

1.4.22

Dear Parents,

This week has been full of amazing singing as we prepare for our Easter events next week. Pupils in Year 3 to 6 have been practicing Sing Out an Easter Song which has such a message of Hope. Many parents will have noticed that an Ellacombe favourite, Spring Chicken, has made a return with children very much enjoying singing this!

We can't wait to join together next week for these events:

Tuesday 2.15pm - Easter Bonnet Parade for EYFS to Y2 on the playground and parents invited to join in person.

Wednesday 1.45pm - Easter Service for Y3 to Y6 in the hall with parents invited to join online.

School Council Letters

Last week, I shared how much the children were enjoying the depth of their learning in subjects such as Art and History and this has been so clear in the School Council Letters that I've been receiving from across the school. Reading these is such a joy, hearing from children about the value of our work and how much they care about the community, as well as their persuasive techniques which pupils have clearly been developing in their English Learning!

Many of these letters very much reflect our Christian Values of Love, Stewardship, Hope, Trust and Perseverance. From outlining ideas for developing our playground, supporting pupils who join our school family, many show a real social awareness and the importance of showing others we care. Some mention the challenges of the cost of living and the current world events and wanting to help our local and wider communities more. Some include quotes from poets and campaigners such as Maya Angelou. Many letters talk of children's personal journeys and how they now feel confident and ready to have their voice heard. Letter from pupils in Y6 talk of them leaving a legacy for the next generation. The overriding comment in the letters is respect for others and how those applying are aware of the importance of listening to all, and valuing other's opinions.



Ellacombe C of E Academy
Ellacombe Church Road, Torquay
Devon, TQ1 1TG
T: 01803 293040 **E:** ellacombe@lapsw.org
W: ellacombe-lap.co.uk



FLOURISHING FUTURES

I am so incredibly proud of our pupils and their commitment to supporting others and working as a team for the good of all. We'll be sharing more information about this soon about the process of selecting our School Council.

Children's feedback is very much valued by us and over the past few weeks, children right across our Schools Trust have been completing surveys about school. These annual surveys help us to evaluate the impact of our development and work in schools and we look forward to collating all the results and sharing soon!

Family Support

Next week, we will be saying farewell to Miss Rose, a member of our Family Support Team who is off on new adventures. Miss Rose joined Ellacombe in the Autumn Term 2020 and has supported many children and their families since then. Miss Rose is returning to work in the private sector but takes with her many special memories of the children here at Ellacombe. I'm sure parents and children alike will join the staff and I for thanking Miss Rose for all of her care and hard work during her time with us. Miss Williams continues as our Designated Safeguarding Lead with Mrs Corline as Head of SEND and Inclusion and we look forward to welcoming back Miss Andrews later this summer, who is currently on maternity leave.

I am delighted to share with you that to support our families with consistency and continuity, Mrs Walsh and Mrs Davey will be working alongside Miss Williams, as Family Support for the Summer Term.

Many of you will know Mrs Walsh for her work within the admin team, with a particular expertise in attendance and admissions. Mrs Walsh has been part of our team for many years and has a very good understanding of some of the challenges families can face and will be an asset to Family Support. As well as meeting with parents about attendance, Mrs Walsh will especially be supporting families as part of any Team around the Family Meetings.

Mrs Davey, who leads on Nursery administration, has a very in-depth knowledge of the support and opportunities Torbay has for families. She will be using her expertise as part of Family Support, with a focus especially on those moving up into EYFS as well as the wider activities and support for families across the Bay.

Both Mrs Davey and Mrs Walsh will be spending time with Miss Rose as part of a handover before she leaves, and I know families will welcome them into these roles.

As part of this, Miss Milford (nee Driver) will be taking more of a role in our school office. Miss Milford worked in our office for many years and, as Senior Administrator, has a broad knowledge of all our systems etc.



Mrs Walsh



Mrs Davey



Miss Milford

Forest School at Ellacombe!


This week, we have welcomed Mr Rogers to our team as our Forest School Lead who has been spending time alongside teachers in classes, getting to know our school. Mr Rogers will be working alongside the team with Mrs Huish at Dartington School who have a well-established Forest School, to create our very own provision here at Ellacombe. We're thrilled to have been able to fund this new position and create our very own Forest School for our pupils! The vision and plans of developing this in our Garden are stunning and we look forward to these projects starting with a focus in the Summer Term on growing vegetables and plants- all linked to our value of Hope and Growth!



COVID

As you may have seen on local news, rates of COVID in Torbay are high still. Over the past few weeks, we have seen ongoing staff absences due to staff quite unwell with Covid. Please do keep being vigilant.

Wishing everyone a sunny week



Mrs Semmens

Head of Academy