

Ofsted Good Provider

September 2024

Laira Green Primary School
Shaping hearts, minds and futures

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

Dear Parent/Carers,

Welcome to the first newsletter of the academic year. The children have settled in beautifully, particularly our new Reception children so I'd like to extend a special warm welcome to them and their families. It has been great to begin our extra-curricular clubs once again; we are so proud to be able to offer a wide range of them for free. To know that there are so many children accessing them with almost all children taking part in one or more clubs is incredible. We are also looking forward to educational visits happening this term, with Year 3 attending the National Marine Aquarium and Year 2 attending Morewellham Quay.



We are looking forward to welcoming you later this month to our Children's Progress Meetings but we are always be happy to answer any questions that you may have. If you need to contact your child's class teacher please do so by emailing the office laira.green.primary.school@plymouth.gov.uk and marking it for the attention of the teacher. Please remember that we are unable to pick up or respond to messages sent through Class Dojo. If you need to contact Mrs Trembath, our Inclusion Leader, you can email her directly via inclusion@lairagreen.plymouth.school.uk



Please can I remind you that our school doors open at 8:30am for an 8:55am start. No children should be left unsupervised on the playground at all in the mornings for everyone's safety. There are adults on the doors welcoming children into school but we are unable to be out on the playground as well- thank you for your cooperation in this.





Best wishes
Mrs Claire Jones

Dates for your Diary

Thursday 3rd October
3CL visit The National Marine Aquarium to take part in Sea In Our School project

Tuesday 8th October
Bags2School collection

Tuesday 15th October 2:15-3:00pm
Parents invited RSC Teddy Bears' Picnic

Wednesday 16th October
Sustrans to deliver Road Safety Session with Year 2

Friday 18th October
Year 2 Trip to Morwellham Quay

Monday 21st- Friday 25th October
PTA Wonka Week- chocolate bars on sale to win a golden ticket!

Monday 21st-Wednesday 23rd October
Children's Progress Meetings 3:30-6:00pm
(no extra-curricular clubs this week)

Monday 21st October 8:30-9:00am
RSC Read with Us session

Tuesday 22nd October 8:30-9:00am
1MM and 2RB Read with Us session

Wednesday 23rd October 8:30-9:00am
3CL and 4JL Read with Us session

Thursday 24th October 8:30-9:00am
5AW and 5MT Read with Us session

Friday 25th October 8:30-9:00am
6LS and 6LG Read with Us session

Friday 25th October
Treat Friday

Friday 25th October
Last Day of Term 1

IMPORTANT INFORMATION

If you claim any of the benefits listed below

Your child will be able to receive Government funded:

Free school meals in Years 3-6,
Free holiday club from Reception upwards
Free supermarket food vouchers during school holidays from Reception upwards
Access to 11+ KS2 tutoring

Income Support
income-based Jobseeker's Allowance
income-related Employment and Support Allowance
support under Part VI of the Immigration and Asylum Act 1999
the guaranteed element of Pension Credit
Child Tax Credit (provided you're not also entitled to Working Tax Credit and have an annual gross income of no more than £16,190)
Working Tax Credit run-on - paid for 4 weeks after you stop qualifying for Working Tax Credit
Universal Credit - if you apply on or after 1 April 2018 your household income must be less than £7,400 a year (after tax and not including any benefits you get).

APPLY HERE or call the office for more information

Class Updates

Class RSC

What a fabulous start to the school year for Class RSC as they begin their journey at Laira Green Primary School! The Reception team are extremely proud of how well the children have settled into school life! They have formed some wonderful friendships and have done an excellent job adjusting to new routines. As part of their 'Marvellous Me!' topic, they have really enjoyed looking at their features and individual characteristics, producing self-portraits, and reflecting on the people who are special to them. The children have demonstrated excellent determination whilst taking part in daily, rigorous whole-class phonics lessons. The children are so excited to learn new phonemes during their Phonics lessons and are now applying this to their reading and writing. During Maths, the children have been working on number recognition and representing numbers in different ways. Class RSC have already shown that they have a fantastic attitude to their learning, and we are all extremely excited for the year ahead! Well done, Reception!











Class 1MM

What a start to Year 1! The children have settled wonderfully into their new learning environment. In Phonics, the children have been recapping the phonemes learnt in Reception and using the skills they have to read their books with great fluency. In English, the children have learnt, innovated and invented their own version of the text, 'Knock! Knock! Open the Door'. In Maths, we have focussed on place value, being able to recognise, write and represent a given number. In Science, we have been learning about different parts of the body and associating those with our 5 senses. In Computing, the children have been learning about different types of technology. They have been practising logging onto a chromebook and using the touchpad to move or select. In History, the children have loved learning about prehistoric animals and were able to draw and build upon previous knowledge. Miss Marchant was very impressed! Keep up the great work, Year 1!

CLASS UPDATES

Class 2RB

2RB have enjoyed a fantastic month of learning this September! In Maths, we have been working hard to learn the place value of tens and ones. In English, we have loved using the text 'Mixed Up Fairy Tales' to enjoy new versions of well-known stories. The children really enjoyed writing the correct versions and then mixing them up to create funny stories using a compound sentence. A highlight for September has been our History learning, where we have begun to explore the Victorians. We have found it fascinating to learn about what life was like for a Victorian child at school! We have also enjoyed the many wonderful books in our class library, as well as finding brand new books in our school library too!











Class 3CL

We are thrilled to share how well Year 3 have settled into the new term! They are enjoying being in KS2 and have loved playing on their new playground at break and lunchtimes. In class this half term, we have been learning about the Stone Age in our History lessons. Year 3 have learnt about what life was like in the Stone Age and considered the different tools that people of that time would have used. They have also enjoyed learning more about this period of time by reading 'The Stone Age Boy' in our Whole Class Reading sessions. We have been particularly impressed with their excellent prosody when reading aloud to the class. In Maths, 3CL have confidently used their maths equipment to demonstrate a clear understanding of place value and they have started to show off some excellent problem-solving skills too. In English, we have been reading Lord of the Forest and we have used this book to write some truly fantastic stories this week, filled with alliterative verbs, speech and a variety of different phrases. We have also been very impressed by 3CL not only learning some of the bones in a human body, but also being able to identify the same bones in a variety of animals. Next, we will be focusing on our joints and muscles and how they help us to move. Finally, in Art this half term, our focus is 'Bodies'. We have used a variety of different resources to draw different bodies, using a focus artist to inspire our work! Year 3 have loved learning how to draw bodies and particularly enjoyed completing an observational drawing of Miss Lindup! Well done, Year 3! Keep up the amazing work!

CLASS UPDATES

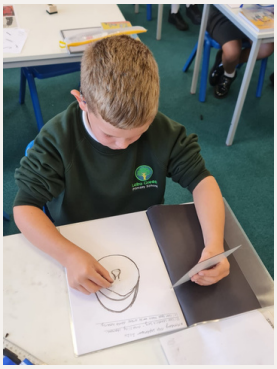
Class 4JL

We have had a fabulous start to the term in 4JL with all of the children applying themselves to work really hard each and every day. The children have just finished writing their fantasy stories in English, taking inspiration from the story 'Leon and The Place Between.' We enjoyed using our imagination to go through a portal door into an unknown world! The steel pans sessions have begun and the children are starting to get to grips with learning a new song! Hockey has been a huge hit with the children and we have been learning all of the skills needed to finally progress into some team games over the next few weeks. Well done 4JL!



Class 5AW

So far this term, 5AW have had a great time exploring our new curriculum. As scientists we have been exploring different forces and creating experiments to test the different effects of resistance. In English we have been inspired by "The Book of Hopes" and plan and write our own short stories with uplifting messages, and in maths we have been exploring the place value of different numbers all the way up to 1,000,000! As Historians we have been using different sources to investigate the Kingdom of Benin, and have been fascinated by the daily lives of the Edo people.









Class 5MT

Class 5MT have had a very busy and exciting start to the term. All the children are working very hard on their handwriting keeping the letters evenly sized and correctly formed, sitting on the line in all of our beautiful new exercise books. In English, we have read a book called 'Book of Hope' and are now creating our own short stories with uplifting messages. Our Art topic is has been focused on observation drawing of faces and masks. So far, we have used pen, charcoal and drawing pencils to make high detailed portraits. In Maths, we have been exploring the place value of different numbers all the way up to 1,000,000! We have also been using various historical sources to investigate the Kingdom of Benin, and have been fascinated by the lives and culture of the Edo people. Our favourite lesson so far has been learning netball in the last glimpse of sun. We have been learning how to avoid defenders and use various passing techniques.

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CLASS UPDATES

Class 6LS

In Maths, 6LS have been working with numbers up to 10,000,000, sorting and ordering numbers and understanding the value of each digit as well as solving number problems. In RE, we have looked at the Christian Creation story in Genesis and what it might mean. Then we created some beautiful pictures intertwined with quotes from the text .

In PE, we have been learning the skills and rules of volleyball. We can now 'set' and 'dig' with success and are starting to work on maintaining a rally.

We have also enjoyed our computing unit about communicating and sharing
information. We have learnt about IP addresses and data packets and have completed shared projects online.







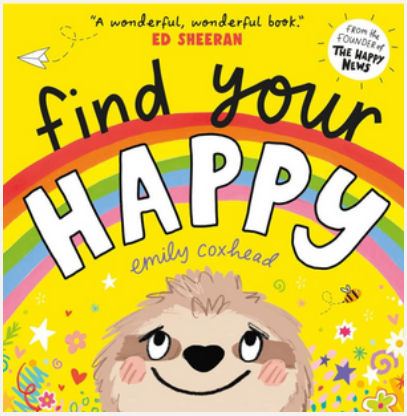


Class 6LG:

What a great start to the term we have had in year 6! In English, we have been exploring a fascinating wordless book called 'Flood', using personification, dialogue and new vocabulary to write our own versions of the narrative. During our Art lessons we have been exploring the theme of the seaside, and expressing our creativity through drawing, printing and collage. We have enjoyed learning more about our own rights and responsibilities during our PSHE lessons, and comparing our own experiences to those of children in other countries. Our class have been really enjoying our whole class novel, 'Wolf Wilder, and we were particularly excited to participate in an online event with the author, Katherine Rundell!

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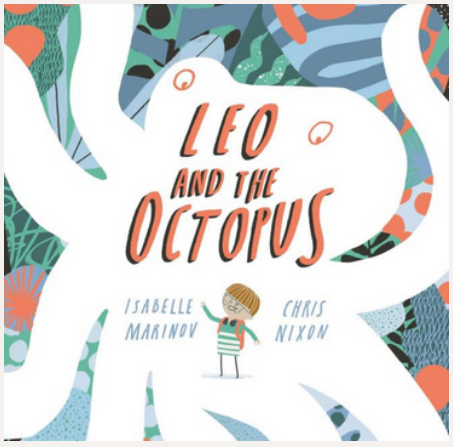
Books to support children's emotions



Despite being called 'find your happy', this book recognises that it is sometimes hard to feel happy all of the time and that every day can be different. It gives honest advice and easy ways to cheer yourself up that do not involve the more common methods that can sometimes be suggested (for example playing on electronics and playing games). A variety of emotions are mentioned in this book, including anger, worry and shyness. Each emotion comes with small tips and tricks that any individual child could easily use in real life to help make themselves feel better and to also help them to embrace the emotion. In particular, the page about feeling sad and the encouragement given to talk to someone trusted is a particularly important one that could strike up many conversations and support children's emotional literacy.

Storm in a Jar is the story of a young boy called Arlo, who has a loving relationship with his Nana. When his Nana passes away, Arlo chooses to keep her special sweetie jar as a keepsake, taking it everywhere with him. The jar keeps the memory of his Nana alive and provides him with comfort. Slowly, however, Arlo's sadness turns to confusion and anger and the contents of the jar become dark and cloudy, like a storm. Before long, Arlo releases his anger and the jar releases its storm. But, with the help of his parents, Arlo begins to understand his feelings and that his Nana has gone on to a safe and happy place.





The world was too bright for Leo.
And too loud.
"I must be living on the wrong planet," Leo thought.
Leo struggles to make sense of the world. He doesn't understand the other children in his class, and they don't seem to understand him. But then one day, Leo meets Maya.
Maya is an octopus, and the more Leo learns about her, the more he thinks that perhaps he isn't alone in this world, after all.

boom reader

Please remember to log all reading on Boom Reader. This helps us to know what your child is reading and when they are ready to quiz or change books.

More news

We are delighted to present our newly elected Laira Green Primary School Council 2024! Thank you to everyone who completed a manifesto and to all the children for taking part in the elections. Our new school councillors have already set to work! The children have voted on the roles of chair, vice chair and secretary and have started to outline fundraising opportunities and events for this term. A super start School Council, we are very proud of you.



Wildlife Champions



Our new Wildlife Champions have been appointed after a vigorous selection process- there were some excellent applications so we are excited to see what amazing projects they embark on.

As we move into the colder weather, please remember to provide your child with a coat for break and lunchtimes so that they can still go out to play.

Are you interested in becoming a parent Governor? We currently have a vacancy- if you would like more information or would like to pick up an application form, please contact the office.

Thank you to everyone who has downloaded the Cashpot for Schools App- you have earned us £124.45 and there is still two months to go!





"Let's Talk about

Therapeutic Parenting is a nurturing parenting style developed from consistent, empathic, and emotional based responses to your children as a response to their behaviours.

We believe that all children would benefit from experiencing therapeutic parenting and want to share this parenting style through the use of a 'Therapeutic Toolbox'.

This programme is full to top tips and advice to support you and your child on the journey of parenting and growing up.

Venue	Session 1	Session 2
Estover Youth centre	Friday 14th June 9:30am-12:30am	Friday 21st June 9:30am-12:30am
Keyham Green Places	Wed 18th September 9:30am-12:30am	Wed 25th September 9:30-12:30am
Efford Library	Thursday 21st November 11:30am-2:30pm	Thursday 28th November 11:30-2:30pm
Crownhill Library	Friday 7th February 9:30-12:30pm	Friday 14th February 9:30-12:30pm
Estover Youth centre	Tuesday 22nd April 11-2pm	Tuesday 29th April 11-2pm
Efford Library	Thursday 12th June 11:30-2:30pm	Thursday 19th June 11:30-2:30pm



This is a 2-week programme and topics include:

- what does it mean to be a therapeutic parent?
- Emotions
- Anger and aggression
- Managing tricky behaviours
- Play
- Parental self-care

https://www.eventbrite.co.uk/o/plymouth-city-council-targeted-help-60431670123

SWAPPY HALLOWEEN

SATURDAY 26TH OCTOBER
11AM - 2PM

BRING YOUR OLD HALLOWEEN COSTUME TO OUR SATURDAY SWAP & SHOPS ON 28TH SEPTEMBER AND 12TH OCTOBER. WE'LL GIVE YOU A HALLOWEEN TOKEN TO BRING BACK TO OUR SWAPPY HALLOWEEN EVENT ON 26TH OCTOBER TO CHOOSE A NEW ONE.



@the Plot, 80-84 Union Street
Plymouth PL1 3EZ

10 Top Tips for Parents and Educators

PROMOTING A LOVE OF EARLY WRITING

Mastering writing skills at an early age can result in better literacy and communication capabilities, giving children improved prospects in their later education and career. To write meaningfully requires motivation, inspiration and fine motor skills. Children gradually come to understand that writing has meaning and that the words they write can be read back again.

1 MODEL WRITING HABITS

Children thrive on copying the behaviours of the adults they observe around them, so modelling writing habits to children is vital – as is helping them to grasp that writing has meaning. As many adults now write with digital tools instead of pen and paper, we'd recommend using obvious 'writing' actions so that children are less likely to misinterpret what you're doing as browsing the internet or checking your social media.

2 WRITE FOR A REAL PURPOSE

Adults can promote writing by involving children in its real-life purposes, such as shopping lists or letters and cards to friends and relatives. This is especially helpful before children enter the final year of the Foundation Stage, when writing becomes more structured and less spontaneous. Children increasingly use digital technology for their early writing, so it's important to recognise and value all the forms that writing might take for children at home.

3 CREATE THE 'WRITE' ENVIRONMENT

Where possible, providing accessible opportunities to write is beneficial for children who want to engage independently. It can help children to be fully immersed in the experience, aiding their concentration and letting them build up the amount of time they're able to focus. You could keep paper, clipboards and a range of writing tools near where children play, for example. They could also take these outside. Different materials will pique interest.

4 UTILISE THEIR INTERESTS

To inspire children to write and keep them motivated, following opportunities linked to their interests and play is important. They could write invitations for a tea party or a sign for a make-believe shop, for instance, or make a 'lost and found' poster for a character in a story. These opportunities can be created organically by giving children access to a variety of writing tools in the environment.

5 CONSIDER THE PROCESS

In terms of development, children generally learn to speak first, then build their vocabulary and develop the fine motor coordination they need to manipulate a writing instrument. All these stages are important and should be encouraged. As they grow older, the alphabet can be introduced, and you can support them to make links between the spoken language and written words.

6 FOCUS ON FINE MOTOR SKILLS

Before learning to form letters, children will make marks as they learn how to hold instruments like pencils or crayons. In doing this, they'll develop the dexterity and movement in their fingers that's needed for writing. You can support this by engaging in play which boosts these skills – such as threading beads, finger painting and using playdough. Giving them broader implements to hold (chunky crayons, for example) will also help.

7 PHASE IN PHONICS

Using phonics builds the knowledge of sounds and the skill of usings letters. For young children to be able to apply what they've learned in their writing, it's important that they get lots of opportunities to playfully explore the sounds that make up words. Moving to more formal correspondences and letter identification too early can be counterproductive: nurseries should be able to advise parents on the right time to introduce this.

8 BUILD A POSITIVE MINDSET

In developing early writing skills, children engage in mark making, which might not accurately represent known letters and can include symbols and pictures. Praising a child's effort here promotes a positive mindset around writing: they're demonstrating that they understand it has a purpose and meaning. Ask them to share what they've written (they'll normally translate it for you!) and try to avoid correcting them too much in that specific moment.

9 TAKE REGULAR BREAKS

While writing and early mark making can be hugely enjoyable, children can also sometimes struggle to sit for lengthy periods of time or engage with writing fully. Regular intervals are encouraged: even making some marks or writing a few words (such as their name) is better than none. You could also factor in some movement breaks. Not forcing children to write in a particular way is key to ensuring they don't become disengaged.

10 LINK WRITING TO READING

As children get older, you can (while reading a story, for example) highlight particular sounds in words – perhaps starting with familiar ones like the letters in their names. You can also show the direction you're reading in (left to right in English; right to left in Arabic and so on), which will help raise their awareness. Highlighting who the author is may also encourage children to begin writing their own stories.

Meet Our Expert

Kara Kiernan has worked in senior leadership positions (both in the UK and internationally) for 15 years, supported by an MEd in Educational Leadership. As an educational consultant, she now delivers training for a range of organisations – notably on EYFS practice and child development. Previously, Kara was head of a nursery and junior school and has also been a director of early years.



#WakeUpWednesday®

The National College®

Source: See full reference list on guide page at: nationalcollege.com/guides/love-of-early-writing

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A Month in Pictures



















A Month in Pictures













