

## No 1 Multi Academy Trust for disadvantaged pupils' outcomes

DFE PERFORMANCE TABLES 2019 AND NO 3 IN 2018

## Top 10 National Pupil Progress

DFE PERFORMANCE TABLES 2018 AND 2019



30<sup>th</sup> April 2021

Dear Parents

We've had another brilliant week in school with the children really enjoying learning across the curriculum from French to Art and their athletic skills really developing in PE! Our leaders and teachers have been working with colleagues across our Learning Academy Partnership Trust to share expertise and evaluate curriculum areas. Just a few examples of this are our MFL and Art curriculums at Ellacombe. The children's learning of a Modern Foreign Language (French) has hit the ground running as it has been tried and tested at some of our Trust schools. Our Art curriculum has been specifically developed by an expert at one of our partnership schools- it's brilliant to be part of a wider school family!

### Working in partnership with families

We know how much parents value being involved in their children's learning. Our Parent Survey in the Autumn term told us that 92% of parents did feel that school made them aware of what their child would learn in the year and we have taken this feedback on board, as we would like 100% of parents to be confident knowing what their child will learn. We've been working hard to improve this and provide lots of opportunities for parents to know what their children are learning. These include the Curriculum Booklets which we send home at the start of each term, lots of photos on our social media [Facebook](#) and [Twitter](#) plus on our [Website](#), teachers weekly letters home as well as this weekly letter from myself. I know as a mum myself how much children love coming home to tell you about their school day and it's really helpful to be able to ask them about what's been their favourite part of their learning or what is coming up that they're excited by. Parents being involved like this really does make a difference and children whose parents take an active role in their children's education do better at school as reserved by the Education Endowment Fund "Parents play a crucial role in supporting their children's learning, and levels of parental engagement are consistently associated with better academic outcomes. Evidence from our [Teaching and Learning Toolkit](#) suggests that effective parental engagement can lead to learning gains of +3 months over the course of a year." <https://educationendowmentfoundation.org.uk/tools/guidance-reports/working-with-parents-to-support-childrens-learning/>

All of our communications are designed to support parents to work in partnership and be part of their child's learning and development, so all parents are confident with this.

### Learning fun in school

Wet Wednesdays have been another hit this term for our EYFS children who explored their book of the week 'Dinosaur Drip' through all sorts of creative activities- do check out the photos on social media.

We've also been thrilled this week to restart Bikeability after this had to be postponed from January. It's been wonderful to see how much the children have enjoyed developing their cycling confidence!

The sound of RWINc is once again filling the corridors as this systematic way of teaching phonics plays a huge part in children developing their confidence and fluency in reading. Here is a link to more information on RWINc, which the vast majority of children in EYFS to Y2 are doing and some in Y3 and Y4 <https://home.oxfordowl.co.uk/reading/reading-schemes-oxford-levels/read-write-inc->



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# TOGETHER WE EMPOWER EXCELLENCE

[phonics-guide/](#)

### **Taking full advantage of learning in school**

Now that schools are fully reopened, being in school every day is statutory. We are thrilled that all children have returned successfully but want to remind parents about the importance of supporting your child to be in school every day. Every day of absence is 6 hours of lost learning and missed opportunities to join with their friends on enjoying these experiences. We'd particularly like to remind parents of the importance of being in school at the start and end of the week as we have noticed that absences are higher at the start and end of the week.

### **Parent Coffee Mornings**

Join our next Coffee Morning on **Wednesday 5th May at 10.30am**. Everyone is invited to join and links are emailed on the morning of the meeting.

Miss Andrews and Miss Rose host our virtual coffee mornings every other Wednesday at 10.30am. During this time, they discuss all sorts from what the children are up to in school, to tips on places to visit and what's going on in Torbay. It's also a great opportunity to receive parent feedback and build new friendships, as well as have a good catch up and see how you are! Miss Andrews and Miss Rose are here to offer our families a wide range of support. If you are unable to make the coffee morning but would like to speak with the Family Support Team, please call the office and they will be more than happy to help.

### **Keeping Covid safe**

In the last few letters we've been reminding parents about the National Restrictions. Can we especially remind parents that visiting other families indoors is **not permitted** by the Government and this includes sleepovers. Please can we continue to urge all families to play their part and follow the guideline to keep our school and wider community safe. Nobody wants to catch the COVID Virus, we can assure you it can be very nasty, and we have several members of staff very unwell who caught it. We'd also like to remind you that if we had any positive cases in school, it would mean bubbles and staff would have self-isolate (as well that households' family). When the weather is so lovely, no one wants to have to stay indoors for 10 days - which is the legal requirement. Staff are still being stringent with safety measures both in school, testing twice a week and following guidelines when out of school. A reminder that all parents can access free lateral flow tests here [Order rapid lateral flow home test kits](#).

Through all of our hard work together, we are keeping our bubbles and the whole school open and our community healthy. Thank you for your support, let's keep going!

Yours sincerely



Mrs E Semmens  
Head of Academy