

Totnes St. John's Weekly Newsletter

Class: Year 6 Chestnut Class

Friday 29th November 2019

Home learning

Please continue to practise times tables. Results from a times tables test this week show a remarkable improvement in recall speeds. That's great news, Chestnuts. Keep building on this success by practising each day at home.

Continue to improve your comprehension skills too, by answering the questions about 'The Librarian' and then checking against the answer sheet, investigating any mistakes.

Finally, many congratulations for being the class with the highest attendance for the first half-term of this school year!!



Class news

What a musical week Year 6 have had!

On Tuesday evening, many of the children sang carols in the Civic Hall to herald the switching-on of Totnes Christmas lights. Year 6 sang loudly and clearly to a large audience who very much enjoyed the performance. Max and Daisy were outstanding in a duet – well done to both of you for being so courageous.

On Wednesday, in preparation for St John's Christmas Carol Service, Chestnuts led a whole school singing practice. They shared their skills and enthusiasm with the younger children, encouraging them to join in with equal passion. Alfie's support was particularly noticeable – thank you, Alfie!

Finally, following on from last year's successful venture, Year 6 were joined again by Kip and Elphin for a morning of music making – this time to create a new school song. As ever, this was a fast-paced, fun-filled session with many ideas for words and rhythms being shared and tried out. Hopefully, some of Teddy's ideas will make it into the final version, as he made so many great contributions.



Attendance

Walnut YR/1	97%
Oak Y2	96%
Willow Y3/4	89%
Beech Y3/4	98%
Elm Y5	100%
Chestnut Y6	93%

Please ensure your child attends school every day.

Every day missed is 6 hours of learning lost.

Reflections on the week

In addition to the many musical opportunities that the children have had this week, it has also been an assessment week. However, the children have taken this assessment in their stride, approaching the tasks with real conscientiousness and maturity. This clearly shows the increased responsibility that they are taking for their own learning: they have wanted to showcase their accomplishments so far this year and have equally wanted to find out what they need to do now to achieve even greater success. Well done Chestnuts!

The Week ahead

In addition to the recent focus on maths and writing, Year 6 will now be looking to further improve their reading comprehension skills. At secondary school, the children will study a variety of texts, both fiction and non-fiction, and we aim to provide pupils with the skills they need to make sense of these texts.



One of the benefits of having the Trust on site is that our teachers at St John's have been involved in high quality training as part of a training hub now established here in the school. In the past few weeks alone, our Champion Teachers group has been working on developing our curriculum so it is more inspiring, more in depth and has greater coverage of subject areas. Year group teams have also been meeting to develop subject knowledge and share teaching strengths.

With the Trust here, there are many new faces coming in and out of our school; starting next week we will outline in Trust News the cross-Trust roles of some of some of our colleagues you will meet.

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