



All in a  
month...

# The Dell Primary School

## Monthly News March 2018

### March...

This month we've managed two lots of snow, sent children on trips to Manchester and Caerleon, seen even more support & events from our amazing PTA and we've seen a lot of sporting activity and success. We've rounded up our spring topics and welcomed parents to forums, sharing afternoons & assemblies. Our pupil leadership teams have led powerful assemblies on reducing plastic waste, oh, and a satellite crashed onto our Key Stage 2 playground but it's OK, Year 4 have sorted it out! Happy Easter!

Steve King, Headteacher

### **Parent IT Forum**

Thank you if you attended our recent Parents' Forum on eSafety and technology. There'll soon be a survey of parents' perceptions and experiences at home to support all our parents in managing their child's IT access and use. You can read the minutes of the forum on the 'Voices' page of our website by [CLICKING HERE](#).

### **You said, we did...**

Our school is 'all about learning' and listening to what we call 'Pupil Voice' is a central part of the work we do. Likewise each year we ask parents their thoughts about many aspects of the school and we listen to every voice and comment. You can find the results of our recent Parents' Survey [HERE](#) on our 'Voices' page of our website and this includes year on year trends too. You'll see that we record and respond to every comment on parent surveys and key themes will go into the Parents' Voice section of our new School Improvement Plan each September.

### **Pupil Leadership Camp**

Developing children as thinkers and leaders is really important to us. We've developed a 'Leadership Camp' programme which fits with our Year 5 and 6 residential trips each year. You can find out more details on the Leadership section of our website [CLICK HERE](#).

### **More Chess Success**

This month saw The Dell team taking part in the Oxford Zonal Round of the EPSCA Under 11s competition where they came joint second out of 12 teams.

### **Sport Relief 2018**

This year our School Council organised another full week of activities for Sport Relief centred around the Tom Daley Challenge. Each day, each class undertook a series of themed challenges from skipping to throwing to dancing and by Friday we'd raised £370.50 for a great cause.

### **Spanish Club**

Thanks to Mr Bringhurst from Chepstow School who has now led three Spanish Club sessions for our Year 5 & 6 pupils during a new lunchtime club. The club is going well and has a good following and further extends our extra curricular humanities offer.

### **TEXTS - Teachers2Parents**

You will have noticed a few changes to the texts you've received recently from the company we use called Teachers2Parents. The result has been that each message seems to come from a different mobile number & therefore the messaging / text app on your phone will probably look quite cluttered and unclear. We're really sorry about this & have discussed this with T2P. One solution you might wish to try is to receive the texts via the T2P app instead which works quite well & means that you should be able to access them via phone or wifi signal. To download the app go to your app store and search for 'Teachers2Parents'. Install, enter your phone number & then enter the verification code you'll receive and you should receive texts thereafter.

### **Eisteddfod**

The snow delayed our annual celebration of St. David's Day but we held it soon after. Sadly Chepstow Male Voice Choir were not able to perform this year due to the change of dates but we were entertained by many children and as usual saw some excellent quality writing, poetry and music. Thank you Miss Lewis for leading this annual, national celebration.

### **Our Local Community**

Huge thanks to Chepstow & Caldicot Lions who have kindly agreed to fund 10 sets of outdoor weather gear for children when learning in our Forest School. Thanks as well to our wonderful PTA for making this happen! This month we have also received a donation from the Worshipful Company of Educators as well as Mathern Day Nursery in support of our up and coming Dell Farm.

## **In More Depth This Month...'National Tests'**

We haven't had SATs in schools in Wales for years! They were phased out for Year 2 in 2002 and for Year 6 in 2005. In 2013 The Welsh Government introduced National Tests for all pupils in Wales from Years 2-9. Initially there were two tests, one for Reading and one for Procedural Maths. In 2014 a third Maths Reasoning Test was introduced. These tests are statutory and designed to be helpful tools to support teachers and schools in assessing pupils' progress and end of Phase / Key Stage attainment. The tests do not result in a 'level', rather a standardised score. As with all standardised tests which take into account each child's age in years and months, a score of 100 would mean they were exactly at the developmental stage they should be for their age. A standardised score of 85-115 would see them in the 'expected range' while 115+ would suggest they were more able learners. Similarly a score below 85 might suggest that, when viewed alongside other professional judgements, the child might require a degree of additional support to achieve. Unfortunately if a child is unwell or absent from school for any reason, they are marked as scoring below 85 - there is no capacity for them to be marked as 'absent'. Teachers at The Dell take great care to work subtly on 'test style questions' throughout the year and to play down the formality of the tests in order to reduce anxiety and stress for the children. While we have to report the data to the Welsh Government and local authority, the results are not published. It feels very uncomfortable for teacher who create vibrant, engaging learning environments and activities to see children having to sit in rows or individually at tables, in silence, for these tests but this is the requirement. We always ask parents to support us and their children by talking carefully about these tests and not applying additional pressure.

## PTA

Our fantastic PTA are keen to stop using disposable cups at PTA events and ask for donations of unwanted mugs. There's a box under the covered area near the front door. Please drop them in. If you're a twitter user you can now keep up to speed with the team's many achievements at [@thedellpta](#) as well as their usual Facebook page [CLICK HERE](#). Thanks if you brought in your unwanted clothing items this month for our Rags2Riches collection. We sent off 155kg of bags off which will earn us £77.75. Next collection in the autumn.

## Learning Outdoors

Last week Mrs Shewan, Mrs James & Mrs Bajjada went to Forest Country Farm to learn how to further develop our natural resources and increase the amount of our lessons and learning that takes place outdoors..and that's not just eco and Forest School learning!

## ELSA

This term Mrs Cass has supported 22 children through 166 1-2-1 sessions in our Sunshine Room. As well as this extended pastoral care, Mrs Cass is also our trained Emotional Language Support Assistant (ELSA) and can provide support for children who find communication and social interactions challenging. If you would like to find out more pick up an ELSA leaflet from our school foyer or have a look at the extensive resources on our website [CLICK HERE](#) and [HERE](#).

## GOOGLE Certified!

Congratulations to our eLearning Leader Mrs Hornbuckle on achieving her Level 1 Google Certified Educator accreditation.

## Snow

Thank you for your understanding during the recent snow. Hopefully you can see clearly that we will do all we can with the information we have to open the school as long as the site is safe and staff can safely get here.

## Calendar

16 Apr - School Reopens for Summer Term  
17-19 Apr - Scholastic Book Fair (3.30-4.15pm)  
18 Apr - Year 6 Marks & Spencer Workshop  
18 Apr - Year 1 Forest School in Conservation Area  
19 Apr - Year 2 Forest School in Conservation Area  
23 Apr - ALL CLUBS START THIS WEEK  
25 Apr - Year 5 Marks & Spencer Workshop  
26 Apr - Y5 First Aid with St. John Ambulance & Chepstow Police  
2 May - National Reading Test (Years 2-6)  
3 May - National Numeracy (Procedural) - (Years 2-6)  
4 May - National Numeracy (Reasoning) - (Years 2-6)  
4 May - Zoolab visiting Reception classes  
21 May - Year 6 Transition Visits to Chepstow School Begin  
23 May - Year 4 Assembly - 2.45pm  
24 May - Parents' Forum IT Meeting - Learning Zone - 2pm  
25 May - Year 2 visit to Techniquet, Cardiff Bay  
28 May-1 Jun - HALF TERM  
6 Jun - Year 3 Assembly - 2.45pm  
7 Jun - Year 5 Playmakers' Conference, Chepstow Town FC  
12 Jun - September 2018 New Reception Parents' Meeting - 6pm  
12 Jun - Reception visiting Magor Marsh  
13 Jun - Sports Day (FP - 9.30am start, KS2 - 1.15pm start)  
18 Jun - RESERVE Sports Day (FP - 9.30am start, KS2 - 1.15pm start)  
19 Jun - Summer Production - 6pm  
20 Jun - Summer Production - 6pm  
22 Jun - Year 5 & 6 Swimming Gala  
25 Jun - Year 5 & 6 Monmouthshire Spring Showcase

More Dates  
Online  
[CLICK HERE](#)



New climbing ramps funded by Tesco Bags of Help (Blue token) scheme



Thanks to parents & children who worked in the Conservation Area last Saturday & planted over 200 trees!

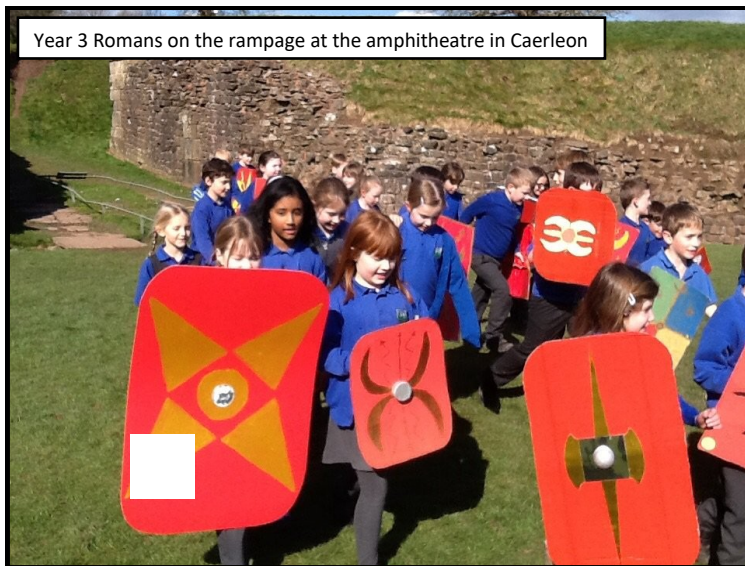


Thank you to Charlie & Harry's dad Major Fox for talking to Year 6 about his job in the British Army



Chepstow School Music Showcase featuring the Cluster Choir

facebook  
/thedellschool



Year 3 Romans on the rampage at the amphitheatre in Caerleon



BBC Wales News filmed a report on a new book that's been donated to all Monmouthshire schools



Our Eco Team presented excellent assemblies on the dangers of plastic use [CLICK HERE](#) for more



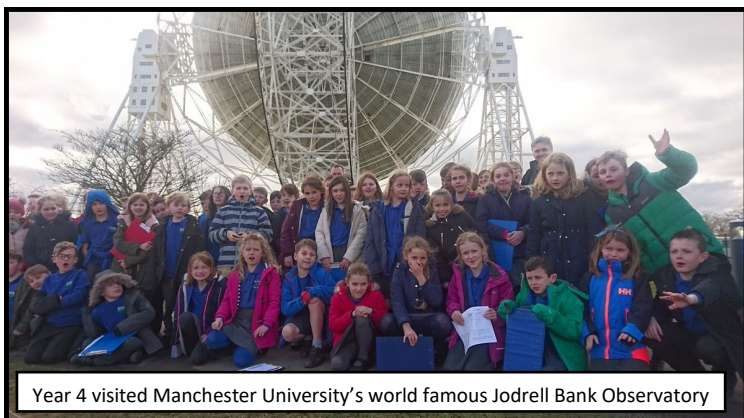
Two of our School Ambassadors worked with Wales' Commissioner for Children & learned about the UN Convention on the Rights of the Child



Eisteddfod 2018



Thanks to our PTA for selling (secret) Mother's Day gifts



Year 4 visited Manchester University's world famous Jodrell Bank Observatory



Year 1-3 learned about working as a writer with author Laura James



@thedellschool

*'...all about learning'*



Our Cluster 4 Nations tag rugby team



Triumphant hockey performance at the Caldicot competition this month



Our Year 1 team on last week's space 'landing day'!



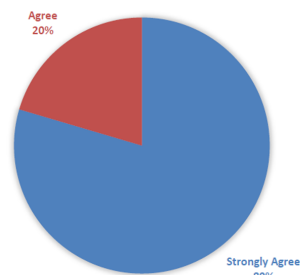
Year 6 visited the STEAM Museum in Swindon to learn about 1940s life

## Parent Survey – Spring 2018

93 Respondents: 12<sup>th</sup> - 23<sup>rd</sup> March 2018

EXPERIENCES, INCLUDING EDUCATIONAL TRIPS AND VISITS

Thank you for your support of all we do each day to make our school great. We really appreciate it & working with happy children makes it all worthwhile!



Agreement = 100% (All)



Year 6 Wildlife Wizards, competing at Chepstow School



Did you hear about Year 4 discovering a satellite on the playground?



Excellent teamwork, fair play and representation by our netballers

There's loads more info on our website  
[www.dell.monmouthshire.sch.uk](http://www.dell.monmouthshire.sch.uk)