

Friday 5<sup>th</sup> November 2021

Dear parents/carers,

Welcome back to all our children, current and new and their families. I hope that you all had a wonderful half term holiday and were able to spend time with friends and family and are all keeping well. We have had a busy start to the second half of the autumn term!



## Year R

This week, Reception have enjoyed learning about how and why people around the world celebrate Diwali, the festival of light. The children shared the story 'Dipal's Diwali', learned a special song and took part in a range of exciting learning opportunities linked to the celebration.

The children enjoyed sampling traditional foods, including farsi puri and makai powa chevdo. Some children particularly loved the spicy flavoured foods! During playful learning,

they also worked hard to create unique rangoli patterns using loose parts and creative resources and used watercolour paints to design beautiful diya lamps.

We would like to express our sincere thanks to the Mattu family for their generosity this week, sharing the resources that have made our Diwali learning so special!



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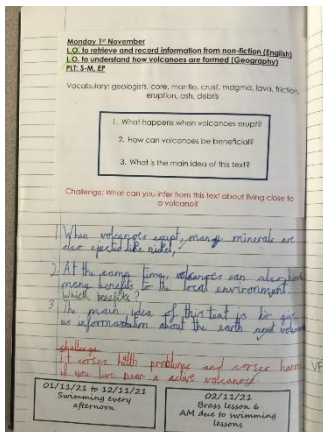
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## Year 4

Despite a busy week for Year 4, with the first week of their intensive swimming sessions now completed, the children have undertaken some exciting comprehension work on volcanoes, focussing on their topic, 'Vikings' and notably Iceland.

## Year 5

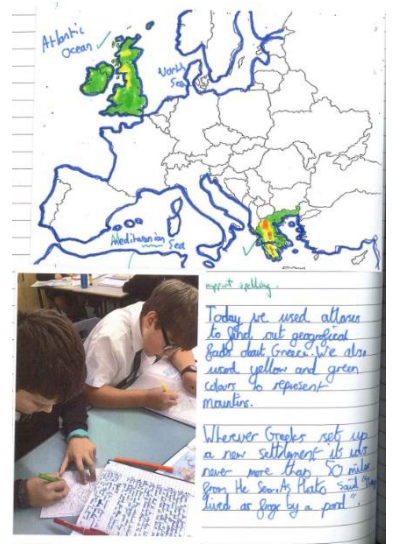
Year 5 this week have been using atlases to find out geographical facts about Greece. They then coloured their own maps and used yellow and green colours to represent the mountains. They discovered that whenever the Greeks set up a new settlement, it was ever more than 50 miles from the sea. As Plato said, "They lived as frogs by a pond".

## Staffing Update

Due to recent and sadly unforeseen family circumstances, our Year 1 teacher, Miss Bryant, needs to relocate to London and consequently will be leaving us at Christmas. We are very sorry to see Miss Bryant go however, I am sure that you will join with myself and the rest of the school community in wishing Miss Bryant all the very best for her future.

We would also like to share with you that Miss Blewett, our EYFS teaching assistant has secured employment closer to her home and we are temporarily filling this role with Miss Hampton, an experienced EYFS teaching assistant. Equally, I am sure that you will join with myself and the rest of the school community in wishing Miss Blewett all the very best for her future.

Both vacancies have been advertised externally this week and we will aim to inform you of the new appointments before Christmas, with the aim of them starting in January.



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## **Covid Update**

While case rates in Cornwall continue to rise, despite new case numbers being lower than the week before half term, the DfE guidance hasn't changed.

[Cornwall and Isles of Scilly weekly Covid-19 dashboard summary - Cornwall Council](#)

### **Face masks for staff**

Whilst rates in Cornwall remain high all staff will continue to wear a mask when moving about in communal, crowded, or confined spaces.

### **Children attending school in PE kits Covid update**

As it is now November and the weather is getting colder, it is not a requirement for any Covid reason for the children to come to school dressed in their PE kits. Therefore, we are asking all children to come to school wearing their school uniform every day. They should bring their PE kit with them on their allocated PE day and change just before their PE lesson. Thank you for your support with this.

### **Whole school assemblies**

With immediate effect, whole school assemblies for pupils and staff only, can now go ahead with adherence to the following guidelines:

1. Children to sit in class rows side by side facing forward if possible.
2. Enter and exit hall one class at a time in orderly manner.
3. Staff to sit at least 2 metres apart from each other and facing forwards if possible.
4. Make sure windows open and well ventilated
5. Keep assembly times to 15-20 minutes

### **Christmas events**

We are planning our Christmas events but with the caveat that plans may need to change, at short notice, if we have an outbreak of Covid in our school.

Also, as in any large gatherings, we ask that parents/carers follow the following procedures:

1. We politely request that parents/carers take an LFT on the day of the event and do not attend if a positive result is received.
2. All parents/carers attending an event in school, sanitise their hands at the main reception on arrival. Hand sanitiser is provided

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- We politely request that all parents/carers wear a face covering whilst in the building and on the school site.

The above procedures will also apply to events held at Phillack Church.

## **Dark nights ahead**

A reminder that now that the clocks have gone back, the evenings are getting darker. Please find a link below to help remind children about road safety and keeping safe in the dark.

### **Teaching Road Safety: A Guide for Parents**

<https://www.rospa.com/media/documents/road-safety/teaching-road-safety-a-guide-for-parents.pdf>



## **Chance to Shine Cricket**

The Chance to Shine cricket sessions for years, 1, 2, 3 and 6 planned for next Tuesday, 9<sup>th</sup> November has been postponed and moved to Tuesday 7<sup>th</sup> December.

<b>Attendance</b>		
Our school target for attendance is 96%		
1 <sup>st</sup> Place	Year 5	99.2 %
2 <sup>nd</sup> Place	Year 4	98.6 %
3 <sup>rd</sup> Place	Year 1	98.1 %

## **Shine Celebrations**

Please see below our Shining Stars for this week.

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## Connor Downs Academy Shining Stars Friday 5<sup>th</sup> November 2021



### Year R – Cecily

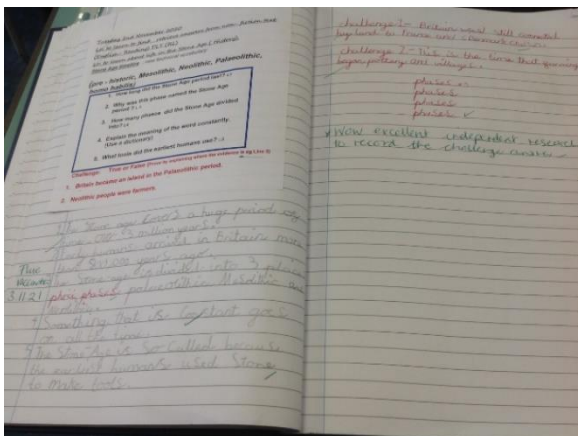
For using watercolour paints to create a beautiful painting of a Diya lamp, in celebration of Diwali. Cecily painted with concentration and skill.

### Year 1 – Sonnie

For using a superb array of descriptive language in his poem writing. Sonnie chose some really imaginative words to describe the character Humpty Dumpty and showed great concentration to produce a fantastic poem. Well done Sonnie!

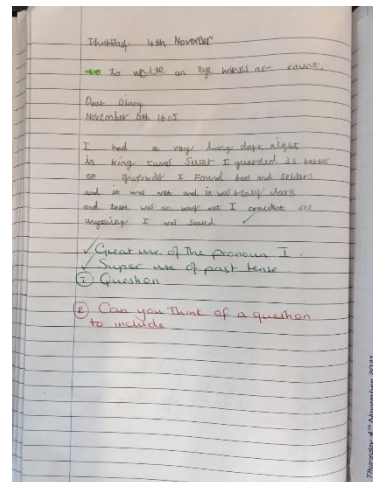
### Year 2 – Daniel

For writing an engaging eye-witness account about Guy Fawkes. Well done Daniel!



### Year 3 – Liam

For his excellent work on reading comprehension learning about the Stone Age period. Liam answered some really challenging questions using great independence skills and was able to prove his answer with evidence from the text.



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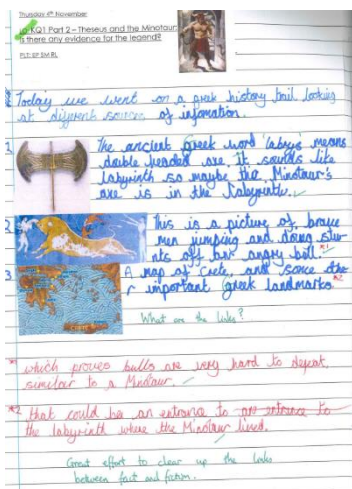
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## Year 4 – Ashton, Amelia B and Hugo

For showing great resilience and courage in their attitude to their swimming lessons this week. We are so proud of you!



## Year 5 – Jacob

For his historical analysis of the evidence surrounding the legend of Theseus and the Minotaur.

## Year 6 – George Gr.

For working hard on your fractions work this week. George listened well and was a joy to work with. Great job George!

## Performer of the Week

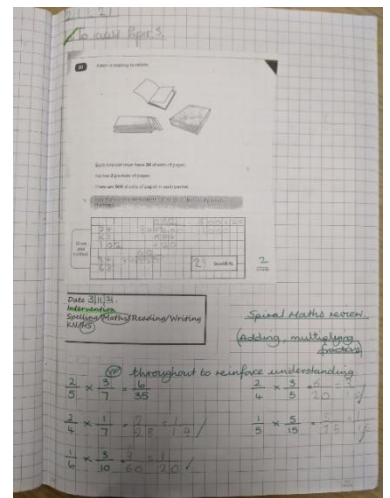
### Mason in Year 5

This is awarded for recording the greatest number of steps in a week using the new Moki Fitness trackers. Mason's total was 41,666 steps. Well done Mason!

Kind Regards,

*J. Eddy*

Mrs Eddy  
Head of School



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