



Wednesday Whistle

Welcome back to a new week and hopefully improved spring weather!



I open this week's Wednesday Whistle with good news. I start by extending heartfelt congratulations to Kevin Dyke on successfully being appointed, following a rigorous selection process, as the permanent Headteacher of Coombe Dean School from 1st September 2020.

Kevin was a very accomplished and long serving Deputy Principal at Plymstock School before taking on Interim Principal roles, firstly at Callington Community College then South Dartmoor Community College.

It is worth noting that this vacancy has arisen through Richard Woodland, the current post holder, taking on the new role of WeST Director of Inclusion from the autumn term. Indeed, such is the importance of this area we are currently working closely with PCC on how we can better develop the system and provision in Plymouth.

The second piece of celebratory news is the magnificent achievement of the ICC U15 Rugby team on victory against Harrow School in the NatWest national cup semi-final. This now means that ICC play in the national final at Twickenham on Thursday 19th March 2020. We are led to believe that this might be the first occasion when a state school has been represented in the national U15 final.

Further recruitment news...

We are now seeking to appoint a Headteacher for Woodford Primary School, for a 1st September 2020 start, following the retirement of Philippa Harvey. This vacancy will be open to internal applications only in the first instance, please find the related documents for the position attached to e-mail.

Best wishes

Rob Haring



Vacancy—Headteacher at Woodford Primary School



Job Title:	Headteacher
Location:	Woodford Primary School
Grade:	L16 – 22 (Dependent on experience)
Appointment Type:	Permanent
Hours:	Full-Time
Start Date:	September 2020
Closing Date:	16 th March 2020 at 9am

Woodford is a good school that is proud to be part of WeST, with a fantastic team of staff and pupils with great capacity for future growth. We require an exceptional educational practitioner, with the ability and ambition to lead the school on the next phase of its journey.

If you believe you have the skills and attributes to successfully take on this exciting new role and make a real difference to the outcomes for our young people, then we warmly welcome your application.

For more information, please see flyers attached to e-mail.

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Ivybridge Community College U15 Academy Rugby Team is off to Twickenham!



On Wednesday 4th March, Ivybridge Community College hosted the National Schools' Rugby Cup competition semi-final between the U15 Academy Rugby Team and Harrow School. It was a hugely close and competitive event with Ivybridge progressing to the final, by the narrowest of margins.

The game ended in a 22-22 draw, but Ivybridge were announced as the winning team, as they had scored the first points of the game.

Chris Brown, Director of Academy Sport at the College said, "The day was a fantastic advert for schoolboy rugby and the values the game teaches you. Our team should be as proud of themselves as we are of them". He added, "The College provided a fantastic event and Matt Shepherd, Director of Rugby, and our Rugby Coaches have done a great job. Thank you to the students, staff and visitors who watched the game and of course the players who played. The Team thoroughly deserves their day at Twickenham".

The final will be held at the home of English Rugby, Twickenham, on Thursday, 19 March. We wish our Team the very best of luck!



Indoor Athletics



On Thursday 5th March, the Netball Team from Stowford School competed in the Sough Hams High Five Netball Championships. They had come second in the Ivybridge Learning Community Tournament held at ICC in September. They have continued to train hard and that paid off in this event where they competed against four other schools, winning all but one of their games, which they drew. The team now represent the South Hams in the Devon County Games at Paignton, March 18th.

Good Luck to them and the Stowford Cross Country teams - Years 5/6 and 3/4 who compete for the South Hams in the Winter County Games on the same day.



Sir Robert Falcon Scott visits Woodford



The children in Year 1 at Woodford had a surprise visitor on Friday, as part of their work on Polar Explorers. Sir Robert Falcon Scott came in and talked to the children about his time in Antarctica and his exhaustive expedition to reach the South Pole. The children heard all about the difficulties he faced, looked at objects he would have taken on his trip and even got to spend some time in the tents, listening to the blizzard outside. It was a fabulous and memorable experience for all involved. Thank you to Blast From The Past for making this possible.



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Virtual History – Life in the Trenches

Coombe Dean recently had the pleasure of the company of Sergeant Rogers: a time travelling soldier who came to visit us from World War II



Sergeant Rogers taught our Year 8 and 9 pupils about what it was like to live and fight in the trenches of the Western Front. We studied primary sources and handled a soldier's kit- including a real Lee Enfield rifle – which was deactivated, of course! This helped our pupils to understand just how disadvantaged the British soldiers were against the German machine guns in the Battle of the Somme, and gave a great insight into helping them with their most recent assessment.

We were also able to 'time travel' back to the trenches through the modern technology of virtual reality. All students donned their headsets and got to experience going 'over the top', a gas attack, and observe a doctor at work in an aid post.

Thank you so much to Time Travel Education for such a wonderful, immersive learning opportunity. It has really helped enhance our understanding of the awesome undertaking of the soldiers during World War I, and truly brought history to life!



Wembury Primary - Democracy in Action: All-Party Parliamentary Group 'Speak for Change'



Wembury Primary school are very proud to have been part of 'The Plymouth Oracy Project' working with schools within the city to place Oracy (in all its forms) at the heart of their curriculum. Oracy is not something that we feel can be just an 'add on'; we are working hard to ensure that Oracy becomes embedded and have seen the positive impact on all of our children. Although we have been working on this for a year or so, we are still at the start of our journey as there is so much more that we can do!

On 2nd March, we took three children to Highview School where they participated in the UK wide All-Party Parliamentary Inquiry into Oracy. This was an opportunity to engage with the democratic process as the children's views (and the adults from the follow up session) will be heard by members of parliament. The children, Roma (Y6), Faith (Y4) and Noah (Foundation) support Oracy (and other students) as champions, working across Wembury Primary. During the inquiry session, they engaged confidently and articulately with a range of talking points such as the following: It is more important to be able to listen than to speak; Students should do more of the talking in class than the teachers; Every job requires you to have good Oracy skills. We were so impressed with their intelligent and thoughtful answers and so thrilled to have the opportunity to affect education policy!

'Every Child has a Voice.'



World Book Day



In celebration of World book Day, children from Boringdon enjoyed a week of book related activities. On Wednesday 4th March, Years 4, 5 and 6 took part in dance workshops with a professional dancer from the West End. The sessions were linked to World Book Day and involved 'bringing books to life' through dance. On Thursday, we celebrated World Book Day itself with a great many of the children, and teachers, coming dressed as characters from their favourite books. A number of Stormtroopers were even spotted around the school during the course of the day – rumoured to be the SLT!

KS2 classes tuned in to watch a live performance of 'Macbeth' by the RSC. Although for some, this was their first introduction to a Shakespeare play and the language involved was tricky to understand, by the end of the showing many were able to recall the plot, characters and themes involved. Schools all over the country took part and Boringdon even got a 'shout out' from the presenters.

On Friday, children from Reception enjoyed taking part in story telling workshops with Theatre Royal, Plymouth. The book 'Superworm', by Julia Donaldson, was explored through story, games, dance and drama.

The Book Fair was also in school for the week, with sales this year amounting to £1026!



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COVID 19 (Coronavirus)

Please see bullet points on COVID 19 below.

- If you or your pupils have the following cold/flu like symptoms and cough, shortness of breath and headaches call NHS 111. If in school at the time, isolate into a separate room keeping a 2m distance, ideally behind a door, and call 111 for advice. Once the person has left the room, please ensure the area is cleaned
- For people being testing for Coronavirus the results take 72 hours to be confirmed
- If poorly, ensure parents/pupils and yourself inform the school of illness and progress, as well as if being tested and the result of the test
- The government advice is business as usual, we are not to close schools without PHE guidance
- COVID 19 cannot survive outside the body more than 72 hours (information provided by PHE)
- Over time we may be in a situation where our staff and children know someone who has COVID 19. The advice for individuals in this situation is to continue as normal unless the individual has symptoms. Should this be the case, they are to go home and phone 111. They will then be tested, until result is positive, the school is to continue as usual. PHE will advise on the actions to take should the test return positive.
- All government agencies are stating how important hand cleaning is. The link below is to a 38 second video showing how to clean your hands properly. Please use this to show in assemblies etc: <https://www.nhs.uk/live-well/healthy-body/best-way-to-wash-your-hands/>
- For those thinking of going away over the Easter holidays, please do check the Foreign and Commonwealth Office for any travel restrictions. Please see link below: <https://www.gov.uk/guidance/travel-advice-novel-coronavirus>
- One final point, please note that there is currently a lot of inaccurate information being circulated, not only on social media but also on various news medias. West

will do their best to cut through this and provide reliable information to you, either through the Wednesday Whistle or through your Head Teacher/ Principal. The best source of information for schools currently comes directly from the Government. Their website is available for all to access and explores various topics related to the virus: <https://www.gov.uk/government/topical-events/coronavirus-covid-19-uk-government-response>



Thank you

Mark Bullard

Changing your Bank Account?



If you have, or are thinking about, changing your bank account it is important that you notify us of any changes directly and promptly to avoid non-payment of salary. There have been a number of recent instances where timely notifications have not been provided and unfortunately individuals have not been paid. This particularly occurs when there is an assumption that the new bank will notify us of account changes. If the bank concerned is signed up to the 'current account switch guarantee' scheme they are expected to notify the employer to pay salary into the new account. However, this is subject to the bank concerned being a member of the scheme, processing the notification in a timely way and providing this to us – unfortunately in a number of cases, such notifications have not been received. With this in mind, we would ask you to also directly notify our payroll providers using iTrent Employee Self Service (for Devon payroll) or a paper form available from the school/business unit office (for Cornwall and Delt (Plymouth) payrolls).

Many thanks

The HR Team

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NOTICE BOARD

Vacancies

The following vacancies are currently being advertised within our organisation:

Heles School

- Exam Invigilators
- Science technician

[https://](https://www.heles.plymouth.sch.uk/category/vacancies)

www.heles.plymouth.sch.uk/category/vacancies

Ivybridge Community College

- Timetable Administrator

[https://](https://www.ivybridge.devon.sch.uk/news/?pid=9&nid=3&storyid=900)

[www.ivybridge.devon.sch.uk/news/?](https://www.ivybridge.devon.sch.uk/news/?pid=9&nid=3&storyid=900)

[pid=9&nid=3&storyid=900](https://www.ivybridge.devon.sch.uk/news/?pid=9&nid=3&storyid=900)

Woodford Primary School

- Headteacher

Information attached to e-mail

Yealmpton Primary School

- Year 4 Teacher—temporary

[https://www.yealmpton-](https://www.yealmpton-primary.devon.sch.uk/page/?title=Vacancies&pid=107)

[primary.devon.sch.uk/page/?](https://www.yealmpton-primary.devon.sch.uk/page/?title=Vacancies&pid=107)

[title=Vacancies&pid=107](https://www.yealmpton-primary.devon.sch.uk/page/?title=Vacancies&pid=107)

Does your school have a current vacancy that you are looking to fill?

If you would like the vacancy to be advertised on this page, please send the details to admin@westst.org.uk

The Big Pedal just got personal.. The Big Pedal is currently the biggest national and local competition for walking, cycling and scooting. The winner in Plymouth for last year's challenge was Woodford Primary School.

To make it more exciting, the **Big Pedal MAT challenge** has been set up and schools across the MAT are encouraged to sign up!

The Big Pedal will create a list for all schools in the MAT to compete with each other. Daily bike, scooting and walking scores will be available for everyone to see and the data can even be used for maths sessions in school!

Certificates and small prizes will be provided for the

Winner of the Big Pedal Big Inter-MAT challenge.

Other category ideas:

- Best day for cycling/ scooting/ walking
- Best Big Pedal Active Travel Diary or Photo
- Best Class
- Big Pedal breakfast

Be Creative, Be Inspiring , Be Active – suggestions are welcomed

FAQ's

- if bike space is an issue allow one year group on each of the 10 days to cycle in
- The Big Pedal can train staff/pupils to run activities
- Resources are available once you sign up, including posters, assemblies and curriculum sessions on the theme of the Human Body: www.bigpedal.org.uk/



login

Sustrans Plymouth team Claire & Ryan look forward to supporting you:

Claire.harris@sustrans.org.uk

ryan.evans@sustrans.org.uk



Job opportunity – In-school Forensic Reading Leads required from 14 April 2020

To support the implementation of Forensic Reading, each secondary school is seeking to appoint an in-school Forensic Reading Lead. Details of this (Job description and person spec) can be found attached to this Wednesday Whistle email.

If you are interested in this opportunity, please submit a letter (max 1-side of A4) to your Headteacher by 9:00am on Friday 13 March 2020.

Interviews will take place in each school before the Easter break.

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HOT DATES



Egg-ineering Challenge 2020

Use your creativity to protect our 'Egg-stronauts' to return to Earth.

Atrium studio School,
Ashburton

Tuesday 17th March 2020

Countdown commences 9.15

9.45 Lift off!

Return to Earth at 3pm

Contact Atrium to book your team
place!

enquiries@atrium-studio.co.uk

01364 655399



Parents are invited to
arrive half an hour
earlier to see the
'landings' and
celebrate the day.

Re-use not refuse - it's the way forward!

A trailblazing event showcasing a myriad of innovative recycling ideas will be staged in Tavistock this March. The Upcycled Market is being held in the town's historic Butcher's Hall on Saturday 28th March and aims to promote the ethos of re-use, not refuse. It's the first event of its kind to be held in West Devon and organisers Miss Ivy Events are hoping it will become a regular fixture in the Tavistock's annual calendar.

