Dear Parents

It has been a lovely week in school. There has been fun, laughter, noise and lots of mess! There are some fabulous pieces of artwork that have been created. We will find a time to invite you in to enjoy the artwork with the children.

During assembly this week we considered some of the words that are disappearing from children's vocabulary. We have looked at the words 'bramble' and 'briar'. Please ask your children if they can explain what these words mean. I will be impressed if the children start using these words in conversation with you.

Celebrate Learning

EYFS

EYFS have had a fantastic Art's Week. We began the week by walking on the heath and observing signs of spring. We brought back with us lots of natural items and used these to make transient art and nature book marks. We also created 'Hapa Zome' wall hangings using spring flowers. Hapa Zome is the Japanese art of beating up leaves with hammers, pounding natural pigment into cloth. The name means 'leaf dye'. It was developed and named by India Flint who is a colour artist, although she suggests that people have probably been pounding colours into cloth for centuries.
YEAR 1

The fox has been the inspiration for our artwork this week. We used descriptive words to describe a fox and populated an outline of a fox with our chosen words. We then expanded our use of vocabulary and created a class poem.

Enter the woods with care, my love,
For in it you may find a fox:
Quiet, slow, sneaking, fluffy,
Still, soft, clowy, playful.
Leave the woods with care my love,
For in it you may find a fox.

We used the vocabulary we gathered to inspire our artwork. Our observational drawings were improved by looking for shapes in the original image and continually referring to it. We also learned to make improvements by adding detail such as shading and textures. Our final piece is a collaboration across the whole year group. It combines the various skills and media that we have explored throughout Arts Week: our observational pencil drawings of the fox’s eye, our mark making using tools that we made out of natural materials gathered from the school grounds and wax resist patterns.

We are proud of the children’s achievements this week and have observed their resilience and determination grow across the week.

YEAR 2

Year 2 has been focusing on plants in Arts Week.

The children have experimented with water colours creating shades and tints of blue and green. We sketched pictures of bluebells using water colours to paint them. Children enjoyed using the clay to create their own ivy leaf, carefully scoring the veins.

We were very fortunate to have the ranger from the heath come into our classrooms and teach us about reptiles that can be found there. This was followed with a fantastic nature walk on the heath where children were able to draw what they could see in the distance and up close.
The children enjoyed learning about the life cycle of a dandelion and observed photographs of dandelion seeds to complete accurate drawings. They were keen to improve their drawings by applying more detail. Children also looked for interesting objects in the forest area and used observation to draw these carefully. We were impressed with their attention to detail!

The children enjoyed learning new vocabulary about ferns. They were fascinated to watch how young ferns unfurl as they grow. Following on, we explored the artwork of Raewyn Harris. She was very inspiring and the children experimented with oil pastels to create their own piece of artwork about ferns.

YEAR 3

This week, during Arts Week, Year 3 have used the ‘Lost Words’ acrostic poems ‘Adder’ and ‘Newt’ to inspire our artwork. We enjoyed our heath walk learning about adders, smooth snakes, grass snakes, sand lizards, common lizards and slow worms.

We loved creating 3D adders out of clay and painting these with the distinctive zigzag that adders are known for. Year 3 also learnt about what to do if you see an adder out and about. We created posters to inform other people and illustrated these with watercolour adders.

We wrote our own ‘Newt’ poems and painted the lifecycle around these. We are now very skilled when using watercolours!

YEAR 4

This week in Year 4 we have been creating lots of lovely art pieces related to our theme of local birds. These include the Hobby, Woodlark, Tree Pipit, Dartford Warbler, Nightjar and Stonechat.

We have learned different techniques for using different mediums such as watercolour paint, sketching pencils and digital art.

We were also lucky enough to have a visit from Sarah who owns Pots and Paint in Ferndown. She ran a pottery painting session with the children, which involved them painting one of our local birds onto a tile. Sarah will take these away to fire them in her kiln and they will be returned to school for a display. We have had a great Arts Week in Year 4!
Strike Action

Parents will be aware that localised teacher strike action may take place on Thursday 2\textsuperscript{nd} March across England.

Please see a letter coming home today from the Trust which will provide further information.

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Y2 Titanic Assembly

Thank you to all those parents who attended the Y2 Titanic assemblies on Thursday 9\textsuperscript{th} February - both presentations were very well supported. The children looked fantastic in their costumes and thoroughly enjoyed getting into character for their performances!

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Water and drinks in school

Please be reminded that children are only permitted to drink water during lesson time.

As part of their lunch, children are allowed to bring squash, fruit juice, milk, milkshakes, smoothies or flavoured water. Fizzy drinks and all other energy drinks are not allowed.

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Perimeter Fencing Update

Work to replace the perimeter fencing is now coming to an end. Contractors should be finished by the middle of next week. The new fencing looks striking at the front of the school and is a great improvement.

We would like to thank parents for their continued support during this period of disruption.

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World Book Day is coming!

As advised in a ParentMail sent home earlier this month, we will be celebrating World Book Day on Thursday 2nd March and we are very much looking forward to having a day of fun and book related activities together. Reading is a crucial part of education and we want to enjoy a day which encourages all of the children to immerse themselves in books and learn to love reading.

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Author Visit
To begin the week, we will be enjoying a visit from author Angela McAllister who wrote a fantastic picture book called Leon and the Place Between, amongst others. She is joining us on Monday 27th February and will lead an assembly in which she will read to us and tell us all about her life as an author. Later in the day, she will join KS2 classes for writing workshops and will lead a story session for EYFS and KS1. If you would like to buy a copy of her book Leon and the Place Between, keep an eye on your ParentMail for details about how to purchase.

Book Fair

On World Book Day and the day after (Thursday 2nd and Friday 3rd March), Mary from Usborne books will be setting up a book fair in school. Children will have an opportunity to come to the book fair during the school day with their teacher, to browse the selection of books. If there is a book they particularly like, we will write down the title on a 'wish list' form and the children will bring that home. You can then contact Mary to arrange purchasing the book and the book will arrive in school, a few days later. Please keep an eye out for a Parent Mail with further details about how to purchase.

Dressing Up

Children are welcome to come into school on World Book Day (Thursday 2nd March) dressed as a character from a favourite book. They are also welcome to bring in their favourite book to share with their class. There are lots of simple ideas on the internet which involve things you may already have at home. No football kits please.

World Book Day Token

Every child will receive a £1 book token which can be used in most book shops and retailers to buy this year's World Book Day £1 books or to receive £1 off any book. You can also use the token to receive £1 off any book at the Usborne book fair in school.

We can't wait to celebrate World Book Day!

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Yr 4 - Avon Tyrrell Residential Visit – Online Meeting

There will be an online parents meeting to discuss the final details of this trip and to answer any questions you may have on **Wednesday 29th March at 6pm**. A link will be sent out closer to the day.

Thank you to all those parents who have made their payments for their child's trip. Please refer to your last ParentMail letter regarding this to find out when your next payment is due.

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Car Park Safety
Parents are asked to ensure they drive carefully at all times when using the school car park as this becomes extremely busy during morning drop-off and collection at the end of the day.

Parents are also asked to ensure they keep their children with them at all times and use the designated footpath around the car park to ensure the safety of their children.

We have also had new car park lift barriers installed in the car park which will be used by staff to access the staff car parking spaces. If you are driving through our car park, please remember the 5mph speed restriction. Thank you.

**Double Yellow Lines**

Quite a few parents have spoken to me about their disappointment that the double yellow lines have not been installed along Mountbatten Drive. We have spoken with Dorset Council Highways Team who have said the yellow lines have been delayed due to heavy salting of the road. Once this has been washed away then work can commence, however, Dorset Council does not have a specific date but hopes to have this done as soon as possible. We will keep you posted.

**Breakfast Club Price Increase – Advance Notice Reminder**

The daily cost of our Breakfast Club has been £3 since September 2020.

A recent review of our income and expenditure showed we are currently running our Breakfast Club at a loss. It is important that income from the Breakfast Club covers the costs that the school incurs in running it.

We are therefore providing parents with plenty of notice that with effect from Tuesday 18th April, the daily cost of our Breakfast Club will increase to **£3.25**. This will support the increasing costs of running our Breakfast Club and bring the cost of our Breakfast Club in line with other schools, whilst still providing a value for money service.

Our Breakfast Club remains popular with parents and bookings will remain on a first come first served basis.

**Remaining Staff Training Days - Reminder**

Parents are reminded that **Monday 17th April** and **Monday 10th July** are the two remaining Staff Training Days for this academic year.

The next Newsletter is due to be published on Friday 10th March.
Yours sincerely

Mr S Watts
Acting Headteacher