

Elisie Christie's first event
is at 10.53am tomorrow



Friday 9th February 2018

Hare and Tortoise, Hare and Tortoise Countdown, Governors, Parking at the Shop, Cookery Club, New 3 Week Menu, SMART, Breakfast Club, Nature School, Missing School Uniform, 20 is Plenty and PTFA

Driver Needed – for the Hare and Tortoise Endeavour

Urgent request – we really need somebody to drive the support transit van for the following days. If you are able to help please contact school or Tim Mitchell on 07890 007340 as soon as possible.

You will be away for the nights of 4th, 6th, 7th and 8th March to take over driving duties on the day of the 4th March and then to drive the team back to Abbotskerswell on the 9th.

Your transport to the handover around Bristol on 4th March will be arranged.

Hare and Tortoise

If you would like to follow Tim and Lee live each day of their big ride, please let them have your email or pass it to the office. They will need this in advance of the big day so that they can set up the links. Each morning of their big endeavour, you will then receive a link to click which will give you access to real-time satellite tracking showing you exactly where they are. We will be running this feed on the screen in the hall for the duration that the school is open so if you want to pop in during Breakfast Club or after school to have a look, you are very welcome.

You should have received the letter about our planned trip to the velopark on the afternoon of their first day riding. Please can you return this as soon as possible so that we can make the necessary arrangements. Please note that on the letter, I wrote that the velopark was in Torquay. I meant to say Torbay. For those of you who don't know, it is opposite the water slides on the site of Clennon Valley Leisure Centre.

Advance notice: each day of their ride we will be starting our school day with a 'Daily Mile' from 9.10 to 9.30. This will be a jog / walk for a distance of one mile on laps round the school building. Your child will only need trainers for this as we don't intend to change into full PE kit. You are also very welcome to stay and join them.

I'm also hopeful to have a snazzy static bike in the school hall for the duration of Tim and Lee's ride that we intend to keep moving during the hours that the school is open. We will then be able to compare our school data to the Hare and Tortoise's.

At 3.15 each day of the endeavour, there will be a live video feed from Tim and Lee in the Kingfisher classroom which you are invited to attend.

Hare and Tortoise Count Down

17 days until Day 1

Governors

Many thanks to our school governors who attended Thursday evening's meeting to review school progress. We are very lucky to have a very enthusiastic and capable set of individuals who do a lot of work behind the school scenes for the benefit of your children. They put in a huge amount of time, effort



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and talent across a range of areas from safeguarding to curriculum subjects to health and safety to sites to finance to policies to website. All of which helps keep us moving in the right direction. If you would like to know any more about their work, just ask.

On Monday, Catherine Denning, Richard Whiffin and Gemma Nalder spent the morning in school looking at the progress our children are making in writing and looking at the learning environment across the school. It was a very positive visit with children noted to be fully engaged in their learning in each class which is the picture all our visitors to school agree on.

On Wednesday, our Safeguarding link governor, Louise Walker, spent a few hours in school interviewing staff and children to test their knowledge of how to stay safe. This also was a very positive visit I'm pleased to report.

Parking at the Shop

Further to my message on Facebook, please can I again appeal to parents who park on the shop car park at the end of the school day. Customers to the shop are increasingly frustrated that they can't find a space. The shop is very happy for you to park here for a short time when making a purchase but we ask you to please consider others by not over-staying for a long period of time.

Cookery Club

Cookery Club had its final bake this Monday. Many thanks to Mrs Simmons for organising and running this opportunity for the children and thanks to Mrs Moss for her help on the last day. Delicious cakes.

New 3 Week Menu

This is a reminder that the new 3-week menu is on the website in the 'Letters' section. It's an Excel document that can be filled in and emailed to meals@abbotskerswell-primary.devon.sch.uk. As there currently isn't a section for jacket potatoes, please can you let us know via this email if your child would like this option. Alternatively, you can collect a hard copy of the menu from the office.

SMART

Tuesday was National Internet Safety Day. We used this opportunity to have a focus on this area. Children have explored how to be kind on line and what to do if they are not happy with something. As always, our SMART acronym is used to remind children about how to stay safe. Ask your child about it. You can also find a short video about it on our website that was produced by a group of children this time last year. We also have our help guides for parents which can be found on the website or you can collect a copy from outside the office.

Breakfast Club

Please can you remind your children that when arriving at Breakfast Club, to make sure they ask for breakfast as soon as they arrive otherwise it becomes difficult if they ask late when it is being tidied away. We will also endeavour to make sure they are scooped up as soon as they arrive.



Nature School

Report from Mrs Fordham on our wonderful outdoor education:

This half term Swift and Robins have concentrated on the "Big School Birdwatch 2018" and results have been submitted to the RSPB for their record keeping with bird activity for the year. In conjunction with this, children have made lots of bird feeders for the bird tree which we can see through the viewing area from inside base camp. It's important as the ground freezes that wild birds have a supply of accessible food.

Some of the children have made clay animal models and had a fun nature scavenger hunt around the school field.

Next term we will be lighting our new small fire pit, weather dependant, and children will cooking some basic camp food. Please can children make sure they come dressed warm and hair must be tied back.

Please don't forget we need WOOD, a mixture of small kindling and 1 inch thick branches for the fire pit; without this sessions will not be able to go ahead. Thank you to Tony Fordham who has been saving and chopping his off cuts from work to help, but this supply is not constant. Please just drop any bits over the fence to Nature School area.

Thank you to Tracey Lear who has kindly given us lots of seeds and bulbs which we will be planting in the sensory garden and around school.

Apologies to the children who turned up for the solar panel assembly practice, unfortunately due to circumstances beyond our control this has been postponed to next term. Please, can the volunteers come to the library after school Thursday 22 February and Thursday 1 March, many thanks for your understanding.

Missing School Uniform

This is another appeal to please check your child's school uniform, including PE kit. We often have items of clothing going missing despite them being labelled. When they can't be found in the lost property, the most likely circumstance is that one child has inadvertently taken another's home. As you can imagine, this is frustrating to say the least if you are the one who has only recently bought new items. Please have a check at home. Many thanks.

20 is Plenty

Following my appeal on the school Facebook page, please can I request that you stick to 20 mph as a maximum speed when driving through the village, especially at drop off and pick up times when there at least 111 children walking around the area. Any accidents would just be the worst tragedy ever, so please take care. Thank you.

PTFA

Just another reminder that the posts of Chairperson, Vice-chair and Secretary will soon be coming vacant. Please can I encourage as many of you as possible to attend the AGM on Wednesday 21st February at



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7.30pm at the Court Farm when these posts will need to be filled. If you might be a little daunted by the prospect of taking on one of these roles, I know that the PTFA is looking to re-define them so that they become less of an encumbrance for a single individual. Therefore, it would be great if you could attend to hear more and give it some serious consideration. In the meantime, you could always chat with Clair Tucker for more detail.

Dates for your Diary

Date	Event
12-16.2.18	Half Term – winter olympics
Wednesday 21.2.18	7.30pm PTFA AGM at Court Farm
Monday 26.2.18	'Daily Mile' starts – trainers only – 9.10-9.30 – all welcome Day 1 H&T Endeavour (John O'Groats to Lairg) Trip to the Velopark in Torbay
Tuesday 27.2.18	Day 2 H&T Endeavour (Lairg to Aviemore) 'Daily Mile' – trainers only – 9.10-9.30 – all welcome 'Daily Video Link' – 3.15 in Kingfisher Class – pop in and have a look
Wednesday 28.2.18	Day 3 H&T Endeavour (Aviemore to Killin) 'Daily Mile' – trainers only – 9.10-9.30 – all welcome 'Daily Video Link' – 3.15 in Kingfisher Class – pop in and have a look
Thursday 1.3.18	Day 4 H&T Endeavour (Killin to Abington) World Book Day – dress up as a story character who shows endeavour 'Daily Mile' – trainers only – 9.10-9.30 – all welcome 'Daily Video Link' – 3.15 in Kingfisher Class – pop in and have a look
Friday 2.3.18	Day 5 H&T Endeavour (Abington to Penrith) 'Daily Mile' – trainers only – 9.10-9.30 – all welcome 'Daily Video Link' – 3.15 in Kingfisher Class – pop in and have a look
Saturday 3.3.18	Day 6 H&T Endeavour (Penrith to Whalley)
Sunday 4.3.18	Day 7 H&T Endeavour (Whalley to Nantwich)
Monday 5.3.18	Day 8 H&T Endeavour (Nantwich to Worcester) 'Daily Mile' – trainers only – 9.10-9.30 – all welcome 'Daily Video Link' – 3.15 in Kingfisher Class – pop in and have a look
Tuesday 6.3.18	Day 9 H&T Endeavour (Worcester to Bristol) 'Daily Mile' – trainers only – 9.10-9.30 – all welcome 'Daily Video Link' – 3.15 in Kingfisher Class – pop in and have a look Parents Evening
Wednesday 7.3.18	Day 10 H&T Endeavour (Bristol to Dulverton) 'Daily Mile' – trainers only – 9.10-9.30 – all welcome 'Daily Video Link' – 3.15 in Kingfisher Class – pop in and have a look Parents Evening
Thursday 8.3.18	Day 11 H&T Endeavour (Dulverton to Bodmin) 'Daily Mile' – trainers only – 9.10-9.30 – all welcome 'Daily Video Link' – 3.15 in Kingfisher Class – pop in and have a look Parents Evening
Friday 9.3.18	Day 12 H&T Endeavour (Bodmin to Land's End finish) 'Daily Mile' – trainers only – 9.10-9.30 – all welcome 'Daily Video Link' – 3.15 in Kingfisher Class – pop in and have a look
Wednesday 14.3.18	The Endeavour Event Fair (replacing the Science Fair)
Wednesday 21.3.18	Hagbane's Doom – show to parents 6.30-8.00
Thursday 22.3.18	Hagbane's Doom – show to parents 6.30-8.00
Wednesday 28.3.18	PTFA Easter Raffle
Thursday 29.3.18	Last day of term - Special reward day





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