

25.3.22

Dear Parents,

What a fabulous week in school, the sun has been shining and it feels like it has been shining in school too with lots of exciting things happening. Thank you for your feedback about how much the children loved Science Week, last week. We were thrilled to see so many costumes of the diverse scientists, from Mae Jamison to Mary Anning, along with many as Albert Einstein! A special thanks must go to Miss Butler, our Science Lead, for her work in supporting all the experiments, visitors, and special events. You will have noticed we had many special events and were keen to deliver these at no extra cost to parents. We have been committed to working hard with our budget to provide extra opportunities for the pupils, as we have with the local trips many year groups have already had or are being planned.

The children continue to show such effort and focus in their learning and you can see how much they are progressing in not only their skills in English and Maths but right across the curriculum.

As part of our curriculum development work, I've been meeting with children from across the school to find out about how they're enjoying the learning. A few weeks ago, I met with pupils from Year 1 and 2 and this week had the pleasure of working with pupils in Years 4 and 5. Pupils shared their learning from across the subjects and very much wanted to show me how their confidence and skills have been developing. The overwhelming feedback from the children was how much pride they had in their work, and they wanted me to share with parents the brilliance of their work.



Community



Art In the

Miss Julian has been busy liaising with artists and developing projects within school. Over the past few weeks, pupils in Y5 have been inspired by and even taught by a local artist on producing 'mono prints'. Many of you will have seen their fabulous work on our social media pages. This work is part of a wider Torbay Project with an exciting Summer Holidays 'scavenger hunt', like we've had before with the rhinos etc. Ellacombe pupils are using their workshops with the artists to generate



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FLOURISHING FUTURES

their own designs to then decorate their very own seagulls! There will be a mini competition to see which designs go forward and we'll also be naming our own seagulls. We'll keep sharing info with you as the project develops and we can't wait to see the Scavenger Hunt develop across Torbay!

Our School Family

At Ellacombe, we really do value every person as a unique and special individual. Recognising this, we have been looking at ways to give pupils even more of a 'voice', to be making key decisions about our school and taking on that responsibility. Pupils are currently taking part in a feedback survey, along with their peers across all 10 of our schools. This will tell us what they enjoy about school, how supported they feel and inform us of any areas they would like to focus more on. We look forward to collating the results and sharing this with the children and parents soon. In addition to this, we're delighted to share with you that we will be starting up 'House Teams' after the Easter Break.

This means that every child, including our nursery pupils, will be put into a 'House' which they will stay with until they leave us in Year 6. For example, your child might come home and say they are in 'Blue House'. House Teams are an excellent way to prompt a sense of belonging and togetherness across the whole school. The House system will create friendly competition, promote good work and behaviour, encourage teamwork, provide opportunities to take on responsibilities and bring everyone in the school together. Alongside this, our Year 6 pupils have the chance to be voted as House Captains where they will help lead the House team alongside a member of staff. The House Captains will have a responsibility to support their house and be a voice for the children of their house. Our current Year 6 pupils are writing their speeches ready to share with their houses in preparation for our democratic vote before the Easter holidays. We look forward to sharing with you the development of the House Teams, such as how the pupils will be leading on developing names for each house.

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.

Easter Events

We are pleased to be able to hold our first Easter Events for 2 years at Ellacombe! KS2 will have an Easter Service in the school Hall, supported by Rev Emma and Rev Sam. We will have measures in place to ensure this is very well ventilated and open up into the adjoining conference



room to spread out our year groups as much as possible. This will take place on Wednesday 6th April at 1.45pm and we will be inviting parents to join online via Google Meet. As a tradition at school, pupils in EYFS, Y1 and Y2 will take part in an Easter Bonnet Parade. This will take place on Tuesday 5th April at 2.15pm in our playground. As this is an outdoor event, we are able to invite parents in for this and will be sending information out next week about this. Covid rates are very high in Torbay, and we will still have some measures in place.

Wishing everyone a sunny week

Yours Sincerely

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "E. Semmens", with a stylized flourish at the end.

Mrs Semmens

Head of Academy