

THE WEEKLY NEWSLETTER

15 March 2019

Many of you will have witnessed the buzz and fun of the Discovery Morning on Saturday. Miss Beach always finds a winning theme and this year it was 'A Celebration of the Oceans'. The School Hall really did look quite spectacular, complete with a real-life mermaid! The girls enjoyed an array of arts and crafts, as well as taking part in exciting sessions of science, cookery, textiles, coding, Forest School and yoga. As always this was a wonderful event with over 70 children having a great time and learning lots of new skills. I cannot thank the team of staff and pupil volunteers enough for their efforts to make this such a success.

It was a busy weekend for many after an exhausting week performing the superb school play. As well as those helping out at Discovery Morning, another 30 girls were up on the moors all weekend battling 40mph cold winds and heavy showers training for Ten Tors. Despite the challenging conditions, Mr Tabb tells me everyone kept their spirits up and did amazingly well. We will have some very strong teams again this year and I am looking forward to joining one of their training walks again soon, hopefully in more Spring-like weather!

If you follow our Facebook page you will have seen the beautiful rendition of Ave Maria by Olivia in U4Q. A group of Upper 4 pupils went to the RAMM (Royal Albert Memorial Museum) on Wednesday to perform at the Memory Cafe for their dementia friendly event. They were all exceptional - well done girls. A super performance for a really worthy cause.

Our Year 4 netball team came back victorious from the Exeter Schools Under 9 Netball Tournament yesterday and proudly showed Mr Smerdon and I their shiny trophy and medals.





They appear to have outplayed a large number of other schools to bring this home, so congratulations to them for a truly great team effort.

Today, of course, is Red Nose Day and the Head Girl Team have set us up with a few challenges: to dress in an attire depicting what we aspired to be when we were little, bake some cakes and take part in a version of "Would I Lie to You?"! I spent the evening trying to think of how to dress up as an African wildlife photographer and then remembered that I was visiting a Primary School at 9am this morning so quickly thought better of it!



If you happen to be anywhere near St Stephen's Church in Exeter on Saturday, you might want to pop in and support our Young Enterprise team who will be selling their eco friendly water bottles. I hope they enjoy some good business to boost their profits!

Junior School Environmental Action Week



It's been an action packed week for all the girls in Pre-Prep and the Junior School who have enjoyed a series of talks, workshops and activities to mark Environmental Action Week.

The girls in Pre-Prep spent the week learning about the importance of bees, even dressing up as bumble bees themselves and raising money to sponsor a bee hive. They have learned about how bees pollinate flowers and how this is important for the plants to then grow fruit and vegetables for us to eat. They have talked about how we can help bees and have even planted some bee-friendly flowers.



Years 1 & 2 also enjoyed a wonderful workshop all about recycling with Demelza from Devon County Council and one of their tasks was to differentiate between recyclable materials and those destined to the compost. The denim pencils made from a pair of jeans also proved a popular hit!

Likewise, Year 4 have created this fantastic ocean scene using plastic bottle lids with the message 'Keep our sea-plastic free' whilst Year 5 enjoyed their own workshop on Wednesday focusing on the extent of plastic in the oceans. Whilst shocked by the extent of the problem and its devastating effect on wildlife, it inspired them to think of ways in which they could help reduce plastic waste.



Fun trip for Year 2 to Paignton Zoo



Year 2 had a fantastic day at Paignton Zoo last Friday. The girls learned about conservation and habitats at the Education Centre and had the opportunity to handle all sorts of interesting things including a tiger's skull, a giraffe's leg bone and an elephant's tooth. They then had a wander around the zoo and luckily lots of animals were out and about and keen to see them – it was wonderful to see the girls' excitement at watching the tigers being fed, and at meeting Florrie the baby giraffe and Duchess the elephant who doesn't like getting wet!

British Science Week celebrations in the Senior School

This week the Science Department celebrated British Science Week by running a series of lunchtime workshops that encouraged the girls to use their knowledge to produce a variety of products. They explored Physics, Chemistry and Biology when they attempted to make a water filter, produce a face-fit from genetic information and design their own brand of perfume. Well done to all the girls who attended!



Rocket Club prepares for lift off!



The girls in Rocket Club, so kindly run by Mr Ibrahim, are a step closer to the big launch party and yesterday evening, despite the gale force conditions, they enjoyed a successful time testing the engine of their design. For safety reasons at these early stages of mantling their rocket, we took the precaution of strapping it to a fence to prevent blast off and causing any potential damage to either the rocket, a passer-by or a building in the vicinity! Suffice to say, the engine definitely works and so it's back to the classroom over the next few weeks to refine the design!

Maths Feast



Last Friday four of our talented young mathematicians, Alice B, Mia, Isabelle and Georgina took part in the Year 10 Maths Feast at the Met Office, organised by the Further Mathematics Support Programme. Along with 15 other schools from across the region, the girls worked together and applied themselves to a variety of mathematical activities including a memory go round, a higher or lower challenge and a relay race.

The event was topped off with a fascinating tour of the Met Office, including visiting the main hub where mathematical models are used to understand climate change, as well as seeing The Cray, their new supercomputer that can perform 23 trillion calculations per second! An inspirational event for our team of young mathematicians in training.

Team Maths Challenge

Four girls from Years 8 and 9 represented The Maynard at the Team Maths Challenge at Exmouth Community College on Tuesday, organised by the United Kingdom Mathematical Trust. They competed against 28 teams from schools all over the South West region, from Taunton to Torquay. Katie H, Emma J, Rose and Megan had been training for the event in weekly lunchtime sessions for over a month, along with reserve team members Cecille, Lilly, and Eleanor. Their teamwork, dedication and can-do attitude was vindicated by finishing in 8th place, a brilliant performance in a tough competition. Well done girls!



Closely fought French Spelling Bee News from Mme Smith ...

The seven Upper 3 girls representing their houses have taken part in the second round of the French Spelling Bee House competition, having to learn the French translation and spelling of 50 new words. I am impressed by the accuracy of some very talented students' spelling skills and can announce that both Hannah Sophia and Seren had the perfect score, earning most points for Haberdashers and Merchants. Well done to both! Following them closely, we have Emma D. coming second in Merchants, Harleigh winning for Armourers, Evie M winning for Goldsmiths, Honey and Kristina placing second in Haberdashers and Armourers respectively. The first girls in each house (Hannah-Sophia, Seren,

Harleigh and Evie) will now be invited to go for the third and last stage of the Spelling Bee and I wish them all the very best luck. Prizes are at stake!

1st	Hannah Sophia (Haberdashers) & Seren (Merchants)
2nd	Emma D (Merchants)
3rd	Harleigh (Armourers)
4th	Evie M (Goldsmiths)
5th	Honey (Haberdashers)
6th	Kristina (Armourers)

“Sparkling with promise” - award-winning author is one of our biggest fans!



We were delighted and thrilled to receive some superlative feedback from award-winning author, Claire Barker, following her recent visit to the Junior School on World Book Day. We couldn't have written this ourselves!

“As a children's author with two series of books on the go, I visit many schools as part of my working life, but I must confess The Maynard is close to my heart.

First of all, experience has shown me that this is an extraordinary school, enabling and empowering girls to change the world. The moment I step over the threshold I have always had the sense that that, here, remarkable things are possible. The teaching is exceptional of course as are the resources, but there is more at work here. This school family (because it is a family) has something extra; everyone in it sparkles with promise. I've been a regular visitor for several years and I always leave feeling full of hope and happiness, swinging my suitcase and missing everyone as soon as I pull out of the drive.”

Claire Barker

Author of *Knitbone* *Pepper Ghost Dog* and *Picklewitch and Jack*

Training for the big World Challenge trip to India

Excitement is mounting for July's World Challenge trip to India and all those signed up participated in a gruelling training weekend in the Lake District where the steep ground is similar to the terrain the girls will experience in Ladakh. They practised all aspects of camping and living in the great outdoors including safe river crossing, movements of casualties, cooking and personal hygiene. They are now fully prepared and can't wait for the expedition itself!



Cracking Netball results



Our 1st, 2nd and 3rd Senior netball teams all played Exeter School last Wednesday in some highly competitive games. The 1st and 2nd teams narrowly lost, with the 3rd team winning (15-12). This was sadly the last game of the season, and we say goodbye to the Upper 6 team members - thank you for your hard work and commitment!

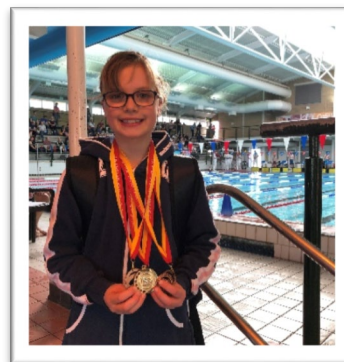
Meanwhile, our Under 12 Netball team continued their winning streak with another superstar performance, this time against St. Peter's Lypstone on Wednesday. They played superbly, dominating the game and striding off to a 19-6 win.

The Under 13s also played St. Peter's in a challenging and tightly contested game, they dug deep to show great spirit and determination but sadly the score went in their opponent's favour (13-10).

And, finally, as mentioned earlier, the Under 9s also played superbly in yesterday's tournament despite the super windy conditions, winning all three of their pool games against St Peter's Lypstone (5-1), Plymouth College (8-1) and Stover (4-0). A very exciting final saw them win (3-0) against the tournament hosts, Exeter School, in a truly fabulous team performance. These hardworking girls are a delight to coach and were justifiably excited to receive their gold medals and trophy.

Gold for Lydia

Congratulations to Lydia in Year 5 who won gold in the 100m Breaststroke competing for Exeter Swimming Club at the recent Keynsham & Bristol Penguin inaugural spring open meet. She also placed really well in her other events and even knocked a whopping 9.4 seconds off her Individual Medley time to finish 4th.



and for Martha!

Equally, Martha in Upper 4 enjoyed a very successful time at the English Riviera Gymnastics competition recently, winning a gold medal for the beam against 14 other girls, many of whom train more than twice the amount that she does. What an achievement and our congratulations to her!

RAMM Dementia friendly event

Upper 4Q gave a truly wonderful lunchtime performance at RAMM this week as part of their dementia friendly event. The theme was 'Around the World' and the girls provided solo instrumental and vocal items, dance, poetry and choral singing. With music ranging from 'Que Sera Sera' to 'Oh Danny Boy', we were delighted that members of the audience were able to sing along and participate. The looks of appreciation turned to shouts of 'bravo' and 'more' at the end and one table even gave a standing ovation! The girls were absolutely fantastic ambassadors for the school and it was wonderful to be able to share their talents with dementia sufferers and ignite memories.



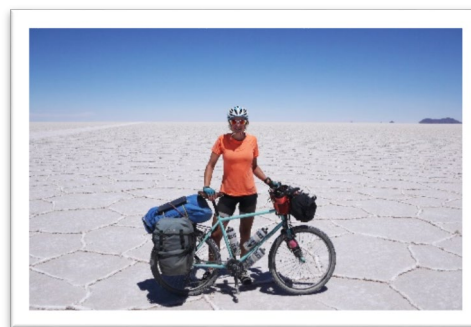
Congratulations to Dodie

Congratulations to Dodie (Upper 6) who was awarded the prestigious 'Recital Candelabra' for the highest mark in the Open Piano Recital Classes at the Devon Performing Arts Festival earlier this week. We had several girls taking part in the Festival, so well done to all of you.



A note about Monday's 'Adventure Lecture'

We are fast selling out of tickets for Monday's 'Adventure Lecture' with Anna McNuff (starting at 6pm) so be quick if you haven't already purchased yours. There are only about 20 left which can be bought from School Reception. To all those that are coming, please head straight to the Performing Arts Centre where we are hosting a pre-talk drinks reception. The World Challenge girls will also be putting on a fundraising cake sale ahead of their summer trip to India and would very much appreciate your support!



Spring Concert



Following on from the success of the school play the girls are busy preparing for next week's Performing Arts Concert. With the 50th anniversary of the moon landing, the 100th anniversary of the premiere of Holst's The Planets and Earth Day fast approaching the school has responded to an 'Earth Mission' from the BBC who are promoting music and space. Lower 5 musicians are entering their competition to compose a piece of music to represent planet Earth and we thought we would extend this into our Spring Concert.

We are hoping there will be something for everyone with items ranging from 'Defying Gravity' and 'Angels' to dancing to the music of Jamiroquai and a performance of 'Star Trekkin' across the Universe'. Please come along as we attempt to Rewrite the Stars.

Explore Law – still time to sign up!



We are hosting the annual 'Explore Law' event again this year, organised by the University of Law and being held on Wednesday 27 March from 4pm – 6.45pm in the Performing Arts Centre. Open to all students in Years 10, 11 and 12, this is an ideal opportunity to gain further insight into law and to help your daughter discover if it is the right career for her. The programme includes a taster workshop exploring several different areas of law as well as a next steps talk which looks at career options and what can be done now to maximise successful outcomes in the future.

Your daughter can sign up at <https://www.surveymonkey.co.uk/r/ExploreLawExeter>

Test your knowledge at the MPA Quiz Night!

If you haven't already, make sure you sign up for the fantastic MPA Quiz Night on Friday 29 March at 7pm. You can apply on the Classlist App by going to 'events' - 'MPA Annual Quiz Night' and clicking 'buy tickets'. It's a great evening, with fish and chips included in the price and a licensed bar selling alcoholic and soft drinks plus snacks. A great opportunity to get together with other parents and lots of fun!



Unwanted child's size umbrellas required

The PE department would love to receive any unwanted, but functional, child's size umbrellas for use in rehearsals for the Junior School Gym and Dance show. Any colour or character is fine, but they do need to be small and have a curved handle. We would be very appreciative if these could be brought to the Junior School Hall or PE office next week. Thank you!

REMINDERS FROM RECEPTION

Please remind your daughter not to use their mobile phone for calling or texting home for items they have forgotten and need to be dropped into school. This is a frequent occurrence.

We have a no phones policy during the day but of course if your daughter needs to phone home they can make a brief call using the main school office phone.

Can you also ask the girls to check the white board for messages outside reception daily. We receive many messages for girls throughout the day and the board is the most convenient way of getting a message to your daughter.

Thank you!

Have a lovely weekend!



Sarah Dunn
Headmistress
