> May, although I think they are mostly looking forward to the SATs breakfasts! Our PTFA have met with year 6 children to begin to plan their leavers events. More details on these events will follow.

Thank you to you all for supporting our efforts to increase our whole school attendance percentage. Together we are doing an amazing job and our children are in school as much as they can be and are making the most of every learning opportunity.

Tara Trail

Headteacher

### PTFA NEWS—THANK YOU!

£483 raised from Mothers & Others Day sale

£462 raised from the horse racing evening

£125 from the bag2school collection

Thank you to everyone that supported our silent disco, it was such a fun evening and one we will definitely do again! Next up will be our Fathers & Others Day Sale, more info to follow soon.

Please keep baking and freezing cakes for us for our stall at Dawlish carnival on Thursday 15th August, we need as many as we can get our hands on! Thank you.

### PE News

Mr Baxter joined us for one of our regular PE Impact Days. Athletics is our PE focus this term and so the children took part in a range of activities to do with throwing, running and jumping.



### Reading Roundabout

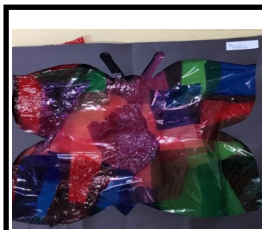
Children at Starcross took part in a 'Reading Roundabout' provided by the School Library Service. Pupils across Key Stage 2 got to choose over 200 new books for the school library!

Reading is a big part of life at Starcross Primary School and the children are very excited to get their hands on the new books.

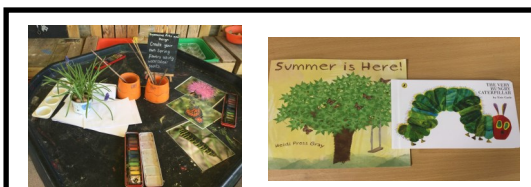


### DIARY DATES

| DIARY DATES |  |
|-------------|--|
| 6.5.24      | Bank Holiday   |
| 9.5.24      | 9am—10am DIAS Coffee Morning in Hall                     |
| 10.5.24     | 9am—11am Family Links session in School Hall             |
| 17.5.24     | Y5/6 PE competition at Cockwood                          |
| 13-16.5.24  | SATs Week  |
| 24.5.24     | 9am—11am Family Links session in School Hall             |
| 24.5.24     | Break up for Half Term                                   |
| 3.6.24      | Back to school—Summer Term 2                             |
| 14.06.24    | Fathers and Others Day Sale (during school)              |
| 16.7.24     | Y6 Leavers performance matinee and evening—times tbc     |
| 1-3.7.24    | Y4 Pixies Holt residential                               |
| 10.7.24     | Sports Day for Pre-School and School                     |
| 17.7.24     | Reserve Sports Day for Pre-School and School — times tbc |
| 18.7.24     | Pre-School Graduation—times tbc                          |
| 19.7.24     | Y6 Graduation - times tbc                                |



In Sanderlings, we have been enjoying our new project 'sunshine & sunflowers!' ☀️ We have been busy learning all about the life cycle of a butterfly and noticing the change of season. We have been printing mini beasts pictures using ink pads and created the most beautiful butterfly stained glass windows!



The Sandpipers have been learning about changes and the environment focusing on the season summer and the life cycle of a butterfly within our theme "Sunshine and Sunflowers." So far, we have enjoyed reading "Summer is here!" and "The very hungry caterpillar" as our weekly topic books.

In Maths we have been exploring numbers beyond 10, using our super subitising skills, number recognition, composition and ordering skills.

We also enjoyed a PE session with Mr Baxter where we practised throwing, running, jumping and other athletic activities.

In Curlews, we have started our History topic 'Magnificent Monarchs', where we will be learning about the British monarchy from AD 871 to the present day. We have started by thinking about timelines, and trying to position different monarchs in the correct place, to see when they reigned in relation to each other. Our Art topic this term is linked to our History, and is called 'Portraits and Poses'. We have been thinking about royal portraits, and the elements included such as pose, clothes, objects and background, which were used to show a particular image.

We have finished our English unit based on 'The Dragon Machine' by Helen Ward, and the children wrote some fantastic versions of this story with their own ideas. We loved this book, and it gave us the chance to be really imaginative! We are now moving on to a unit based on 'Fantastic Mr Fox' by Roald Dahl. In Maths, we have been working hard with fractions, and will now be moving on to learning about time.

In PE, we are developing our skills in athletics, including running, jumping and throwing. Everyone enjoyed a session with Mr Baxter, with lots of different activities. We have also been continuing to work on our Beach Hut models in Technology, which are looking good!



Kittiwakes welcomed ex staff Cathy Ward, Mary Turner and Ted Bemmer to school this month to help us start our History unit - School Days. Cathy, Mary and Ted reminisced over stories going back to when Mary was a 5 year old pupil, to all of them working in the school and their children coming up through the school.



It was so interesting to hear about the new and old parts of the school and look at photos of what it used to be like.

We couldn't believe that a helicopter once landed in our school playground

*In Oystercatchers we have started a new history topic, Emperors and Empires. We have started by looking at timelines and working out the chronology of events, and also trying to understand some of the continuity and change between the Roman period and today. Our D&T project has started and we will be designing and building our own mini greenhouses to protect seedlings, which we will soon be planting as well.*

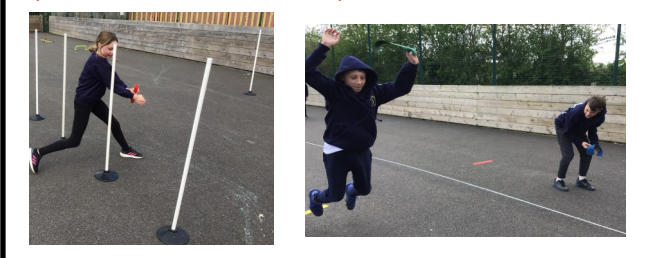


*In PE we have been practicing our athletic skills – check out some of the action photos!*

*Mr Collett*




Razorbills have really hit the ground running this term. In Science we started by learning about light theory by making human models to demonstrate how light travels in straight lines. Then we learnt about concave and convex mirrors and how the shape of the mirror changes the reflection. In art we are beginning to learn about environmental artists. We have looked at the work of Antony Gormley and we are thinking about the deeper meaning of the work he creates. In PE we are perfecting our athletic skills. We really enjoyed our PE impact session with Mr Baxter as the photos show!



**April in Avocets**

I hope you all had a lovely Easter break. Since returning to school, Avocets have been busy starting their new topic 'Ancient Civilisations'. We are looking at the rise, life, achievements and eventual end of the Ancient Sumer and Indus Valley civilisations.



Our topic links closely with our Art this half term, which is looking at statues, statuettes and figurines. We've had great fun so far, drawing figures and recognising the difference between statues and statuettes.

