

The Redstart Primary School



Friday 24th May 2024

A message from Mrs Collins

As we draw another term to a close, I am amazed how close we are to the end of the year. Of course, when I spend time with the children, it's obvious to see how much they've grown in the past year and how ready some of them are for their next stage. I want to say a word of congratulations for the Year 6 children who took their SATs last week, along with every other Year 6 child in the country. They all showed such calmness and confidence in themselves and should be extremely proud of their efforts. It was clear to see how well prepared they were for the tests. We won't get the results until the end of term so Year 6 will now turn their focus to end of term activities, such as the play, bowling and art projects.

Whilst the weather is not currently playing ball, we have started to see some sunny days, so I wanted to share some information on keeping your children safe in the sunshine. We have also spoken to the children about this; whilst outside in the sun, it is important to wear a hat, apply sunscreen regularly and drink plenty of water. Whilst the sun is at its highest, it is best to keep in the shade as much as possible.

The NHS has more information on this link: [Sunscreens and sun safety - NHS \(www.nhs.uk\)](https://www.nhs.uk)

Today we have been extremely fortunate to hold a day dedicated to science and technology and hosted some visitors from Numatic who have been supporting two of our classes with their day of design and building. The day's projects have ranged from free standing structures, programming robots, building character houses, racing cars and designing marble mazes. The Numatic visitors worked with Year 3 children designing paper planes and demonstrating how to rebuild a Henry vacuum - one child was heard to say it was "the best day ever!"

We have also hosted a visit this week from a representative with the cyber team at Avon and Somerset police for our Year 5 and Year 6 children to talk about the importance of online safety. This is such an important topic for our children to learn about in this modern age of instant communication. Please spend some time talking to your children about online safety and find out what they have learned.

We know there are times it is really important to talk to school about a variety of subjects. I want to take this opportunity to share with you the best way to do this. If you have questions about your child's learning or something that is directly related to the classroom, it is best to talk directly to their teacher. Please either catch them at the end of the day or send an email to info@rps.clf.uk and ask for your question to be directed to the appropriate teacher. Please do not speak to teachers at length at the start of the day; often they are the only member of staff in the classroom so if they are talking to you at the door, there will be 30 children with no supervision inside. Questions that are not directly about the classroom, can often be answered by the office team, either by email or by visiting them at the front of the school.

Have a restful and safe half term holiday. School will reopen on Monday 3rd June.

Value: Purpose

Quote: "The moral purpose of every human life should be to attain happiness through service to humanity" Debasish Mridha (American philosopher)

The Photo of the Week



Cabot
Learning
Federation

Dates for your Diary

- 4th June KS2 Sports Day
- 5th June-KS1 Sports day
- 12th June- YR3 Escot Trip
- 14th June-Charles Sugden Workshop
- 14th June-Non School uniform
- 19th June-YR 2 Lyme Regis Trip
- 21st June-YR Pecorama Trip
- 22nd June FoRS Summer Fayre
- 8th & 9th July Yr6 Transition days
- 17th & 18th July YR6 Play 6pm
- 22nd July Year 6 Bowling
- 23rd July YR6 Assembly 9.15am
- 23rd July YR6 BBQ 5-7pm
- 23rd July Last day of term
- 24th July -Inset day

Redstart Primary School, Redstart Road, Chard,
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01460 67457

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www.theredstartprimaryschool.co.uk

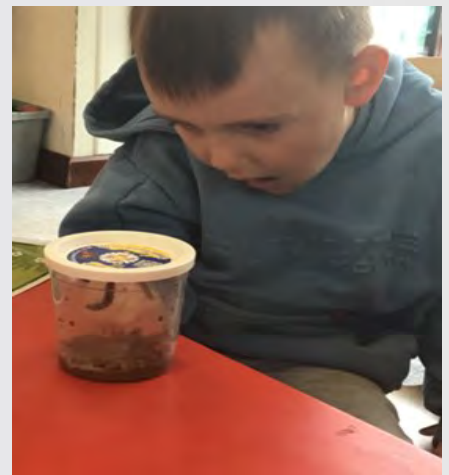
Nursery

In the Nursery we have been learning about the life cycle of a caterpillar and have enjoyed talking in small groups and reflecting together. We have taken care of our caterpillars and hope to return after half term to see them merged into butterflies. We continue to link in core books to our interest. "Jack and the Beanstalk", "Jasper's Bean" and "The Hungry Caterpillar".

We have all had the opportunity to plant peas and beans and much more in the nursery garden. The nursery children have taken their pea seedlings home to watch them grow and to share their knowledge with their families.

The older children have enjoyed talking about moving on to reception and are showing more independence within the environment. They enjoyed the set phonic sessions and have really responded with such enthusiasm, sharing what they know and writing the letter sounds at home and school.

We have now made further changes in our large garden so the children can climb at different heights and explore further in the mud kitchen. We will continue to add open-ended resources to support their interests.



Reception

We have certainly had an exciting end of term! Everyone looked amazing for the Wacky Races and thank you for all of the money the children have raised. The children have also been preparing all week for the school STEM day on Friday. We made puppets and used props from around the classroom to create a shadow theatre. The children have loved using our story mountain structure to tell stories to their friends. They have learnt how to make a shadow and enjoyed experimenting with the torches to find out how to make the sharpest shadow.

We were also treated to a very special visit of lambs! The children thoroughly enjoyed feeding and stroking 3 very cute lambs. Many thanks to Ellis and Mason's mum! If anyone would like to share their job or special interest with the children, please let us know. We are always happy to welcome in visitors.

Our focus story has been The Seven Chinese sisters, a folk tale from China. We have listened to other tales from China and looked on a map to see how far away it is from England. We talked about how children in China grow up with these stories just like we grow up with stories like The Three Little Pigs and Goldilocks. In Maths, we have been identifying and rotating shapes to make shape pictures and we have just started division by sharing out treasure and spots on ladybirds. The children have been very careful to make sure they share it out fairly!

We have also been practising the different events for sports day. Why not set up a goal, do some relay races at home or practise some distance throwing over the half term? We hope you have a sunny half term!



Year 1

This half term has flown by! We have had a lovely few weeks in school with thoughtful discussions about our butterflies and a really successful writing unit about sunflowers! We read the story 'Be My Sunflower' and linked this to our science topic on growing and our artwork about Vincent Van Gogh. Ask your children about these areas of our learning and you will be impressed with their answers!

Both classes have followed the life cycle of butterflies; watching and waiting for our caterpillars to transform into butterflies. This week we released our butterflies outside and watched them fly away.

All the children planted their sunflower seeds and they whispered words of encouragement to help their seeds grow – this was really magic! We have been really impressed with their knowledge and skills with our science topic on growing.

We are really impressed with the effort the children are putting into their writing. We were wowed by their sunflower writing; including speech bubbles, diary writing and making our sentences longer. We are all working really hard on our handwriting and getting ready to be Year Two writers! It is important that children hold their pencil accurately and use their spare hand to hold their paper or support their finger spaces.

IMPORTANT – The Phonics Screening Check is the week of 10th June. All children in Year One in all schools in the country will access this check. Your child will come home with some practise sheets of words, as well as the revision booklet that was sent home at Easter. Please take some time to support your child to read the single words; they are very familiar with this and read similar words daily in school, so there is no need to worry. They will impress you with their skills! We encourage the children to use their pointing finger and to check for special friends (digraphs), before sounding out the word (Fred talk) and then read the word after blending. Thank you for your support.



Year 2

Who can believe we have come to the end of another term? We are so impressed with how hard everyone has worked and how so many of the children work hard in school and at home. This term we are learning all about plants in science. We started off by sketching different seeds and bulbs and identifying similarities and differences. The children have planted a broad bean in a bag to observe the germination process. They have been very slow to germinate! We have also planted flower bulbs in the planters on the patio, they have begun to grow! Everybody enjoyed learning the names and function of a flower, especially pulling a flower apart to name each part. In our geography lessons learning has been focused on the UK and Australia. Throughout our lessons we spent time learning about the 7 continents and also looking at the differences between these countries such as their location in the world, their weather and cultures. Recently, we have also been linking our geography with some art, learning about aboriginal art and creating some pieces using various methods such as lentil art and pointillism.

During our writing lessons at the beginning of the month we were doing Emily Brown and the Thing. We have been learning about the power of 3, conjunctions and using noun phrases to help us describe a setting and write a passage about the Thing losing something in a new setting and Emily Brown and Stanley needing to find it. In class, we are now doing Where the Wild Things Are. We have been sequencing the story in class and then we learnt how to summarise the pictures in order to tell the story in 5 sentences.

We hope you all have a lovely and restful half term holiday. When we return we have many exciting things planned, one of these being Sports Day. We will endeavor to use any moments of sunshine to enjoy PE outside so please can we request the children have their PE kits in school every day. Thank you for support,

The Year 2 Team



Year 3

In Literacy the children have been reading *The Boy Who Grew Dragons* and have been inventing their own dragons, using similes and adjectives in their writing to bring them alive for the reader. Just a reminder, there are several books in the series if your child has enjoyed listening to it at school.

In Maths, we have started a unit on measure, concentrating on length. There has been lots of practising using a ruler accurately to measure and draw lines. Some children still find this motor skill tricky and so any practice at home would be helpful. The children have also been learning how to convert millimetres to centimetres etc in order to calculate addition and subtraction problems using metres, centimetres and millimetres. After half term we will be moving on to weight and capacity. Our History topic, learning about the Viking invasions and their way of life has given lots of opportunities for making Viking boats and shields and our trip after half term will give children the opportunity to experience aspects of everyday life in Britain in the time before the Viking invasion. In RE we have been finding out about aspects of Islam, in particular the story of Muhammed and the Qur'an. In PE the children have been practising for Sports Day which is coming up soon after half term.

As no formal homework is set in Year 3 the expectation is that children read at least four times at home. We also appreciate your help to support your children to practise their times tables at home. There are apps available such as Hit The Button which are useful to encourage rapid recall. By the end of Year 3 they should be confident with their 3x, 4x and 8x. Year 2 expectations were 2x, 5x and 10x and they should be fluent in these.

It is important that they have their book in school every day for Reading sessions where they read individually, to an adult or in a small group. Children are independently able to change their own reading book when they are ready to, but we do encourage them to read it at home with an adult before doing so. At this age, fluency and expression are important, any time that you read aloud to and with your child will be a great help to them.



Year 4

It has been another busy half term in Year 4 at Redstart! How can it be the half term holiday already!?!

We have really enjoyed learning about the water cycle. We wrote superb explanation texts describing the journey of water around the cycle. We have just finished using this knowledge to write a fiction text about an imaginary journey of a water droplet in the water cycle. See if your child can remember what happened in their story. This work linked to our Science work where we have carried out lots of practical experiments. See if your child can explain what happens to puddles on the playground and the best conditions for drying clothes outside!

In Maths, we have been recently learning about time, perimeter and area. Please keep practicing times tables at home as they make such a difference to so many skills we learn this year.

Short multiplication, division and finding fractions of numbers are all skills that need times tables knowledge. During the first few weeks after half term, the children will be completing the Government's National Year 4 Times Table Test where they are given a short amount of time to answer mixed times table questions up to 12×12 . It is an on-screen check consisting of 25 times table questions. Your child will be able to answer 3 practice questions before taking the actual check. They will then have 6 seconds to answer each question. On average, the check should take no longer than 5 minutes to complete. We have been practicing these a lot in school but any additional help at home would also be greatly appreciated.

Wishing you all a fantastic half-term break. We look forward to hearing about all of your adventures on your return to school.



Year 5

This term, in Maths, we have been learning how to calculate fractions. Most children have mastered this now, so next term we will be moving on to cover Geometry. This learning will be supported by Maths homework which will also act as revision. It is still vital that you encourage your child to learn and practise times tables. Great web sites to help with maths are <https://corbettmaths.com/> and <https://myminimaths.co.uk/year-5-mini-maths/>

In Literacy, we have finished our unit on 'The Explorer'. The children created their own adventure story and have also created a non-fiction text based on their own creation of a new species that would live in the Amazon Rainforest. After the holiday, we will be looking at two lovely picture books to base our writing on. The first one, 'Tuesday' is a comical picture book which we will be analysing to create some diary writing. Then we will be looking at 'Journey' to inspire some narrative work. We have finished our topic on Brazil and the Amazon Rainforest and have enjoyed learning about its physical features, culture and environmental challenges. We will start learning about Ancient Egypt after the holiday.

We have thoroughly enjoyed our STEM day. The children created some super marble labyrinths.

Thank you for your support with encouraging your child to read 4 times a week and continue to work hard with their homework.

We hope you all have a lovely break.

Year 6

A massive well done to all of the Year 6 children for their mature and determined attitude during SATs week. They were all well-prepared and we are very proud of their achievements. Thank you to everyone, parents, carers and staff who supported them in doing their best.

We ended the week with a lovely outdoor day, combining Forest School and P.E. The children worked in teams to build stretchers out of logs and ropes to rescue someone in difficulty - at one point the teachers were carried across the field (we are very trusting of their knot tying!). In the afternoon, we practised our rounders, cricket and frisbee skills.

This week, the children have enjoyed turning their practice SATs papers into giant bugs. These will be making their way home once completed!

We have started our play rehearsals - this year's performance will be 'The Pirates of the Curry Bean'. Thank you to all of the children who were brave enough to audition for main parts - we were very impressed! We will send everyone home with their scripts so they can learn their lines over half-term.

Next term, our History topic will be Ancient Greece. We are looking forward to hearing all about the adventures of Odysseus and the powers of the Greek Gods, as well as studying Greek architecture and the Olympic Games.

Dates for your diary:

Pirates of the Curry Bean: 17th and 18th July 6pm

Leavers' Assembly: 23rd July 9.15am

Leavers' BBQ: 23rd July 5-7pm



Forest School

Forest School

What unpredictable weather we have been having! One day we are in T shirts and the next day the children cannot hear the teacher over the sound of rain hammering on to the roof of the Forest School shelter. Despite the weather, we have still been taking the children out for a variety of outdoor activities. Team work skills were put to the test in Year 6 with a whole year group stretcher challenge. Given two long pieces of wood and six shorter pieces could they build a stretcher which would be used to carry a 'casualty'. Of course every team was successful and not only rescued a member of the team but also rescues a member of staff. Younger children have been marvelling at how green the trees have become and how long the grass is. Children have been working very hard with Mr Robinson moving a huge pile of wood chip over to the meadow which we will now use to cover the muddy areas.



Safeguarding

Safeguarding is high priority at The Redstart Primary School. We take every opportunity to ensure that our pupil's safety is paramount. We want our pupils to be healthy and happy and to develop well, both physically and mentally. The school follows the latest Government Guidance to ensure we are fulfilling our duties in this important area.

Our Designated Safeguarding Lead (DSL) is Mrs Rebecca Collins and our Deputy Designated Safeguarding Leads are Mrs Joanne Margetts, Mrs Tara Duke .The DSL for Nursery is Mrs Caroline Miller. Our Safeguarding Trustee is Mrs Lorraine Davey.

We have recently updated our Safeguarding policy in light of the new Keeping Children Safe in Education 2021 guidance. You can find our policy on the website in the Safeguarding section.

www.theredstartprimaryschool.co.uk/449/safeguarding

If you have any concerns about the safety of a child you can either talk to our DSL or DDSLs or you may phone Somerset Direct on 0300 123 2224.

There is lots of online safety advice on our website – please follow this link to help keep your child safe.

Our main Child Protection and Safeguarding policy is available on our school website and can be accessed here. This gives information regarding the measures we have in place to safeguard every child at The Redstart Primary School.

All staff and volunteers are trained in how to recognise signs of abuse in children and the internal processes for the reporting of such concerns. Whilst all members of staff are on hand and willing to speak to children who may be upset or concerned, we also have child -friendly posters displayed around the school with photographs of the Designated Safeguarding Leads who the children may also ask to speak to.

Should any of our parents/carers have a concern about any child, you may also contact a member of the safeguarding team.

Alternatively, you may report your concern directly to Somerset Children's Social Care on 0300 123 2224.

Where parents and children become aware of abuse happening within a school setting, it is also possible to contact the NSPCC helplines:

Help for adults concerned about a child: 0808 800 5000.

Help for children and young people: 0800 1111

Attendance

School Attendance - information for parents/carers

As per our attendance policy, the school undertakes regular monitoring of attendance to ensure that, where required, help and support is offered at the earliest opportunity.

In order to ensure parent/carers are kept up to date with their child's attendance record, the school will send out letters at specific intervals, for example, where there have been frequent absences or where attendance has fallen below a certain percentage. This is regardless of whether absences are authorised or where the school has been kept fully updated with the reasons for absence.

We do appreciate that it can be frustrating to receive a letter when your child has suffered absences which could not be helped i.e. where there is a rule to stay at home for 48 hours. Where the school identifies concerns (unexplained, sporadic or lengthy absences or continued lateness) parents/carers will be invited in for a meeting to discuss what support the school can provide to improve attendance.

Descriptor	Attendance	Whole Days Absent	Lost Hours of Learning
Excellent	100% - 99%	0 - 2	0 - 10
Good	98% - 96%	4 - 7.5	20-37.5
Requires Improvement	95% - 91%	9.5 - 17	47.5 - 85
Persistent Absentee	90% - 86%	19 - 27	95 - 135
Critical	85% - 80%	28.5 - 38	142.5 - 190

We thank all our parents/carers for continuing to update the school office where your child has been unable to come into school.

If your child is unable to attend school due to a medical appointment, please ensure you provide us with evidence of their appointment. This could be a letter from a hospital or GP or even a screenshot of an appointment email or text.

Also, please do not inform the school that your child has an appointment or is sick if you are, in fact, going on holiday. At Redstart we teach the children the importance of integrity and this is undermined if you ask them to lie about where they have been. It is most likely that we will find out anyway since children like to talk about their lives outside of school. We would rather you were honest and we can code your child's absence correctly and know that they are safe.

REDSTART SUMMER FAYRE

✦ LIVE MUSIC BY 'WIBBLE' ✦

ENIGMA MORRIS DANCERS ✦ CHARD EVOLUTION MAJORETTES

✦ BBQ ✦ BAR ✦ INFLATABLES ✦ ICE CREAMS ✦
✦ PRIZES ✦ GAMES ✦ STALLS ✦ SPLASH ZONE ✦



SATURDAY 22ND JUNE
11.30AM - 2.30PM

THE REDSTART PRIMARY SCHOOL, CHARD, TA20 1SD

FREE
ENTRY

Food Parcel Support

If any of our families are in need of a food parcel, please contact the school office and ask to speak with our Early Intervention Lead, Mrs Margetts. The food parcel service is provided by the Community Hub in town. Referrals made are treated confidentially. It is a 'no questions asked' service. You do not need to explain your circumstances unless you wish to and there are no income thresholds to meet to qualify. Some families may require a little support for a short time or there may be reasons for longer lasting support.



Holiday Breakfast Scheme.



Holiday Breakfast Bags are back
for the half term Holiday.

Do you think it may help you and your
family to start the day with a good solid
breakfast?

We will give you a free, no questions
asked bag/s, to last a week, which will
contain everything that is needed,
regardless of your family size.

Just turn up at the St Mary's Centre on
Saturday 25th May between 8.00 and
10.00

Anyone from the family can come to pick
them up.

Stay and join us if you would like for
coffee and toast while you are here.



Local Events



THE HUB'S 2ND BIRTHDAY PARTY!



**COME AND JOIN US IN
CELEBRATING TWO YEARS OF
CHARD COMMUNITY HUB
FRIDAY 31ST MAY 2 - 5PM**

Free Event | Refreshments | Kid's Activities | Tour the Building
Live Music from 4pm | For more info: tgreynolds@holyrood.bep.ac

Kindness • Collaboration • Positivity



PRE-LOVED SCHOOL UNIFORM SALES



Chard Community Hub

**Saturday 13th July 10am-12pm
Friday 16th August 4-6pm**

Primary & secondary sizes | PE kit | Study guides | Raising funds
for CCH CIC & school PTFAs | Items from £1 | Pay what you can

For more info: tgreynolds@holyrood.bep.ac

**Youth Indoor Nets
New Start Date
Friday 15th March 2024
6-9pm**

Holyrood Sports Hall Chard

Girls and Boys Yrs 3-5	6-7pm
Girls Yrs 6+ and Ladies	7-8pm
Boys Yrs 6-9	8-9pm

£3 Per Session

**Contact Dan- Youthcricket@chardcricketclub.com
07846661220**

