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Special Award Winners this Week

Willow 1	<i>Not in school</i>
Willow 2	<i>Not in school</i>
Yew 1	Alana-Grace S
Yew 2	Grayson W-R
Oak 1	Max D
Oak 2	Nikan A
Cherry 1	Seth W
Cherry 2	Angus J-C
Beech 1	Leo H
Beech 2	Tom B
Maple 1	James T
Maple 2	Charlie M
Red 1	Emily W
Red 2	Poppy S

Friday 17th September 2021

Well Done!

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FROM MRS GASCOIGNE, HEADTEACHER Term 1 Issue 2 2021

Dear Mums, Dads and Carers,



We were delighted to welcome Mrs Donna Tandy, our new CEO for Palladian Academy Trust, to our school on Tuesday morning. Although it was a drizzly day, Mrs Tandy could see the enjoyment in the classrooms through the smiles on children's faces. She was given a warm welcome by all the children and staff. We are excited to be engaging in the next part of the PAT journey and look forward to all that will mean.

On the same day as Stonehenge featured on the news, Year 3 enjoyed a very informative day at the heritage site. Staff were impressed with the children who represented the school well. There was so much to learn - information that will really support the classroom theme this term. Thank you to all who made the visit possible.



We had our own archaeological find on Thursday this week. During a forest school session, one of our Year 6 pupils unearthed a perfectly preserved glass jar which dates back to 1920. Some research on the internet suggests it is a rare CWS Cooperative Wholesale Society Silvox jar.

Lola, who found the jar, is going to talk to the children in Y4...our own historian and archaeologist!

As we reach the end of our second week in school with the children, I want to highlight the talented team of class room support staff who work in Combe Down Primary School. We are so blessed to be surrounded by such dedicated and skilled teaching assistants who go over and above to make sure children are supported and help to make each day run smoothly. Thank you to each and every one of them.

Thinking ahead to next week, please remember that **Friday 24th September is a Palladian Academy Trust INSET day.** We will be focussing on professional development opportunities for all staff. Our talented teaching assistants will be receiving their own dedicated training and teachers will be working collaboratively with colleagues across the PAT on specific areas of development.

I hope you all have a good weekend and are able to spend time with family and friends relaxing.

Contact the Governors via feedback@combedown.com

Contact the PTA via combedownpta@gmail.com

Contact the Prayer Group via prayergroup@combedown.com

School Governing Body Update - message from Susan Fletcher, vice chair of governors

I just wanted to let you all know that Stewart Holness has stepped down as Chair of Governors after nearly 10 years of service to the school community. I'm sure you'll all join me in thanking him for his hard work over many years, particularly during the challenges of the last 18 months. Stewart remains a valued member of the Combe Down school community as a parent.

I will be acting chair until the school governing body meets later this month to elect a new chair. I will let you know the outcome of this process. We are fortunate to have the continued support and involvement of an active governing body including parent, teacher and community representatives.

As head teacher, I reiterate Susan's words. Stewart has always provided an enormous amount to support both to me personally and to the school staff. He will be missed in the school governing body and wider PAT. Thank you Stewart for the dedication of skills and time over so many years.

**Parent Forum - 28th September, 2.15pm**

On Tuesday 28th September Mrs Bird and Mr Wainer are going to host an outdoor parent forum! We will meet you at the bottom gate to discuss drop off and pick up arrangements for this term. Join them if you would like add your voice to the discussion. This is an outdoor event, weather permitting.

Guitar lessons at Combe Down

New spaces are now available for lessons with our wonderful guitar teacher Jimmy Goodrich! Jimmy has been at Combe Down since 2005, and teaches classical, contemporary, rock and folk, as well as favourite film and TV themes to beginners and up. Lessons are on Thursday or Friday and cost £16 for 30 minutes. Please contact Jimmy on 07808005903 or email jimmygoodrich@hotmail.com

Singing lessons at Combe Down

Our singing teacher Paula Smagon, who is not only a qualified teacher (PGCE) but also a published recording artist (<https://www.paulajasminejames.com>) is now available to take on new pupils between Year 3 and Year 6.

You can also email her directly to paulinasmagon@gmail.com to book your tester slot.

You can find more information about Paula on our school website under Music lessons at Combe Down.

Autumn Term Dates (subject to change, please always check the website):

Autumn Term

First Day Of Term	6 September 2021
Half Term	23 October 2021 - 31 October 2021
Last Day Of Term	17 December 2021
Christmas/Winter Holidays	18 December 2021 - 3 January 2022
Further Information	Inset Days: Thursday 2nd September, Friday 3rd September, Friday 24th September (PAT Inset)

Letters home this week:

Year 4 Trip letter
Year 5 Trip letter

Year 4
Year 5

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