

February 2024

BE KIND, *BE* DETERMINED, *BE* PROUD

Ofsted Good Provider

Laira Green Primary School
Shaping hearts, minds and futures

Our mission: "To create an **inspired** community of learners who are equipped with the **skills**, **experience** and **confidence** they need for a happy and successful future".

Dear Parents/Carers

We have had another wonderful month with many things happening across the school in terms of educational visitors and school trips. Thank you to those of you who were able to make the Post Ofsted Information event; it was super to be able to reflect on the last year as well as share my vision for the future of Laira Green Primary. It goes without saying that it was also a great opportunity to hear the Choir and Ukulele Club perform. It was also fabulous to see so many of you attending Children's Progress Meetings which are a fabulous way to keep informed about your children's progress. We have also started a series of workshops with On Course South West that will run through the rest of the year (it is not too late to sign up). We were pleased that Year 4 parents were able to come and watch their children perform in their Steel Pan lessons and we are looking forward to our class assemblies starting this month (please see dates for your diary section). It has been great to see some of our children sporting the new P.E. tops which are available to buy from The Schoolwear Shop in Plymouth. Feedback so far is that the quality is improved (and they keep cleaner than the white tops).

Lots of parents (and residents) talk to us about parking around the school. Whilst we understand that there is limited space to park, please can I ask you to be very mindful of this and walk if it is possible. One or two parents have also reported how difficult it is to see children crossing when there are so many cars about and we all want to keep them safe. Our School Council have some plans that they are going to take to Plymouth City Council in an attempt to highlight the issues. They will be sharing more information in the coming months.

Yours sincerely

Mrs Jones

Class updates…

Reception, the children have been busy starting their new topic 'Dinosaur Detectives'. It all started with a curious find… when a pirate sent them a letter and left a mysterious egg in our school hall! As a class, RSC decided to look after it, so they made a safe place to keep the egg and created signs to protect it. So far, the children have loved researching dinosaurs and finding out lots of different facts. They have definitely enjoyed taking on the role of a palaeontologist – just like Mary Anning – and learning all about fossils. They will continue to look at how fossils are formed and what they tell us about the past of our planet. They will extend their knowledge by learning about herbivores, carnivores and omnivores. This term, RSC are focusing on dance in their PE sessions! They have started learning to explore actions and movement, and develop moving with increasing control and coordination, expressing their ideas to music. During Phonics, the children are now learning how to write sentences, by embedding all of the Phonics knowledge that they have learnt so far. Well done Reception!

Another fantastic month of learning for Year 1! The children finished their History learning by recall and recording some wonderful facts about the Ancient Egyptians. Before returning them to the library, in our Book Club session we explored the topic books which have enhanced our learning - this was not only informative but allowed the children to be exposed to the key features of non-fiction texts. In Maths, we have measured length and height using standard and non-standard units. In Phonics, the children have used their skills to segment and blend longer words. During our DEAR sessions, the children love to scan and spot Tricky Words' we have recently learnt. In PE, the children performed a sequence of controlled balances. They are super excited to begin their new unit of learning this term - dance. In Computing, the children used the iPads to connect and control the movements of a robot. We are really excited to see the progress the

This month, 3JR have enjoyed their Science learning in particular. We created magnetic slime with iron fillings then observed how it would react when in the presence of magnets. We were awed by the power and effects of the magnets. Some of the children wanted to know what would happen over time so we left three tubs of slime over the half term break to see what would happen. The magnets had created patterns below the surface of the now solid slime which we could use to identify where the magnets had been placed. In Computing we finished our coding unit on Scratch and have started to investigate scratch in our own time during wet plays and in Bonus time since half term. In PE, we started to learn dance moves based on machinery and to be powerful with jerk actions. We hope to show you our dance performance at our class assembly next month.

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The adults in class 2MT have been really impressed with the children's development in phonics which has improved their confidence and love for reading. A massive well done to those children who have been reading, logging and quizzing at home earning at least two raffle tickets a day! During Maths this month the children have enjoyed exploring measuring in centimetres and metres. In English, we have been exploring traditional tales but with a twist such as: what happened before Jack climbed the beanstalk and what Jack and Jill were arguing about before they went up the hill. This will help children to create their own stories following the structure of the book 'Previously'. In History, the children loved learning about The Great Fire of London and they willl be able to tell you some amazing facts about it. They learnt how we know about what happened in 1666, the improvements that have been made to buildings and streets, and how well we deal with fires today. In RE, the children were able to retain lots of facts about being Muslim and how they live. In PE, children have developed fantastic strength and flexibility from their Gymnastics unit and are now able to apply these strengths into their new dance unit! The children have been working really hard to following our school rules and being respectful to all staff and children at Laira Green Primary. We are really proud of their determination to be the best they can be.

4JL have been excited to start Geography again this term, after the enjoyable Anglo Saxon History lessons last term. We have had some great discussions about the importance of keeping our planet safe and clean and the children are already beginning to realise how important it is to look after our Earth. The word 'sustainable' has been used frequently, ask your children to tell you what this means! I am sure they will have a good grasp on this term already!
Children are enjoying our Dance lessons as part of our PE learning. Very quickly they have grown in confidence and are releasing their inhibitions. We are looking forward to their final performances!
We have some exciting learning coming up, stay tuned for some information about an exciting upcoming trip over the next few weeks!

The children in 4PN are over half way through reading Danny the Champion of the World by Roald Dahl and we are loving it! We are so excited to read more and find out whether Danny and his Dad manage to succeed in catching the pheasants. We have made a great start to our dance unit by creating a short choreographed dance around being a spy - there was a lot of sneaking about and looking for clues! During our DT sessions, we are looking at types of herbs, how to grow them and how we can use them when following a recipe. We have planted some herbs and are watering them every day and waiting patiently for them to germinate and break through the soil - hopefully we will get to taste some that we have actually grown ourselves. In Science, we have started looking at our teeth and learning the names and uses of the different types of teeth we have - we hope that everyone in our class is cleaning their teeth twice a day so the dentists will be very pleased!

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What a month we have had! We are so proud of our learners in 6LS. We have seen such determination from them to do their absolute best in their practice papers and they are reaping the rewards, with their scores steadily increasing. The discussions we are having in class about sentence structures are showing that the children really are doing a great job of digging into these structures to manipulate them to their advantage and as a result, they are becoming increasingly more confident with punctuation. In Science, we have just begun to learn about the human circulatory system and the children have so many questions about the human body - it will be great to find out more through the term. Our classroom library has been shared today in a 'book tasting' session - if you're not sure what that entails, why not ask your child?

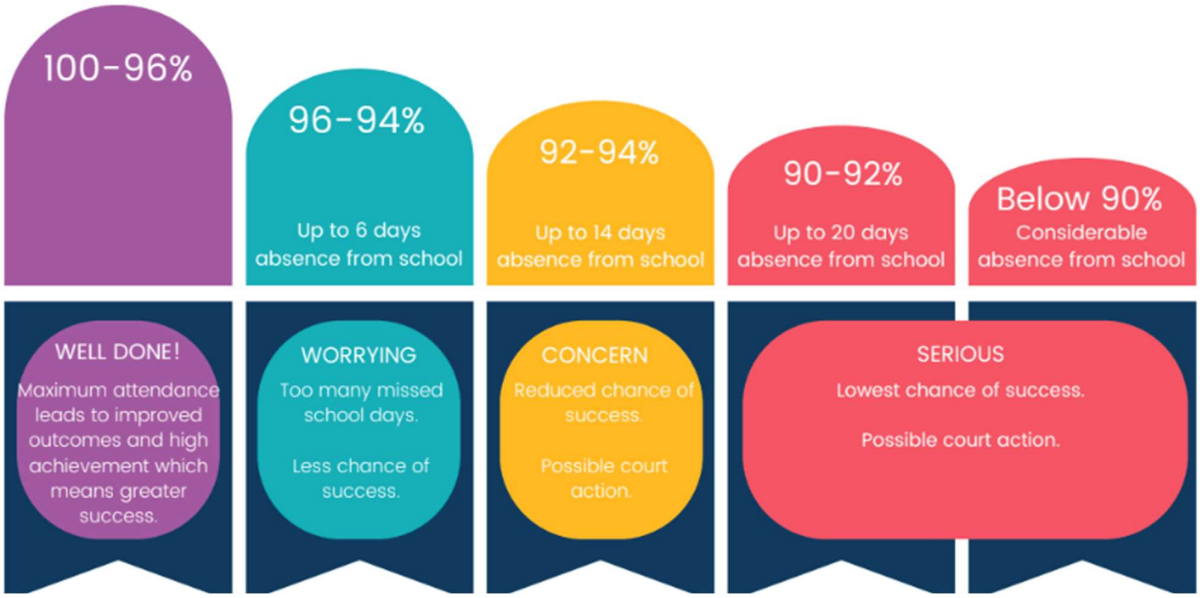
5LG are absolutely adoring our new English unit this term! We have been excited to read a more grizzly version of 'Hansel and Gretel, and have explored the different devices that the author uses to engage the reader. We can't wait to write our own versions! In RE, we have begun to learn about Judaism and how their faith impacts the lives of Jewish people. We enjoyed examining different artefacts such as kippahs, tallits and the Torah, and seeing how they are looked after. In PSHE we have been learning more about how to keep healthy, and avoid things which will have a negative influence on our minds and bodies. We are confident we will make good and informed choices as we grow up!

This month, Class 5CL have absolutely loved learning about Medieval Monarchs. Our favourite being Henry VIII, with his six wives! We have now moved onto Geography this half term and are focusing on the Earth's Biomes. So far, we have explored what a biome is and where they are located on Earth. Next week, we are looking forward to completing some fieldwork in our local area to understand more about the U.K.'s biome and climate! In Science, we have just started our topic linking to forces and have used our knowledge about gravity from the last half term to help us to carry out an investigation. Last week, we completed an investigation to test whether the size and mass of an object had an effect on how quickly it fell. We discussed what the term 'fair test' meant to support us when working scientifically. Lastly, Class 5CL thoroughly enjoyed their last Computing unit where we built circuits, programmed them and used this knowledge to start building model carousel rides. This half term in D.T., we will be using this programming knowledge and understanding to help us when programming our Bee-Bots to move around our adventure maps. This week, we loved having the chance to explore the Bee-Bots and programmed them to spell out different letters.

3RM have had another fun-filled, exciting month of learning! In English, we have been reading 'Jack and the Dreamsack'. We are very excited to start writing our own stories based on this book. In Maths, we learnt about length and perimeter before moving onto fractions. This term we are focusing on our 8x table - we have loved spotting all of the patterns and we are already great at counting in 8s! In our French lessons this term, we are learning some body parts and colours. As always, our French learning is a firm favourite in 3RM!

Thank you for supporting your children's attendance.
Good attendance = better progress





The [NHS Better Health Website] offers you a wealth of information about keeping healthy and active. You can find healthy swaps, recipes and activity ideas. Did you know that sugar and fat are the biggest things to watch out for at breakfast time? Try some recommended swaps, or see [breakfast recipes] to help you start the day smart.



Swap from

- ✗ Chocolate cereal
- ✗ Frosted flakes
- ✗ Honey crunch cereal
- ✗ Croissants
- ✗ Cereal bars



Swap to

- ✓ Wheat biscuit cereal
- ✓ Shredded wholegrain cereal
- ✓ No-added-sugar muesli
- ✓ Porridge
- ✓ Wholemeal toast
- ✓ Plain natural yoghurt topped with chopped fruit

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Easy overnight oats recipe

Made the evening before, this fruity, filling no-cook breakfast is perfect for busy mornings – just serve with some juicy fresh or frozen berries.

Prep: 10 mins
Serves 4



Ingredients

- 150g high-fibre porridge oats
- 25g dried cranberries
- 50g ready-to-eat apricots, chopped
- 25g sultanas
- 300ml unsweetened apple juice
- 8 tablespoons low-fat natural yoghurt
- 100g fresh or frozen blueberries, thawed if frozen
- 100g fresh or frozen raspberries, thawed if frozen

Method

1. In a large bowl, mix together the porridge oats, cranberries, apricots and sultanas. Add the apple juice and stir well. Cover and refrigerate overnight.

> Try using dried cherries instead of cranberries, and raisins instead of sultanas.

2. In the morning, share the soaked mixture between 4 cereal bowls.

3. Spoon 2 tablespoons of natural yoghurt onto each portion, and share the berries between the bowls.

> As a change from raspberries and blueberries, top with sliced banana or chopped fresh apple instead.

School Council Update...

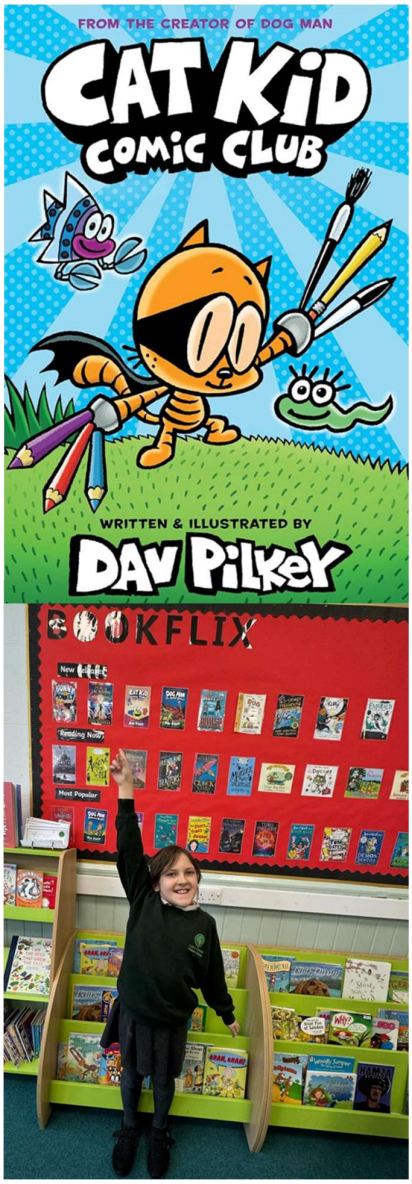
This month, our School Council supported Place2Be's Children's Mental Health week. We challenged the school to 'Express Themselves' through art in school and through a home activity to showcase talents and interests. Our School Council watched all the entries for the competition and voted on the winners! We were blown away with the talents we have in singing, dancing, and art work. Here are some of the messages the School Council gave to the classes to support Children's Mental Health Week:



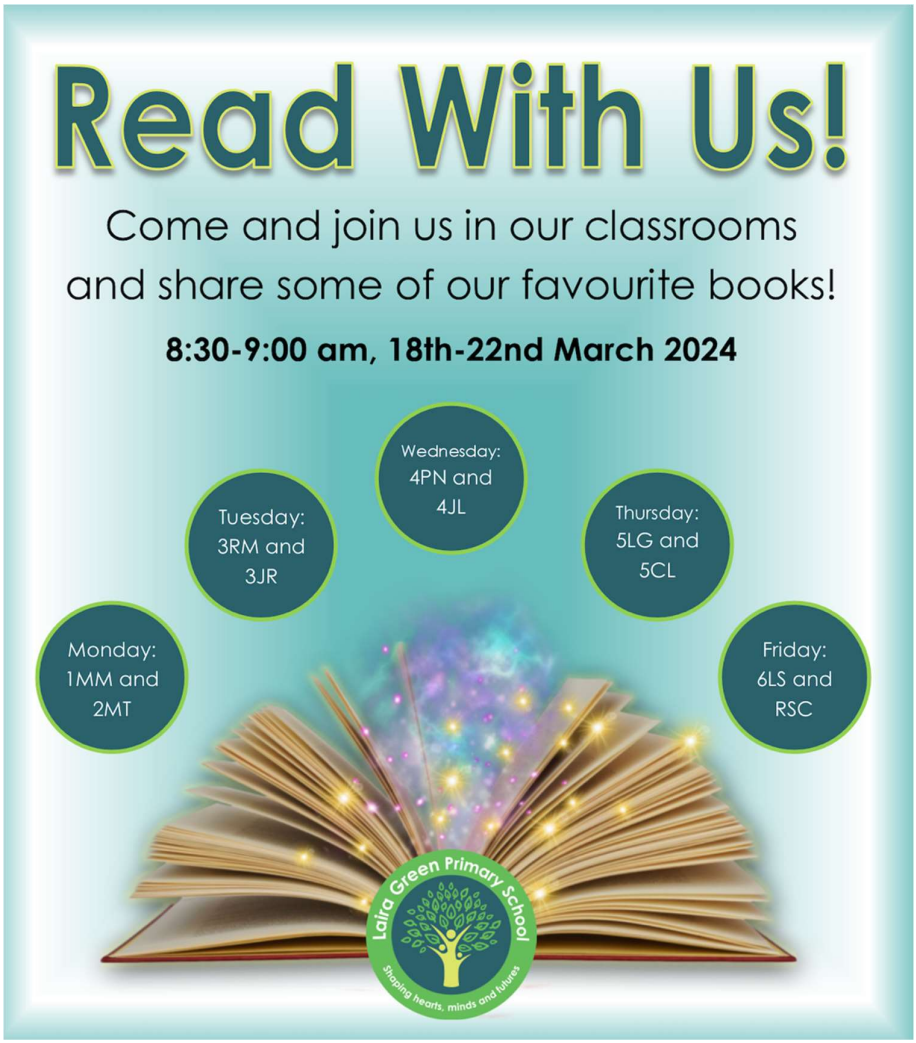
Don't be afraid to express yourself.
Never give up and always be yourself.
Be with people who accept you as you are and make you happy.
Don't worry, be happy.
Show your true colours.

Librarian book recommendation of the month by Rogue.

My book recommendation is **Cat Kid by Dav Pilkey**. It's a funny book that is in the style of a comic book! As the story unwinds with mishaps and hilarity you get to see progress, mistakes and improvements that come with practice and persistence. I like this book because it's entertaining! If you are a big Dog Man fan then this book is for you!



Remember that we begin our termly 'Read with Us' sessions this month- we hope that you can make it.



At National Online Safety, we believe in empowering parents, carers and trusted adults with the information to hold an informed conversation about online safety with their children, should they feel it is needed. This guide focuses on one of many issues which we believe trusted adults should be aware of. Please visit www.nationalonlinesafety.com for further guides, hints and tips for adults.

What Parents & Carers Need to Know about

HOW TO COMBAT ONLINE BULLYING





Defined as "ongoing hurtful behaviour towards someone online", cyber-bullying makes its victims feel upset, uncomfortable and unsafe. In the digital world, it has numerous forms – such as hurtful comments on a person's posts or profile; deliberately leaving them out of group chats; sharing embarrassing images or videos of someone; or spreading gossip about them. Cyber-bullying can severely impact a young person's mental health ... so, in support of Anti-Bullying Week, we've provided a list of tips to help trusted adults know what to look for and how to respond to it.



1. GET CONNECTED

Playing online games together with your child or connecting with them on social media (providing they're old enough) is not only fun but also an excellent way of establishing some common ground to discuss things you've both seen or done online – as well as keeping an eye on who your child is communicating with in the digital world.

2. KEEP TALKING

Regular chats with young people about their online lives are good practice in general, but they can also be an excellent refresher to help prevent cyber-bullying situations. Topics you might want to revisit include why it's important to only connect online with people we know and trust, and why passwords should always remain secret (even from our best friends).

3. STAY VIGILANT

Observe your child while they're using technology and just after they've used it. Are they acting normally, or out of character? Possible signs of a problem may include seeming quiet or withdrawn, jumpy or anxious, angry or repeatedly checking their phone. When you feel it's the right time, you may want to check in with them to see if everything is OK.

4. MAKE YOURSELF AVAILABLE

If an online bullying incident *does* occur, it may take a while before your child is ready to open up about what happened. Just gently remind them that they can always come to you with any problems – and that they won't be in trouble. You might also suggest a trusted family member they could turn to, in case they feel too embarrassed to tell you directly.

5. BE PREPARED TO LISTEN

When conversations about online bullying *do* take place, they're likely to be difficult, emotional and upsetting for both you and your child. Actively listen to your child while they're bringing you up to speed, and try not to show any judgement or criticism – even if they haven't dealt with the situation in exactly the way you would have hoped.





6. EMPOWER YOUR CHILD

Depending on their age, your child might not want a parent 'fighting their battles for them'. In that case, talk through their options with them (blocking the perpetrator, deleting the app and so on). By allowing your child to choose the path they take, you're putting them in control but are also demonstrating that you're there to support them along the way.

7. REPORT BULLIES ONLINE

Cyber-bullying often takes place through a particular app, social media platform or online game. If this is happening to your child, encourage them to report the offender to the app or game in question – ideally with screengrabs to support their complaint. Most games and apps have reporting tools specifically to stamp out abusive behaviour and protect users.

8. ENCOURAGE EMPATHY

Protecting themselves online is the priority, of course, but young people should also feel empowered to help if they witness other people falling victim to cyberbullying. Even if they don't feel confident enough to call someone out on their abusive behaviour online, they can still confidentially report that person to the app or game where the bullying occurred.

9. SEEK EXPERT ADVICE

Victims of online bullying frequently experience feelings of isolation and anxiety, a loss of self-esteem and potentially even thoughts of self-harm or suicide. If you think that an incident of cyber-bullying has affected your child's mental wellbeing, then seek psychological support for them. There are some useful contact details in the central panel below.

10. INVOLVE THE AUTHORITIES

If the nature of any online bullying makes you suspect that your child is genuinely in imminent physical danger – or if there are any signs whatsoever of explicit images being shared as part of the bullying – then you should gather any relevant screenshots as evidence and report the incidents to your local police force.

FURTHER SUPPORT AND ADVICE

If you or your child need additional help with an online bullying issue, here are some specialist organisations that you could reach out to.

Childline: talk to a trained counsellor on 0800 1111 or online at www.childline.org.uk/get-support/

National Bullying Helpline: counsellors are available on 0845 225 5787 or by visiting www.nationalbullyinghelpline.co.uk/cyberbullying.html

The NSPCC: the children's charity has a guide to the signs of bullying at www.nspcc.org.uk/what-is-child-abuse/types-of-abuse/bullying-and-cyberbullying/ and can be reached on 0808 800 5000

Meet Our Expert

Dr Claire Sutherland is an online safety consultant, educator and researcher who has developed and implemented anti-bullying and cyber safety policies for schools. She has written various academic papers and carried out research for the Australian government comparing internet use and sexting behaviour of young people in the UK, USA and Australia.



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Dates for your Diary

Wednesday 6th March- Year 1- Open Top Bus Tour of Plymouth

Thursday 7th March- World Book Day

Friday March 8th- Reception Mother's Day Assembly

Friday March 8th – British Science Week Assembly KS2

Monday 11th March- Easter Raffle Tickets go on Sale

Wednesday 13th March- Visiting Science Students to give an assembly.

Monday 18th March - Read with Me sessions for parents of 1MM & 2MT

Tuesday 19th March- Read with Me sessions for parents of 3JR & 3RM

Wednesday 20th March- 8 Children from Year 1 and 2 to take part in a mixed Boccia event at Marine Academy Primary

Thursday 21st March- Read with Me sessions for parents of 5CL & 5LG

Thursday 21st March- 16 Year 4 children to watch Sleeping Beauty (Ballet) at the Theatre Royal Plymouth

Friday 22nd March- 3JR Class Assembly

Friday 22nd March- Treat Friday

Tuesday 26th March- Reception, Year 1 and 2 Easter Disco- 4:00-5:00pm

Wednesday 27th March Year 3 and 4 Easter Disco- 4:00-5:00pm

Wednesday 27th March Year 5 and 6 Easter Disco- 5:00-6:00pm

Thursday 28th March- Easter Raffle- Facebook Live 1:30pm

Thursday 28th March- Final Day of Term 4

A month in pictures



