

Dear Parents/Carers

After a restful summer break we have completed a really busy first half term. During this time we have continued to improve our school environment, redeveloping the kitchen areas and equipping the soft play rooms with high quality equipment. Our Forest School areas are developing and we are aiming to have these facilities covered so that we can continue to use them throughout the winter.

Our year 10 and 11's are preparing for their first exam series in November where they will be completing Functional Skills in English, Maths and ICT. We are incredibly proud of them and all the work they are putting in each day with their learning.

I would like to say a huge thank you to all our KS3 and

KS4 families for continuing the advisory COVID testing twice per week. Students age 12-16 in our school will soon be invited by the school immunisation team to have their COVID vaccine. This will be delivered in school, in a controlled environment, with parental /guardianship consent only.

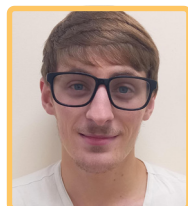
I hope you have a super half term break and look forward to seeing all the students returning on Monday 1 November.

**Pete Jenkins, Executive Principal**



## NEW STARTERS

This term we welcome new staff to the school.



Chris Braund  
LSA



Hayley Swann  
LSA



Marc Boddy  
Catering and Creative  
Arts Coordinator



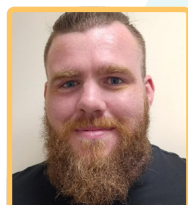
Mikki Hall  
LSA



Sarah Cooke  
LSA



Sharon Gouveia  
LSA



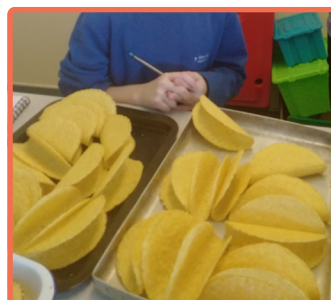
Shane Wakeham  
LSA



## REMINDER!

Please remember that the  
school day ends at 3:10pm.

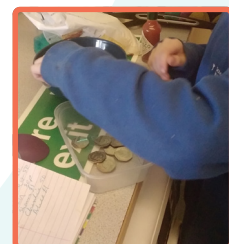
**Thank you!**



## TACOS FOR CHARITY

One of the students at Place House asked to make Tacos and sell them for a charity of his choice. He worked hard with Tessa all morning and sold them to students for 50p and staff for £1. They were so delicious and managed to raise £22 for CLIC Sargent.

**Well done!!**



**Please note: School mobile phone number 07806 768 241**  
**PLEASE TEXT** to notify the school of any absence/sickness of students,  
collection information etc. Availability to access it is in term time only.





### A MESSAGE FROM LEWIS HARBEN

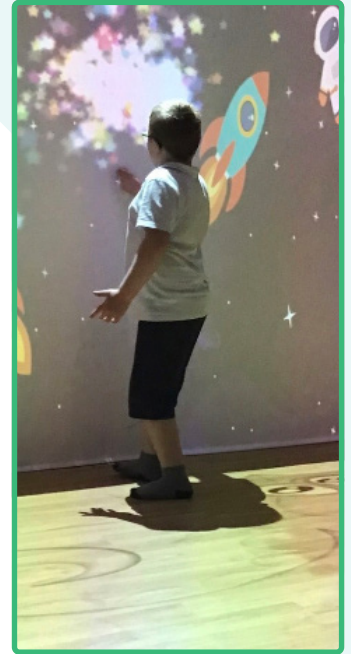


At College House we have been so busy in September and October that the Summer holidays seem a distant memory.

All students have made the most of our new Immersion Room and Soft Play equipment within the school building. Stepping outside,

Katie has been running weekly Forest School sessions with every class, with the students helping to develop the environment by building a log store and erecting a shelter. Students in Exe class have been enjoying the taster sessions on offer at Combe Pafford, engaging in Construction classes.

Amy has been helping in the community this term, spending time collecting and disposing of litter at the local park. We are really proud of her for such selfless work.



### DEER CLASS

What a great welcome back after the summer we've had in Deer Class!

This half-term we have been focusing on our Topic of "Mission Control", looking at and learning about Space, the International Space Station and building our own bottle rockets!

We have been lucky enough to engage with Forest School sessions led by Katie, starting our own fires and having wild hot chocolates.

We've loved having our new kitchen set up and Catering sessions led by Marc, and have been making some incredible food!

Swimming has continued this half-term and we've enjoyed being back in the water.

We have made the most of our new Immersion Room at College House, using it to meet sensory needs and being able to link this with our Topic lessons.

### TAMAR CLASS

Tamar have been focusing on "Unity in the Community" as our topic this half-term. We've spent time exploring and getting to know the people in our school community. We especially enjoyed litter picking at the local parks to help improve the environment! We've also had so much fun in the new Immersion Room and our Forest School sessions with Katie!

Well done Tamar - have a great break!







## PLYM CLASS

Our topic this term has been 'Space'. The students engaged in a variety of activities including making their own space cakes!

The students also enjoyed making their own slime and sharing different language knowledge on the texture and temperature.

The playing pictures are a therapeutic activity and an opportunity for conversations to be had, and story-telling skills to emerge through their imagination.

We took a trip down to Asda where the students did their own shopping, packed their items up, read the requirements from the self-service checkout, worked out how much they had and needed, and paid for their goods. This is an important life skill for our students to learn and develop confidence in their own independent abilities.



## AXE CLASS

Axe have started this term strongly and have settled into their new class superbly, engaging well with new staff. In English we have been concentrating on story writing and the use of adjectives while Maths has covered place value. The new Immersion Room has been a massive hit and the students have spent organised group sessions in there as well as individual (more peaceful) time. The new programme of Forest School education has been embraced by staff and students alike, as have the regular catering sessions with our new chef who is teaching food and kitchen safety and hygiene. Quesadilla has been the most successful food so far and we have eaten far too many over the last 5 weeks! Students have also been helping out the maintenance team and safely utilising basic tools which has been superb!





## EXE CLASS

Exe have settled in nicely this term with lots of exciting and playful activities packed into our timetable.

Our afternoons are now full of playful and experience-based activities. Each week, our students have been taking part in Forest School, Catering with our on-site chef, outdoor adventures games and physical development; with a swimming session once a week. We even have a slot for artistic and creative activities with some lovely clay planets being made by some students!

We are providing Exe students with the opportunity to learn new vocational skills with our weekly slot at Combe Pafford. This term they have been attending construction sessions. These allow our students to gain qualifications that could potentially increase their employment opportunities and promote independence and resilience too.

In terms of our academic study, this term we have focused on Space, looking at the Solar System and beyond and some case studies looking at the Space Race and Space Exploration in general. We have also incorporated this topic into our core subjects. We also now have a daily reading session and a whole class reading session in the afternoon.

We place great emphasis on PSHE and life skills, with our class focusing on body image, social media and eSafety.

This has been an exciting start to the term and I cannot wait to see what the rest of the year has to offer!



## FOREST SCHOOL

Forest School has been great this term. Each class has an afternoon slot where we always light a fire to cook some tasty treats, work on our 'wild skill' such as knife skills, fire-lighting and shelter-building. We always try and do something creative such as nature painting, scavenger hunts etc.





## A MESSAGE FROM LUCY GRENN

### What a start to the year!



We welcomed six new students to our school who have all settled in really well. A massive achievement for them to manage the start in a brand new school and a big thank you to our children here for being so welcoming.

We also have some older students who have moved here from College House to start working on their qualifications this year, and also to start thinking about what they want to do post 16.

Our Forest School area has been transformed by Pete and Paul over the holidays – their hard work during the summer has meant children can enjoy this area – making pizza, lying in the hammocks and starting to make raised beds to plant vegetables.

The Year 9 students have been going to Combe Pafford College to take part in Hospitality and Catering and also in Construction. This has been made much easier now we have our own mini-bus for Place House.

Of course, children continue to go swimming each week and take regular walks around the site and into Ashburton.

We are looking forward to the half term break and hope you have a lovely time with your families.

## ERME CLASS

Erme class have been making their own toys as part of their topic. They had a fantastic time creating their own wooden spoon toys and cardboard cars.

The students enjoyed their 'Awe and wonder' therapeutic sensory activities, experiencing a variety of textures both physically and visually.

As a class we have constructed our own brain food corner and investigated a variety of foods that help develop and hydrate the brain.

Our cosy reading corner is now completed, displaying current topics and a variety of genres for the students to expand their reading skills.

## TEIGN CLASS

Teign class have had a fantastic start to the term with our new students settling in well and fully embracing our 'Harry Potter' theme. In art we have made Wands, Harry Potter bookmarks, Snowy Owl paintings and Mandrakes using clay. English has been productive with the students writing letters to Hogwarts, character descriptions of Harry, diary entries as if they were Harry himself and building on storylines describing 'what happened next?' The students have particularly enjoyed food tech, creating their own Golden Snitch cake pops, Hagrid's rock cakes and Ron's jumper biscuits. Well done Teign class!!!



## DART CLASS

Dart class have had a brilliant first term back to school. We have been working extremely hard on our Maths and English Functional Skills, and will be sitting our first exams in November. In our other lessons, we have been focusing on team work and finding creative solutions to problems. We have also been looking at careers, and have all picked a field that we would like to do some work experience in – this is very exciting!







## FOREST SCHOOL

The start of the term let us welcome students to the new set up in Forest School. When we returned from the summer the outside space was furnished with: pallet tables and benches, hammocks and a pizza oven. These exciting additions will hopefully lead to more interesting and engaging lessons for all our students.

We kicked off the lessons by christening the "pizza" oven. Every class spent the first week back making pizza dough from scratch and adding their favourite toppings. Some classes even made them two weeks in a row! Here we learnt: some basic cooking and prep skills like making dough and chopping veg; fire safety and dangers around heat; and also, the new Forest School rules and responsibilities.

The students also enjoyed making 'Paul's Famous Cowboy Baked Beans'. This again added to our food prep skills, fire lighting and sustaining, and importantly our palette. We used fire strikers and tinder to create our own fires so we could heat up the hot pot, and with the addition of the pizza oven we baked delicious potatoes. Elsewhere in lessons we have been looking through the SflT Forest School Award and deciding which topics classes would like to cover. Some classes have shown an interest in wood whittling and others in shelter making but it is clear to say we have plenty of different options coming up!

## PARRETT CLASS

In Parrett Class this half term we have been learning all about Space in our topic 'Mission Control.'

In cooking we have been making all sorts of Space themed foods such as, galaxy cupcakes, planet pizzas, moon and star shaped shortbread and sausage rockets. The students have learned all about the different planets and have remembered their order from the sun using the mnemonic 'My Very Easy Method Just Sped Up Naming (Planets).'

At Combe Pafford, we have been learning all about Hospitality and Catering. Students have been using their skills to prepare and cook meals before selling them in the onsite café.

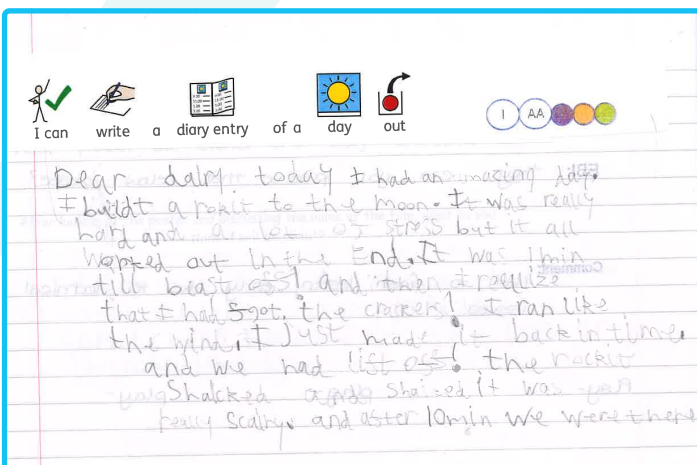
In Forest School, students have been using the new pizza oven to create their own pizza masterpieces.

## TAVY CLASS

We have been looking at place value, addition and subtraction in Maths.

We have been looking at Space in Topic and have used Wallace and Gromit as our source material for English where we wrote diary entries - on the left is an example.

In Forest School they have made use of the new pizza oven and made some tasty pizzas :)







Blu has had a fantastic summer holidays and has been on lots of adventures and is glad to be back at school. He has missed hanging out with all the students, joining lessons and helping on trips. Blu is also very excited for next term as he will be going forward for his accreditation as a fully qualified therapy dog and cannot wait for the students to help him pass his assessment observations.





### A MESSAGE FROM JULES SANDERS



The Multi-Disciplinary Team have been busy working with students on their caseloads, supporting students who are new to the schools and facilitating visits for some of our new students who are joining later this term.

We have also been delivering training to our school staff and to the new members of the wider team, which has been very well received.

Tara Acton, our new Play Therapist has now joined us and Nathan Coombes, our new Trauma Recovery Practitioner (previously a LSA) commenced in post. We are delighted to welcome both of them to the team!

**We are planning our next Tea and Talk which will take place next Tuesday 12<sup>th</sup> October at 10am in person at College House and remotely via zoom link. Please see the flier on the next page which advertises this event in more detail. We do hope to see you there and wish everyone the best for a successful half term.**



As the new academic year starts, we also say hello to Autumn and notice that mornings and evenings are getting darker. This half term, I have been focusing across the school on how we stay physically and emotionally well and this is particularly important as we head in to the winter months.

This is a great time to remind ourselves of the Five Ways to Wellbeing that we looked at in detail last year.

By the time this edition of the newsletter goes out, we will have celebrated World Mental Health Day on the 8th October and donned our best yellow clothes for "Hello Yellow" for Young Minds.

Joining together for World Mental Health Day gives us the opportunity to demonstrate our commitment to promoting positive mental health and to reducing the stigma surrounding mental health difficulties.

The [www.youngminds.org.uk](http://www.youngminds.org.uk) website is a fantastic resource for parents/carers and young people alike.

### WELCOMING TARA ACTON



I am a Qualified Nature Play Therapist. I have over 20 years experience in Forest School and Playwork and the joy of witnessing countless moments of children growing when into the offered space never gets old.

Play Therapy can help children with processing bereavement, separation, challenging behaviour, neurodiversity, learning disabilities, traumatic events, anger, mood, low mood, difficulties socialising, expressing themselves and developing emotional literacy.

During my 5 years of training, I have learnt how to use creative mediums and metaphors to embrace the language of play as an aid to deal with trauma and experiences - using: clay, puppets, movement, paints, music, therapeutic stories, creative visualizations, sand play and mini world making.

Research shows that the brain is most actively engaged when operating with metaphor. When a child is working in the creative mediums there is significant opportunities to remap neurological pathways developing healthier scripts and behaviour patterns. Sometimes it seems to me that Play Therapy is akin to magic!

### TEA AND TALK

A big thank you to all of our parents and carers that attended our Tea & Talk session this week with Charlotte Robertson and Fay Hooper our family workers.

Our Play Therapist, Tara Acton, led the session exploring everyone's memories of play and how that differs across the ages, as well as giving a presentation on Play Therapy and how it benefits our students.

Parents topics of discussions were the challenges of peer-on-peer interactions and how to link in with other families outside of school.

This led to a discussion with some fantastic ideas (see below). We also talked about play date ideas for half-term as some of the parents wanted their children to connect over the holidays.

#### Ideas were:

- Bakers Park
- Decoy
- Beaches- rock pooling, pebble painting,
- Woods walks - foraging, picnic, nature detectives.
- Occombe Farm
- Cockington
- Pennywell Farm
- Deer Park Dartington





School for  
Inspiring Talents

# School Term Dates 2021 / 2022

Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat	Sun
30	31	1	2	3	4	5
6	7	8	9	10	11	12
13	14	15	16	17	18	19
20	21	22	23	24	25	26
27	28	29	30	1	2	3
4	5	6	7	8	9	10

September 2021

Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat	Sun
27	28	29	30	1	2	3
4	5	6	7	8	9	10
11	12	13	14	15	16	17
18	19	20	21	22	23	24
25	26	27	28	29	30	31
1	2	3	4	5	6	7

October 2021

Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat	Sun
1	2	3	4	5	6	7
8	9	10	11	12	13	14
15	16	17	18	19	20	21
22	23	24	25	26	27	28
29	30	1	2	3	4	5
6	7	8	9	10	11	12

November 2021

## Term Lengths

- Autumn Half Term
- 7 Sep - 15 Oct
- Half Term to Christmas
- 1 Nov - 17 Dec
- Winter Half Term
- 5 Jan - 18 Feb

Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat	Sun
29	30	1	2	3	4	5
6	7	8	9	10	11	12
13	14	15	16	17	18	19
20	21	22	23	24	25	26
27	28	29	30	31	1	2
3	4	5	6	7	8	9

December 2021

Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat	Sun
27	28	29	30	31	1	2
3	4	5	6	7	8	9
10	11	12	13	14	15	16
17	18	19	20	21	22	23
24	25	26	27	28	29	30
31	1	2	3	4	5	6

January 2022

Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat	Sun
31	1	2	3	4	5	6
7	8	9	10	11	12	13
14	15	16	17	18	19	20
21	22	23	24	25	26	27
28	1	2	3	4	5	6
7	8	9	10	11	12	13

February 2022

Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat	Sun
28	1	2	3	4	5	6
7	8	9	10	11	12	13
14	15	16	17	18	19	20
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28	29	30	31	1	2	3
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March 2022

Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat	Sun
28	29	30	31	1	2	3
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11	12	13	14	15	16	17
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25	26	27	28	29	30	1
2	3	4	5	6	7	8

April 2022

Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat	Sun
25	26	27	28	29	30	1
2	3	4	5	6	7	8
9	10	11	12	13	14	15
16	17	18	19	20	21	22
23	24	25	26	27	28	29
30	31	1	2	3	4	5

May 2022

Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat	Sun
30	31	1	2	3	4	5
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13	14	15	16	17	18	19
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June 2022

Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat	Sun
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11	12	13	14	15	16	17
18	19	20	21	22	23	24
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July 2022

Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat	Sun
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15	16	17	18	19	20	21
22	23	24	25	26	27	28
29	30	31	1	2	3	4
5	6	7	8	9	10	11

August 2022

## Key

Holiday

Bank Holiday