



Pupil of the week:	Jack Coly Class	Zanna Otter Class	Shanjay Yarty Class	Amelia Axe Class
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Dear Parents

I have been pleased to see that all the classes have settled into a good working atmosphere this week – it is very important to get things settled as soon as possible and make a swift start to the year. The teachers have been setting up their class routines, discussing classroom rules and responsibilities and class sanctions for deviation from the rules! These discussions are valuable for every class to establish a clear routine and ensure that there is a good climate for learning in the class.

Teachers will also send home their own class newsletters with information that is pertinent to that class – homework routines, class rules, what to bring to school etc.

HOMEWORK

Each class will be given age-appropriate homework to do – usually on a Friday. After discussion with parents and staff last year we decided that we would give the children a week to do homework to fit in around the various clubs, after-school activities and social events that many children have.

The homework that is given to the youngest children is often verbal or play based and becomes more formal and independent as they get older. Similarly, the level of challenge of homework for the younger children is not usually that high as we simply want them to get used to doing some bits outside of school, and to practise a bit more of what we have done in class. As the children move into the older classes there may be more homework and a greater level of challenge. The homework may well be more challenging for some children than others, but the class teacher will explain how much time to spend on it.

In addition to set homework, we do have an expectation that children read at home on a daily basis. Becoming a confident reader is fundamental to access all areas of learning. Every child, from Reception to Year 6 should be reading at home, they also have books (reading diaries or reading logs) to fill in to record what they are reading and how much. Again the length of time spent reading will depend on the age of the child, by Years 5 and 6 this should be a good half hour for children to really get the most out of the more involved texts.

BOOK FAIR

I will be continuing to promote reading across the school and have been approached by 'The Book People' who offer discounted books, to ask whether we would like a book fair, similar to the Scholastic Book Fair that we had last year. There have been comments that parents may have felt pressured to buy because the books were out in the playground at home-time. Unfortunately, we do not have a spare room to house the Book Fair more out of the way, but I could set it up around the corner, in the 'Football Area' if people would prefer so that you don't have to walk the gauntlet with children nagging if that would help.

I would welcome parents' views on whether they would like another book fair (which will definitely have different merchandise than the last one) and if so, what time of year would be good?

NHS FLU VACCINATION NASAL SPRAY

Every child from Reception to Year 4 will be offered a free flu vaccination, delivered via a nasal spray. Information, including consent forms have been sent to all eligible children – please look in your child's bag or ask them where their letter is, as it would be a shame to miss out on this valuable service. Don't forget, that if a child catches the flu they can then pass it on to a whole swathe of family members, including those with suppressed immune systems such the very young or elderly.

HARVEST ASSEMBLY

We will once again be putting on a short Harvest Assembly, where each class will perform a 'piece'. We would like to welcome parents to this - it will be held on Thursday 28th September, at 9.30am in 'The Beacon' Baptist Church. The church have kindly offered to provide teas and coffees after the children have finished and parents are welcome to stay and chat. We will again be supporting the Axminster Food Bank – several people have told me that they are desperate for supplies, the list of items that they keep in stock is as follows:

Shopping List:

Canned fruit
Canned vegetables
Canned meat
Canned meals
Rice pudding
Custard
Jelly
Pulses
Powdered milk
UHT milk

Soup
Beans
Pasta
Rice
Tea/coffee/squash
Salt/pepper/gravy

Emergency List:

Deodorant
Toilet paper
Washing powder
Washing up liquid
Soap
Shower gel
Shampoo
Nappies
Toothbrushes
Toothpaste

CLUBS

Clubs will start next week, Monday 18th September. Mrs McKenzie is collating the lists and, for clubs with a limit on spaces, will let you know if your child HAS NOT got in to a club. If you do not hear anything, this will mean that they DO have a place. For those clubs that are oversubscribed, priority will be given to those who may have missed out before, then any remaining places will be 'drawn from a hat'. Any child who misses out on a place this time will get first refusal if the club is put on next term. Please check the finish times of clubs – they are not all the same! Please also note that the last date for clubs this term will be Friday 1st December.

HANDBELLS

Is anyone interested in learning to play the handbells. A volunteer has offered to teach a small group to play these charming instruments – please let me know if your child is interested.

Lee White
Head of School

MACMILLAN COFFEE MORNING – Message from Charlotte in Coly Class



I am arranging a coffee morning on the 29th September from 2.45pm to 4.00pm in the Village Hall. It will be raising money for 'Macmillan' a cancer research charity. I saw an advert for this charity on the television and I wanted to hold a coffee morning to help the charity.

Be part of the biggest coffee morning in the country – We would appreciate it if you bake a cake or make a few biscuits, or even just come along to the village hall for the fun.

School Diary Dates

Our forthcoming events and diary dates are on our website listed in the *School Diary* section.
Should your child be participating in a particular event or visit, then more specific details from your parent letter can be viewed online by clicking on the relevant event, this will then display the letter content.

SEPTEMBER	
w/c Mon 18 th	New Reception pupils 12.00pm-3.30pm (at school for lunch) After school clubs start
Tues 19 th	Axe Valley Academy Parent Roadshow at Kilmington – after school
Wed 20 th	Coly class Swimming Lessons
Wed 20 th	Axe Valley Academy Open Day & Evening
Mon 25th	NON-PUPIL DAY – STAFF TRAINING DAY
Tues 26 th	New Reception pupils 9.00am-3.30pm – Normal school day
Tues 26 th	Individual School Photographs
Wed 27 th	Coly class Swimming Lessons
Thurs 28 th	Harvest Festival 9.30am – The Beacon Baptist Church
Thurs 28 th	PTFA AGM – Coly Class at 6.00pm
Fri 29 th	'Macmillan' Coffee Morning event – 2.45pm – 4.00pm (Village Hall)
OCTOBER	
Wed 4 th	Coly class Swimming Lessons
Mon 9 th	Reception – Parents' Evening (by appointment)
Tues 10 th	Reception – Parents' Evening (by appointment)
Wed 11 th	Coly class Swimming Lessons
Mon 16 th	Year 1, Yarty & Otter classes – Parents' Evening (by appointment)
Tues 17 th	Year 1, Yarty, Otter & Coly classes – Parents' Evening (by appointment)
Wed 18 th	Coly class Swimming Lessons
Wed 18 th	Otter & Coly classes – Parents' Evening (by appointment)
HALF TERM – 23rd – 27th OCTOBER	

HARVEST LUNCH

The annual Harvest Festival Service will be held in St Giles' Church at 11.00 am on Sunday, 24th September which is a good opportunity to give thanks and celebrate. The church, as usual, will be appropriately decorated, and produce which could include tinned food and wine would be welcomed. The service will be followed at 12.15 pm by a Harvest Lunch in the Village Hall.

A complimentary drink will be provided and cottage pie, apple pie, harvest loaf and cheese will be on the menu. BYO drinks and tickets at £6, children under 16 free, will be available from Hurfords Stores. A raffle of produce will be held afterwards, all profit to be donated to charity. Judging of the giant Russian sunflowers sown at the Rogation Service at Millers Farm Shop will take place, with prizes for children and adults.

Please do join in this Village celebration!