



Dear Parents/Carers

It has been another couple of busy weeks at Mary Dean's. We regularly celebrate our sporting successes but in this newsletter, we can also celebrate the Arts.

Art Day

As part of World Art Day, the children took inspiration from three leading artists and created wonderful art work which is now being displayed throughout the school. Years 1 and 2 created a beautiful sunflower collage, inspired by Vincent Van Gogh. Years 3 and 4 created some wonderful watercolour and coloured pencil Egyptian scenes, inspired by the 'Pop Art' of Andy Warhol. Years 5 and 6 took inspiration from Henri Rousseau and created vibrant, pastel images of tropical jungles and the animals that live within them. The children then shared their art in Assembly and were able to talk about their creations with pride and confidence. Thank you to everyone who supported the children with this and special thanks to Mrs Dove, our Art lead.



The School of Rock

Children in Years 3 and 4 last week arrived at school dressed as rockstars. Learning times tables is a main focus in maths for these year groups as the Year 4s have to complete a statutory times tables check in June. They all had a 'rockin' good day' and gained incentive to keep practising this vital area of the curriculum.



SATs

Just a reminder that the Year 6 children will be sitting their statutory tests next week. Mrs Butchers has sent home details of this, along with planned events for this year group, and Year 5, for the remainder of the term. We wish our Year 6 cohort the best of luck. They deserve to do well and have been a credit to the school, in so many ways. If they would like breakfast next week, then please send them in early for a slice of toast and chat with friends to help them settle and prepare for each day. Good luck, Year 6!

Save the Date:

Coffee afternoon on Thursday 23rd May, 1:15-2:30pm for our parents of children with Special Educational Needs, hosted by Mrs Higginson and a member of the PIAS team.



Sporting Achievement

Gymnastics Festival

A group of Year 5 and 6 children, who attend Mrs Baker's gymnastics after school club, had a lovely time at the Gymnastic festival at Coombe Dean. The children learnt new skills on the bars, beam, ropes, box, springboard and floor. As always, the children were excellent ambassadors for our school. They all had smiles on their faces and showed positive, can-do attitudes on all apparatus. Thank you, girls for representing Mary Dean's so well and thank you to Mrs Baker and Mr Peters for training and transporting children to the event.



Welsh Choir

Children from Years 3 and 4 went to the Theatre Royal in Plymouth to see a performance by the Welsh National Opera Company. They had a super time, joining in and listening to excerpts from The Barber of Seville, Carmen, The magic Flute and Hansel and Gretel. They listened and were able to tell the difference between a soprano, mezzo soprano and a baritone who all sung in front of a full, live orchestra. Mrs Dove said, it was a brilliant afternoon and the children really enjoyed it and fully emersed themselves into the world of opera. Thank you to Mrs Dove for organising this event and to Mr Dove, Mrs Tremain and Mrs Dobson for accompanying the children.

Our Achievers last week.

Well done!



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Class Assemblies:

These dates will be shared with you as soon as possible.



Maths workshops for Parents/Carers

'BAG OF NUMBER'

Confusing those bar models with those Venn diagrams?

Fractions frustrating you?

Baffled with the 'bus-stop' method?

If you would like to:

*Brush up on your maths knowledge and confidence in the areas of Number, Calculations, Fractions, Measures, Geometry, Money & Statistics

*Learn 'current' modern-day Maths terminology and vocabulary

*Explore the 'tools' and resources that children use in maths lessons

*Explore the range of calculation methods your children are using in school

*Learn real-life maths links and applications

*... and of course, how you can support your child at home?.....Please read-on...

Joining up with '**On Course South-West**', Mary Dean's would like to offer Parent / Carer workshops covering all aspects of your child's maths journey through primary school. As part of the Government's 'Multiply' project, we can offer weekly **FREE** sessions, entitled 'Bag of Number', led by Noel Mitchell, an experienced Primary school teacher, working for 'On Course South-West'.

There will be four of these 2 hourly **FREE** sessions. We have provisionally booked these sessions to take place in the Summer Term - Mornings - 8:45-11:00am from Wednesday 5th June - Wed 26th June.

Those who attend will receive a bag of maths goodies to support your children on their maths journey through school and lots of information to build your confidence to support your children with maths at home.

If you would be interested in taking part in these sessions, please let the school office know.

Thank you. Noel Mitchell

May Carnival

Please support your PTFA
and visit the teddy and bottle tombola
stall at the May carnival.

Save the date:

*Strawberry fair in the church hall on
22nd June

Thank you for your continued support.

Donna Wilson
Head Teacher

