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Special Award Winners this Week

Willow 1	Leo P
Willow 2	Connor D
Yew 1	Milo T
Yew 2	Billy B
Oak 1	Scarlett M & Luke C
Oak 2	Holly D
Cherry 1	Finley G
Cherry 2	Elodie H
Beech 1	Owen T
Beech 2	Luke B
Maple 1	Alice E
Maple 2	Keira W
Red 1	Sarah W
Red 2	Gabriel F-S

Friday 22nd November 2019

Well Done!

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FROM MRS GASCOIGNE, HEADTEACHER

Term 2 Issue 3 2019

Dear Mums, Dads and Carers,

Another week has flown by and we are almost at the end of November! This week all of **Year 5** visited Ralph Allen Secondary School to play **Hockey**. An amazing energetic experience was had by all and we were welcomed back anytime! Well done Year 5.

Our **netball team** enjoyed a friendly match with Widcombe Junior school at the end of the day on Monday. Two teams played. The scores were 12: 3 to Combe Down in the first match and 5: 14 to Widcombe in the second match. Well done netballers! I know you really enjoyed it. Great ambassadors as usual.

We also welcomed colleagues from St Martin's Garden Primary school to our site. They were particularly interested in our Early Years Provision. Thank you to the team for hosting them.

We continue to host **Norland Nannies** this term. We have two in EYFS and two in Year 1 for the next few weeks. They are working so well with our children and staff. It is exciting to be working with the college as well as **Bath Spa University**. In addition to hosting some trainee teachers we are hosting some undergraduates in education until January.

Many of you will be aware that **Mr Wainer** had a very difficult year last year due to family bereavement. This has made him reassess his situation and consequently, following discussions with myself, the governors and I have agreed to him reducing his hours temporarily until the summer. Mr Wainer has requested to reduce to three days (Monday-Wednesday) from January. As a result, this week we held interviews to fill the vacancy. We were blessed with a very strong field of applicants and following intensive interviews, we offered the position to **Mrs Debbie Mallinson**. Mrs Mallinson is an experienced practitioner and comes with a wealth of teaching and leadership skill and knowledge. She is keen to work alongside Mr Wainer in the coming weeks to get to know the children and the school and to make contact with parents too. I know you will make her very welcome and that you will have compassion for Mr Wainer's difficult decision.

Children in Need

Thank you to everyone who donated to **Children in Need** last Friday to wear their mufti to school. We raised an amazing **£331.10!** Thank you.

Christmas Jumper Swap Shop - TODAY

Support the PTA and recycle unwanted Christmas Clothing by Donating, Swapping or Buying a Christmas Jumper. TODAY – Friday 22nd November 2019, 3.15pm, Cherry 2 classroom.



Contact the Governors via feedback@combedown.com
Contact the PTA via combedownpta@gmail.com
Contact the Prayer Group via prayergroup@combedown.com

Monkton Combe Year 6 Mathematics Challenge

The maths competition was really great. In three rounds we tried our hardest and did our best. For our first round we had 5 numbers and 5 letters and we had to find out which letter equal which numbers. We were given clues like $A \div 3 = 2$ and to decode them A would be 6. In the 2nd round we had a selection of numbers and the total we had to make. We had to find the correct sum to get to that number. In the last round, we had various cards with worded problems on and we had to go round our entire row of tables after each question had been marked. It was an amazing experience and we had a lot of fun.

Sarah J, Matilda H, Filip G, Theo F- Year 6

Parent Forum - Homework Policy

Thank you to all of you who attended our first meeting of this school year and provided valuable feedback. Homework is an important part of school life and there was lots of discussion about getting the right balance, achieving consistency across the years and taking a more holistic approach to homework. The importance of building resilient learners and preparing children for secondary school was discussed, but also the pressures & negative impacts that some parents and children have experienced. Outcomes from this discussion were to ensure that the policy is clear that levels of homework for each key stage are the school's recommendations or guidelines and are not compulsory. The levels of homework should not impact negatively on family life. Knowing what curriculum achievements and milestones are expected by the end of each year should be clearly explained. Therefore, parents can support this learning at home and have clear goals and timeframes to aim for, as and when it is feasible for them to do so. The school does offer support for the older years to complete assignments during homework club and having access to programmes like Doodle Maths is invaluable. The school's homework policy will continue to be developed; to offer direction & guidance for parents and carers.



The Parent Forum team

Walking Bus - continuing next week - 26th and 28th November 2019

Many thanks to those who joined us on the walking bus this week.

The parent accompanied walking bus will continue next week on Tuesday and Thursday. We will set off from the shops at Bradford Road and walk together to School. Each time we will start at 8:15am.

We are coming close to a child drop off at the bus stop of the walking bus from January, but the November buses will require you still to walk to School with your child or children.

To register your interest on the walking bus scheme, or to volunteer to help on a Tuesday or Thursday morning, please email walkingbus@combedown.com. This is most definitely a parent and community project, ran by parents for the benefit of all children.



Mr Wainer

We are looking for some decorations for our new School Christmas Tree

To support sustainable planting, this year we are using a potted tree that school can use each year to celebrate Christmas and enhance the school grounds. We are looking for decorations for the tree. They need to be suitable for outdoor use and most importantly environmentally friendly. Using things from our gardens and homes like pine cones, flower/seed heads, sticks, wood, ribbons, pom-poms, bells etc. Please no plastic, glass, tinsel or glitter. Even a few sticks tied together with some ribbon would be lovely. Once we have enough decorations we will arrange for some children to decorate the tree. We will leave a box in the hall foyer for any donations. If you have any bits but not the time to turn them into something, please pop it in the box and we will do something with it and add it to our tree. Many thanks from the Gardening Team - gardening@combedown.com

5km/10km Two-Tunnels Race to support well-being activities at school - 10th May 2020

We have had a great uptake, with 1 class in particular entering 10 runners! We would love to have more. The date for the race is 10th May 2020. All money raised will be used to provide all the children in the school further workshops and activities, similar to those that happened during well-being week, throughout the rest of the year. You do not need to be a brilliant runner to take part in the event - there is plenty of time to train before May. To sign up, please visit the website of Relish Running <http://www.relishrunningraces.com/bath-two-tunnels-railway-running-races.php> and let the office know that you have signed up to take part.

Mrs Bird

Clothes Aid Collection - please start putting items aside - Wednesday 11th December

The PTA has arranged a Clothes Aid collection in order to raise funds to support the school. In previous years such collections have been a successful fund raising initiative. The school will put collection bags into the children's book bags in the week commencing 2nd December. If you would like to donate, please fill them with any unwanted clothes and return them to the school hall foyer the morning of **Wednesday 11th December**.



Clothes Aid collect the following items: gently worn clothes (i.e. no rips, tears or stains), paired shoes, accessories (bags, belts etc.). They are unable to collect the following: school uniforms and school logoed sports kits, company-branded clothing (i.e. work wear), towels, bedding, books, CDs, DVDs. Clothes Aid, like other clothing collection agencies, pay by weight rather than by each particular item, so please don't feel any pressure to include any expensive items you may wish to dispose of in a different way.

The collections go on to partnered charity shops in the UK and some will be sold on abroad. Clothes Aid donates all of the profits to their partnered charities (<https://clothesaid.co.uk/partner-charities/>).

If you do not wish to donate, please just return the empty bag. Any donations are welcome and will greatly help the PTA assist the school. Hopefully this will be a great opportunity to have a pre-Christmas clear out, without having to make a trip to the charity shop!

The PTA

Male Voice Choir Charity Concert, November 23rd 2019 at 7pm, Holy Trinity Church, Combe Down

Saturday 23rd November 2019, starting at 7pm in Holy Trinity Church, with a raffle and refreshments. Avon Police Choir and Children from Combe Down Primary School singing performance! An evening of pure music and celebration of talent to raise money for the Septicaemia Charity and Sport and Mental Health in Children at Combe Down School. Tickets available on the door, priced at £7.50 per adult and starts at 7pm. Please come along to support us! Thank you.

Mrs Thompson

Free Tickets for Families for Bath Phil Concert on 5th December 2019

Bath Philharmonia are offering 50 FREE tickets to every school in B&NES, to attend their full symphony orchestra concert on Thursday 5th December at 7.30pm at The Bath Forum. They will be performing Mussorgsky's Night on a Bare Mountain, Rachmaninov Piano Concerto no. 3 with 17 year-old pianist Lauren Zhang who was the 2018 winner of the BBC Young Musician of the Year, and Night Ferry by Anna Clyne.

Tickets to this concert are offered on a first come, first served basis (max. 4 per family). There is a sign-up sheet in the office - if you would like to reserve some seats please come to the office to sign up by 3.30pm on Thursday 28th November 2019. You will then be able to collect your tickets on the door of The Forum by arriving to the concert before 7.15pm on 5th December. Tickets will only be issued to the names listed on the sign-up sheet.

Big Book Boost - The Book People

You should have received a flyer this week with details of the 'Big Book Boost' scheme run by The Book People. Any online order over £10 will qualify for a donation to the school of £1. You can do this by selecting Combe Down Primary at the checkout. We can then use this to spend on books for our school.

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

-  22 Nov 19 15:15 to 15:45 – **Year 2 Cake Sale and PTA Uniform Sale**
-  23 Nov 19 19:00 to 21:00 – **Avon & Somerset Constabulary Male Voice Choir Concert**
-  5 Dec 19 18:00 to 19:00 – **Christingle service – HTCD, 6pm**
-  7 Dec 19 14:00 to 16:30 – **PTA Christmas Fair – 2pm–4.30pm**
-  9 Dec 19 13:00 to 15:00 – **Year 4 Christmas Experience, HTCD**
-  10 Dec 19 18:00 to 19:00 – **PAT Carol Service, The Abbey, 6pm**
-  11 Dec 19 09:30 to 10:30 – **FS and Year 1 Christmas Show, 9.30am**
-  12 Dec 19 14:00 to 15:00 – **FS and Year 1 Christmas Show, 2pm**
-  17 Dec 19 09:00 to 11:30 – **Year 2 Nativity, 9.00 – 11.30am, HTCD**
-  18 Dec 19 13:00 to 15:00 – **Year 2 Nativity, 1.00–3.00pm, HTCD**
-  20 Dec 19 – Term 2 Ends, 3.15pm
-  20 Dec 19 14:00 to 15:00 – **KS2 Carol Service, HTCD time TBC**
-  6 Jan 20 – Term 3 Starts, 8.45/8.50am
-  7 Jan 20 09:30 to 11:15 – **Open Morning, 9.30–11.15am**
-  10 Feb 20 – PAT Inset Day, School Closed to Pupils
-  14 Feb 20 – Term 3 Ends, 3.15pm
-  24 Feb 20 – Term 4 Starts, 8.45/8.50am
-  9 Mar 20 – PAT Inset Day, School Closed to Pupils
-  30 Mar 20 13:00 to 15:00 – **Year 3 Easter Experience, HTC**
-  3 Apr 20 – Term 4 Ends, 3.15pm
-  20 Apr 20 – Term 5 Starts, 8.45/8.50am
-  22 May 20 – Term 5 Ends, 3.15pm
-  1 Jun 20 – Term 6 Starts, 8.45/8.50am
-  17 Jul 20 – Term 6 Ends, 3.15pm
-  20 Jul 20 – Inset Day, School Closed to Pupils

Letters home this week:

Library Access Arrangements

FS & Year 1

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