



North Molton Primary School

'Love learning, learn well'



Friday 17th January 2025

Message from the Headteacher

Good afternoon,

This week in assembly we learned about the importance of "challenges" in learning. Challenges are things that are difficult and hard to do. We discussed how we feel about doing difficult things, reflected on previous things we've found challenging and thinking about how we felt. Needless to say, Year 6 reflected on their recent learning of long division in maths!

*Our crucial piece of neuroscience learning this week is that scientists have found that when you are struggling and grappling with difficult things, your brain is firing millions of neurons to try and make a learning connection. If you give up, neurons stop firing and the chance of learning stops. This is the science behind **why** it is so important to keep trying when things are difficult and to not give up, even if learning seems really hard. This is why **ENDEAVOUR** is one of our core values at North Molton Primary School.*

Mr Matt Pennington

(Acting Head Teacher)

School News

Partial school closure - Tuesday 28th January

Please make sure you complete this google form by Monday 20th January regarding the school closure on the afternoon of Tuesday 28th January at 11.45 am. The link you need to use can be found below.

<https://forms.gle/ySxiHNX76zDEfzEp9>

Chicken Pox

We have had a confirmed case of chicken pox within school this week. Please refer to the below NHS link with further information regarding what to look out for if you think your child may have chicken pox, treatment and the guidelines on when children need to be absent from school.

[Chickenpox - NHS](#)



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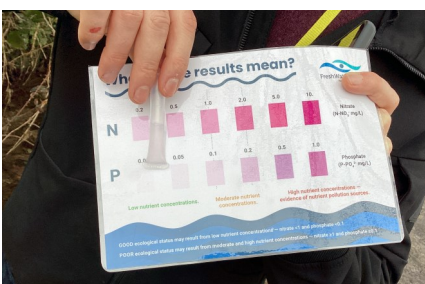
Events of the week

Falcons & Sparrowhawks

This week Falcons and Sparrowhawks class had a fascinating assembly from Reg Godwin (Kingfishers Freshwater Watch) and Alice Mills (Exeter Science Centre) regarding freshwater and rivers. The children were involved in some hands-on experiments where they added indicators to water to test whether the water contained any pollutants. They also looked at how scientists can test water for certain chemicals using a UV light. The children already had a lot of knowledge about Rivers and freshwater and we discussed ways to prevent pollution in our local rivers. Our visitors were very impressed by our children's knowledge and their outstanding behaviour during their time with us on Tuesday morning.



After the assembly, Falcons Class went to the River Mole to test the water downstream of the Water treatment works for nitrates and phosphates. We also checked the river to see which invertebrates inhabited the area and submitted our first set of data to the Freshwater Watch site. We also looked at the river flow, tested the temperature of the water and tested the turbidity (how clear the water is). We brought some samples of water back to the classroom to view under our new microscope and digital microscope donated by the Kingfishers School project. It was a wonderful opportunity for the children to meet real scientists, gather important information/data and to understand more about pollution which may occur in our local rivers.



We really look forward to conducting more experiments over the next six months.





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School Clubs

Below is a summary of clubs for next week. All clubs must be booked in advance.

Day	Morning	Afterschool
Monday 20th January	Breakfast Club from 8am	
Tuesday 21st January	Breakfast Club from 8am	Maths Club with Mrs Hawkins 3.15pm - 4.15pm YEAR 6 ONLY
Wednesday 22nd January	Breakfast Club from 8am	Gymnastics Club with Mrs Shaw 3.15pm - 4.15pm Reception, Year 1 & Year 2 Science Club with Mrs Turney 3.15pm - 4.15pm
Thursday 23rd January	Breakfast Club from 8am	Netball/Basketball with Mr Joslin 3.15pm - 4.15pm Year 3 - 6
Friday 24th January	Breakfast Club from 8am	



Exciting Staff News



We would like to share some very exciting staff news with you.

Mrs Anderson is pregnant with the baby due late in the summer term and
Miss Bauer recently got engaged.

We are so happy for you both!



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Dates for the Diary

2025



Date	Event
10, 12, 13 February	Parents Evening Meetings
7 February	PTA Race Night Event (more details to follow)
17 - 21 February	February Half Term Break
24 February	Non Pupil Day
25 - 27 February	Scholastic Book Fair
5 - 7 March	Yr 5/6 Residential Trip to London
6 March	World Book Day
31 March - 2 April	Whole School Art Exhibition
7 - 21 April	Easter Holidays
22 April	First Day of Summer Term
1 - 2 May	Falcons Residential to Pinkery Pond
5 May	Bank Holiday
26 - 30 May	May Half Term Holiday
26 June	Sports Day
2 - 3 July	Year 6 Transition Days to SMCC
4 July	Reserve Sports Day
7 - 8 July	Reception Parents Evenings
14 July	Non Pupil Day
15 July	Year 6 Leavers Trip TBC
18 July	Whole School Music Celebration
23 July	Year 6 Leavers Assembly
23 July	Last Day of Academic Year
24 July	Start of Summer Holidays



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News from the Village and Local Community

Little Nippers Baby and Toddler Group:

Becky Rottenbury is running a Baby and Toddler group in the Methodist Hall on a Wednesday morning 9.30-11.30am during term time. This is a free group with tea and coffee alongside activities and toys for the little ones. The poster is on our website in the newsletter section

Friday Club:

Friday Club resumes **TONIGHT**, Friday 17th January with a 'Welcome back' Party, 7-9 pm at the Methodist Hall, to which all children in Yrs 3-6 inclusive are invited.

For any queries regarding Friday club, please contact Rosemarie Courtney (07944 243866).

N.B. We have a fb group, 'North Molton Friday Club'. It would be helpful if parents/grandparents of Years 3-6 children, interested in Friday Club, could join for communication purposes.

Phonebox Library: The village has converted the disused telephone box into a community library. It's a lovely library for the children to visit, take a book and recycle the ones they are finished with.

The village phone box library has a lovely selection of **children's books** as well.

The Saunders Good Samaritans Trust:

If anyone is struggling and needs any help please contact this local charity that is available to support residents in our local community. For more information please contact Rose Courtney (740382) who lives in the village.