



# Primary Post

Primary Post 249, Tuesday 7<sup>th</sup> May 2024

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The newsletter of  
**Malmesbury C of E Primary School**  
Headteacher: Steve Heal BSc, PGCE, NPQH

The summer term is well and truly upon us and it seems summer itself will finally show up this week. There's nothing like seeing children on the school field, playing games or sitting on the grass under blossom-laden trees in the sunshine. Soon it will be time to dust off the sun hats and sun cream children in the mornings. Please remember to send them in closed-toe shoes, for safety reasons.

We had some superb responses to the Athelstan 1100 banner competition. Thank you to all those who entered - we will be displaying these images around school as we celebrate this remarkable anniversary along with the town. The winning entries from each age category are below.

We continue to develop feasibility plans for the extension of the school in collaboration with the James Dyson Foundation. Two broad options will be costed and the outcome of that process will be crucial to the future of the project. Meanwhile, we are beginning work on changes to the curriculum to increase the role of STEAM subjects, in conjunction with Dyson engineers. Other schools in the area are enthusiastic about being part of the process and we look forward to collaborating with them.

Read on to see the multitude of active, fun learning experiences which have already been crammed into the first two weeks of term...

Steve Heal

## Athelstan banner competition winning entries



Years 3-6



Years R-2

## Retrieval Practise



This year we have instigated a new teaching strategy at school. This is based around the idea of retrieval practise. This is the process of using your memory to recall something that you have already learnt and that the more you practise the stickier the knowledge becomes and therefore the more likely you are to remember it. It's like remembering a telephone number: the more you say it and the more you have to recall it, the better you get at remembering it!

Over the past couple of years, we have been working hard on our curriculum - making sure children learn in a sequence and that the learning through each topic and in each year builds on knowledge they have already learnt. This means that previous learning is essential to access subsequent lessons. As a result, we need children to recall previous knowledge.

So, what does this mean for your children's learning and what happens in class?

It means in most lessons we get children to recall knowledge from previous learning that will support them in the lesson. This is done through, mini quizzes, picture recall, recapping with talk partners, going over vocabulary and practising skills. The children use **knowledge organisers** which contain the key learning in the curriculum and use them to support their recall.

Year 3 and 4 - Explorers and Adventurers

Year 3	Year 4
<p><b>Christopher Columbus (1451-1506)</b> He is known for his discovery of the New World of the Americas on board his ship Santa Maria. In fact, he did not discover North America.</p> <p><b>Sir Francis Drake (c. 1540-28 January 1596)</b> was an English explorer and privateer best known for his circumnavigation of the world in a single expedition. He was also one of the first slave traders.</p> <p><b>Geography Key Facts</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>There are 7 continents of the world: Europe, Asia, Africa, Australia (Oceania), South America, North America and Antarctica.</li> <li>There are 5 oceans: Arctic, Atlantic, Pacific, Indian and Southern.</li> <li>The equator separates the Northern and Southern Hemisphere.</li> <li>Positions on a map can be found by using grid references. The first letter or number tells you how far across the map something is. The second letter or number tells you how far up something is.</li> <li>OS maps show features of an area using a variety of map symbols.</li> </ul>	<p><b>Captain Robert Falcon Scott (10 June 1868 - c. 29 March 1912)</b> was a British Royal Navy officer and explorer who led two expeditions to the Antarctic.</p> <p><b>Riad Amman (16 July 1872 - 18 June 1928)</b> Adventurer who beat Captain Scott to claim the South Pole for Norway.</p> <p><b>History Key Facts</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>World explorers were people who set out on dangerous journeys around the world in search of new lands.</li> <li>Motivated by wealth, fame and desire to spread the word of God.</li> <li>The Age of Discovery roughly ran from 1400 to 1750.</li> <li>Most world explorers were from Europe particularly from wealthy, powerful countries.</li> <li>We learn about history from different sources of information which are from the time (primary) and written later (secondary).</li> </ul> <p><b>Science (Magnets) Key Facts</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Like poles repel, opposite poles attract.</li> <li>A magnetic field is invisible. You can see the magnetic field here because iron filings are placed on top of a piece of paper with a magnet underneath.</li> </ul>
<p><b>Vocabulary</b></p> <p><b>Continent</b> Large area of continuous land that contains countries</p> <p><b>Ocean</b> Large expanse of sea</p> <p><b>Country</b> Nation with its own government</p> <p><b>Equator</b> Imaginary line that divides the northern and southern hemisphere</p> <p><b>Hemisphere</b> Half of the earth divided by the equator</p> <p><b>Tropic of Cancer</b> Is the northern line above the equator where weather is tropical (warm and wet)</p> <p><b>Tropic of Capricorn</b> Is the southern line below the equator where weather is tropical (warm and wet)</p> <p><b>Grid reference</b> Location on a map which is found using horizontal and vertical numbered lines</p> <p><b>Compass</b> Device that shows directions for navigation</p> <p><b>Compass Points</b> North, North East, East, South East, South, South West, West, North West</p> <p><b>Primary Source</b> Evidence of things happening from the time e.g. an original document</p> <p><b>Secondary Source</b> Provides information that is not from the original event e.g. a text book or Web page</p> <p><b>Magnets</b> A material that attracts some metals that are magnetic</p> <p><b>Magnetic Pole</b> Opposite sides on a magnet that attract and repel</p> <p><b>Force</b> An action that pushes or pulls something</p> <p><b>Repel</b> To push away</p> <p><b>Attract</b> To pull towards</p>	

For you to have a better understanding of what the children have learnt, we have attached last terms knowledge organisers to this Parentmail. This means you will be able to see the key facts that the children will have learnt and be able to, if you wish, discuss these things with your children. In the future, we will send the previous terms knowledge organiser home with the year group curriculum newsletter.

If you want to learn a little more about the memory and why we are adopting the strategies we are to support the children's learning, please watch the child friendly videos below:

<https://youtu.be/rf8FX2sI3gU>  
<https://youtu.be/TUoJcONPajQ>

# SMARTPHONE FREE CHILDHOOD

## Malmesbury Smartphone-Free-Childhood

Would you like to join a WhatsApp group with other carers who want to create a realistic choice for NOT giving their child a smartphone? If so, please text 07786 961249 to be added to the group!

This newly formed group will do this by:

1. Allowing carers to see that other families may share concerns or worries about mobile technology;
2. Reassuring carers their child won't be the 'odd one out' at secondary school and reduce peer pressure;
3. Share useful info e.g. alternative phones and communication technology, new studies /info re impact of smartphones on children's mental health.

There might also be discussions about other initiatives people want to take to share the message. e.g. school or community group based initiatives.

Please note: This is NOT a "no-phones / no-screens" initiative - it's about sensible approaches to Smart phones and other technologies to safeguard children's health and wellbeing in the digital world (web access, social media, and online forums/communications).

## Fencing

Last Sunday, on the 21st of April, Jack, Aiden, Milly and Robyn attended the Pinewood Fencing Competition.

They fought bravely, and Millie succeeded in arriving third place! It was her first competition; fifth place for Jack, and seven points scored for Robyn: it was her first time as well!



Whatley Manor invited our Eco Committee and gardeners to spend World Earth Day with them. We met their gardening team who took us on a tour of their beautiful gardens. We saw some of their nature friendly projects—bird houses, so many trees, pollinator friendly planting and bee hives. We used seed bombs to help start a new wild flower meadow and made our own to take home.

## World Earth Day



# Early Years

We have had some new arrivals! The caterpillars have joined us in our classrooms.... They have grown in size already! We are excited to watch how they grow and transform over the next few weeks. This enables us to develop knowledge and understanding of the world and obtain exciting new vocabulary! We have named them and been writing them notes! We will also be looking at a range of fiction and non-fiction books relating to the growth of them.

We have set up a garden and florist role play for the children to apply their existing and new knowledge of all things Spring and growth. The children are enjoying these areas.

In maths we have been working on teen numbers and understanding that these numbers are made up of a ten and ones. We are continuing to count forwards and backwards with these numbers.

We are continuing with our Little Wandle phonics programme. The children will learn new words with the sounds they already know and will learn new tricky words. Thank you for all the support with reading these books at home.

Over the coming weeks, we will be looking at other life cycles, as well as putting our own growing skills to the test!



# MILEPOST 1

## Year 1

### Castles!

Year One commenced the Summer Term with a very exciting trip to Berkeley Castle. The children had the most amazing day and the behaviour of our children throughout was exemplary!

The day began with a fascinating tour of the castle, both inside and out. The children took part in a stained-glass window workshop and enjoyed a trail which took them all around the spectacular grounds of the castle and into the beautiful gardens.

The teachers and parent volunteers were particularly proud of our children for their inquisitive minds and superb answers in response to the tour guides questions. A huge thanks to our parent volunteers who accompanied us on the trip with their great enthusiasm and energy!

The children have been working hard writing reports and investigating how plants grow. We have carried out an investigation to see what they need, and if they can grow without them! In DT we have designed our kites and are looking forward to making them next week.

All in all, a brilliant start to term.



## Year 2



### Creepy Crawly Visitors

The term started with a few more members. The arrival of our creepy crawly friends meant that we had to be a little bit quieter in our classrooms. They have settled in well and are growing very quickly.

Science started off with an experiment to see what plants need to survive. We have a control plant with all conditions, a plant in the fridge, a plant in a dark cupboard, a plant without soil and finally, a plant without water, all to see the effects on growth.

In art, we have started exploring the artist William Morris and the children loved going for a nature walk to spot things they would like to sketch!



# MILEPOST 2

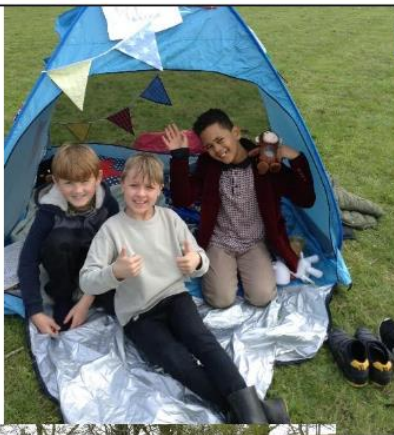
# Homes and Habitats



**Year 3** started the term with an introduction to our new topic of Homes and Habitats with a day of camp building on the school field.

'Mrs Callus and the tent judges came to us and said they liked Seb's homemade bunting and Lucas' music. Martin thought we were going to win the tent contest... I wasn't sure though.'

(Chloe Renshaw)



Year 4 started the term with their residential trip to Grittleton House and had a fantastic time over the three days. They took part in a mixture of activities that included climbing, problem solving, archery, body zorbing and even a water fight!

'My favourite part about the trip was all the different activities but Jabob's Ladder was fun because I climbed really high in the air.'

(Grace Cook)

'The best part was playing football in the body zorbs. I scored a couple of goals and saved some more. I also won the sumo contest by knocking everyone over.'

(Zach Renshaw)







# MILEPOST 3



All the children have made a great start to the term with their new learning. For this term and the next, the children in Years 5 and 6 will be studying separate topics. The children in Year 6 have been improving their scientific knowledge in starting to learn about evolution in their topic entitled 'Out of Africa' whilst the children in Year 5 have also been improving their scientific knowledge in investigating the different properties of light as part of their topic entitled 'Spotlight on Design'.

In both year groups, the children have been using Modroc to create pieces of artwork to show the human form in movement. Going through the process was a little messy but the children were able to produce some fabulous final pieces. Additionally at the beginning of this term, the children in Year 6 together with the children in Year 3 were able to enjoy a musical experience provided through the Wiltshire Music Service. During the workshop, the children were introduced to various types of drums and the different rhythms that can be produced from different drumming instruments. The children all enjoyed the experience and it was great to see many of the children moving their bodies along to the music.

As the term moves on, we are looking forward to the children enjoying more exciting learning opportunities and hopefully playtimes on the field when the weather improves - fingers crossed!

***Mrs Hampton.***





## **Dates for the Diary**

**(Please note these may be subject to change)**

Weds 8<sup>th</sup> May - Class Photographs  
Fri 10<sup>th</sup> May - Class Photographs Reserve Date  
Fri 10<sup>th</sup> May - Year 4 Sharing Assembly  
**Mon 13<sup>th</sup> - Fri 17<sup>th</sup> May - Year 6 SATS**  
Tues 14<sup>th</sup> May - Year 1 Class Sharing Assembly  
Thurs 16<sup>th</sup> May - Tennis Festival  
Mon 13<sup>th</sup> May to Fri 17<sup>th</sup> May - Year 6 SATS WEEK  
Fri 17<sup>th</sup> May - EYFS Cotswold Farm Park Trip  
Fri 17<sup>th</sup> May - FOMPS Quiz night 7pm till late  
Tues 21<sup>st</sup> May - EYFS Sharing Assembly  
Weds 22<sup>nd</sup> May - Year 5 Class Sharing Assembly

**Friday 24<sup>th</sup> May Last Day of Term**

**May Half Term**

**Saturday 25<sup>th</sup> May to Sunday 2<sup>nd</sup> June**

Weds 12<sup>th</sup> June - Year 2 SS Great Britain Trip  
Thurs 13<sup>th</sup> June - Year 3 SS Great Britain Trip  
Fri 14<sup>th</sup> June - Father's Day Gift Shop  
Tues 11<sup>th</sup> June - Sports Day (KS2 am / KS1 pm)  
Tues 18<sup>th</sup> June - Sports Day (alternative if wet) (KS2 am / KS1 pm)  
Fri 21<sup>st</sup> June to Mon 24<sup>th</sup> June - Year 6 Morfa Bay Trip  
Tues 2<sup>nd</sup> July & Weds 3<sup>rd</sup> July - Year 6 at Malmesbury Secondary School (move up days)  
Tues 2<sup>nd</sup> July - Year 5 Slimbridge Trip  
Weds 3<sup>rd</sup> July - Year 5 Life Path event  
Weds 10<sup>th</sup> July - Year 6 Production - Evening Performance to Parents  
Thurs 11<sup>th</sup> July - Year 6 Production - Evening Performance to Parents  
Fri 12<sup>th</sup> July - School Fete  
Mon 15<sup>th</sup> July - End of Year Reports  
Mon 15<sup>th</sup> July - Womad Rehearsal Week  
Thurs 18<sup>th</sup> July - Leavers Service Rehearsal  
Fri 19<sup>th</sup> July - Year 6 Leavers Service Malmesbury Abbey  
Fri 19<sup>th</sup> July - Year 6 Leavers BBQ

**Tues 23<sup>rd</sup> July - Last Day of Term**

**Weds 24<sup>th</sup> July - TD Day**

**Weds 24<sup>th</sup> July - Tues 3<sup>rd</sup> Sept - Summer Holidays**

**Wednesday 4<sup>th</sup> September First Day of Term**







**LOOKING FOR  
A JOB IN A SCHOOL?**

**Teaching Assistant**  
**Playground | Midday Supervisor**  
**Examinations Invigilator**  
**Cover Support Role**  
**Behaviour Support Role**  
**Youth Worker**  
**Support Work**

**Fully Funded (FREE) – Qualified in ONLY 6 weeks – No Travel –  
Online based – Classes in school hours**

Accredited Qualifications:

- NCFE | CACHE Level 2 Certificate in Understanding Challenging Behaviours
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**Contact Adam: 07534 175 965**  
[adam.shearer@aspireeducationacademy.co.uk](mailto:adam.shearer@aspireeducationacademy.co.uk)




**1 DAY  
FOOTBALL  
CAMP -  
MALMESBURY  
FRIDAY 31ST  
MAY**

**£20 FOR  
THE  
DAY**

Fun filled day of football activities. Perfect for children who love football and want to learn some new skills.

**8:30am-  
9am drop  
off**

**3pm pick  
up**

Location: Malmesbury Youth Football Club  
 Red Bull Pitches Bristol Road, Malmesbury, SN16 0RA



**SCAN HERE**

 **hs\_sports19**  
 **HS Sports camp**





# U6 PLAYERS

JOIN THE FOOTBALL TEAM

Child must be under 6 years of age, as at 1st September 2024

**WhatsApp Neville Qliddon  
07748158711**

**TRAINING EVERY MONDAY**

**17:00 - 18:00**

Day/time will change in August

**Dave & Marion Pictor Playing Fields**




<https://malmesburyyouthfc.co.uk/>