

# PUDDLETOWN VC CE FIRST SCHOOL NEWSLETTER



April 2026

Photos showing:  
Year 4 block printing on to fabric inspired by William Morris.

Year 3 writing inspired by the book Cloud Tea monkeys

Our new fruit and vegetable garden

Year 1 art work inspired by James Ritz

New reception construction area



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REMINDERS

Welcome back to our Summer term. It is a term packed with events and preparing for the transitions ahead.

However first we need to look back and celebrate some events that happened at the end of last term. Our year 4s had an incredible time on their residential at Hooke Court. On my visits, It was wonderful to see them trying new things, becoming more independent, seeing friendships deepen and grow and having a lot of fun! Huge thanks to Miss Crankshaw, Mrs McCarthy and Mrs Barkle for their enormous efforts to ensure this runs smoothly and for looking after our children 24/7.

The school saw a range of characters join us for the school day during world book day. I read stories with princesses, pirates, dragons, wizards and creatures of all sorts. We all enjoyed looking different for the day and celebrating our love for reading. The whole school had extra reading activities and stories from mystery readers. Thank you to Mrs Murphy for organising and to you for all the inventive and brilliant costumes that made the day very special.

Comic relief was another fun filled day and with your colourful clothes we managed to raise £141 to support their good causes.

The whole school had the opportunity to take part in a tennis day. Miss Cutler arranged for a specialist coach to visit for the day and every class had the opportunity to experience some

**SUN PROTECTION**  
In the anticipation of warm and sunny weather please ensure your children have sun cream applied before school many now are longer lasting and will last the school day. If not pop some in to school to top up if necessary. Most importantly though **they need a hat!**



specialist tennis coaching. Year 3 also undertook a day of climbing and caving at WOEC and both of these events were part of our PE enhancement days.

We finished the term following the Christian Easter story. The talented members of 'open the book' worked with Rev Sarah to retell the parts of the Easter story. The whole school had an Easter reflection morning organised by Mrs Flux where house groups learnt more about the symbols and significance of Easter through craft activities and discussions. This preparation all culminated at our parish church for our Easter service. All the children sang beautifully and reception children held a song entirely by themselves which was impressive. We celebrated with music, art, poetry, global diversity and prayer what a superb way to end the term.

As a school we are constantly working on an improvement model. We are in the process of upgrading and updating our Reception outdoor provision and have recently built an epic, new and huge sandpit, enhanced our construction and water areas and brought in planters to grow flowers and food. James from 'seedlings' has been constructing our school garden and this is already full of growing plants. We still have more plans afoot to ensure we have the very best environment for our Puddletown children to flourish in.



Our PSHE program gives everyone a structured and sequenced programme of learning however we are always reflecting on what our children need to support them further and enhance our provision for well being and mental health.

We will shortly be introducing a programme to all year groups at school called my Happy mind. My Happy mind is all based around helping children to understand how their brain works and to support them in developing positive skills and habits to be their very best selves! This scheme has already been successfully trialed and embedded in one of our partner schools and comes highly recommend for the impact it has had on children's well being and for parental support. My Happy mind is delivered in schools by class teachers through a series of interactive lessons and then the children apply these learnings throughout the day. To further embed this learning, my Happy mind has developed a Parent App. These resources can be accessed online on your computer, or through an app on your phone. The Parent App will support you as a parent in understanding what your child is learning, activities for you to do together at home and also a Kids Zone featuring my Happy mind Games plus much more! We will be sending out more details on how to download the app in the next few weeks. We will also be consulting and sharing our PSHE curriculum, policy and practice with you in light of recent updates from the DFE. Separate letter to follow.

So many events are happening this term from trips, to sports day, transition work, new intake and of course our new key stage 2 play. Miss Crankshaw has just shared with the children that it will be 'Peter Pan' and there is already much excitement.

Do keep an eye on our school calendar for dates.

A big thankyou to our hardworking FOPs team and all of you who attended or contributed to The Bunny Bingo this week. It looked so pretty with Bunnies, eggs, rabbit ears and a giant inflatable rabbit! Mrs Dennet revealed her secret talent for bingo calling and Good fun was had by all with lots of prizes won.

Phew – already so much to share and we are only in week one!

Mrs Anna Seal

Head of school

#### **PARKING**

Our neighbours appreciate your thoughtful parking. Thank you