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## Special Awards

### Special Award Winners this Week

Willow 1	Lilja C
Willow 2	Toal R
Yew 1	Max S
Yew 2	James M
Oak 1	Oscar D
Oak 2	Anna M
Cherry 1	Eliza T
Cherry 2	Tess W
Beech 1	Keziah M
Beech 2	Lauren B
Maple 1	Sophie M
Maple 2	Benjamin S & Grace N
Red 1	Sophie S
Red 2	Felix S

Friday 12<sup>th</sup> March 2021

## Well Done!

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## FROM MRS BIRD, ACTING HEADTEACHER Term 4 Issue 1 2021

Dear Mums, Dads and Caregivers,

Wow, what a monumental week it's been as everyone has returned to school! I'm sure houses have felt very quiet, fridges have been unusually full and iPads eerily untouched.

Amongst the balloons and music when you dropped off children on Monday, you may have heard Pharrell Williams' 'Happy' playing in the background. That has really set the mood for the week. Everyone has been buzzing.

So, against the four-step plan to support the children's transition that we mentioned a few weeks ago, what's been making everyone 'happy' this week?

### FRIENDSHIPS

There's been a **big focus on social and emotional wellbeing** this week whilst incorporating Maths and English. Teachers have been stepping in more to support children with friendships and all of this will continue until Easter.

### FEELINGS

Furry little creatures have been appearing in classrooms and I'm not talking about Mr Wainer's beard or teachers' lockdown locks! We've welcomed 'Worry Monsters' into each class to gobble up any worries that children may have. Staff then take the worries and address them. They are proving a BIG hit.



### FUTUREPROOFING

Given there are no school trips, which are such a rich part of school life, until further notice, we think we've found a great alternative in the interim. The **fab Wiltshire Outdoor Learning Team** is coming to the school for the next 7 weeks to focus on outdoor learning and team building. And it's all possible thanks to a super **kind donation of £1,400 from the PTA**. What would we do without such a generous PTA? The noise of school life and full classrooms has understandably been difficult for some children, but we hope this will get easier as we continue to transition.

Contact the Governors via [feedback@combedown.com](mailto:feedback@combedown.com)  
Contact the PTA via [combedownpta@gmail.com](mailto:combedownpta@gmail.com)  
Contact the Prayer Group via [prayergroup@combedown.com](mailto:prayergroup@combedown.com)

**FUN**

Children may have mentioned that **play times have got longer**, and we've extended them to help rebuild friendships and socialising after so long out of school. All year groups will have a short playtime in the afternoon, too.

House tokens are also back in place! I know the children have been working hard for a token!



As always, all of this wouldn't be possible without our super supportive staff and parent/caregiver community. The vibe has been so positive, joyful, and invigorating so long may it continue.

**In other school news, this week:**

**Jane is recovering well** - and already only using one stick, as she recovers from her hip operation. We'll have her sprinting again in time for the Olympics! In all seriousness, she sends her love as she recovers at home.

**Mr and Mrs O'Neil welcomed a lovely baby girl** called Olivia Abigail O'Neill, weighing 7 pounds 9. She is absolutely beautiful! We send our love and good wishes to the happy family.



**The Chris Witty bit - social distancing please!** We know that many of you are delighted to see each other again after so long, but please try and socially distance wherever possible.

And finally, our theme for this term is **FORGIVENESS**. Children get all kinds of knocks at school, and learning how to live in a group with different people can sometimes mean they get hurt. However, school is also an amazing environment to learn how to practise **FORGIVENESS**, and how to grow together. How we encourage them to embrace **FORGIVENESS** sets them up for healthy relationships for the rest of their lives.



Have a great weekend, especially on Sunday. I'm looking forward to Mr Bird cooking me a lovely breakfast and having a lie-in until 7.30am!

With warm wishes,

*Jo Bird*

**Extra vigilance required**

We have received a few reports of a man approaching children outside the school gates at pick-up time, and questioning them about how their day has been. This has been reported to the local PCSO team, but please do be extra vigilant and let the school office know if you see anything suspicious.

### DoodleMaths subscription

Thank you to all those parents who have already donated via ParentMail towards their child's DoodleMaths subscription for this academic year, we really appreciate your support. If you have not yet made a donation and are able to donate £5 (or more) per child we'd be very grateful - this is a large reduction from the £5.99 per month DoodleMaths would charge for a personal subscription for your child at home.

We do understand that Covid has had an impact on lots of people's finances, but if parents are able to make a donation then it would be gratefully received.

### The Big Sleep-Out for Julian House

Well done to Flo H and her dad, who raised an amazing £1080 for the Julian House big sleep out on Friday night.

Thank you to all who sponsored them, it is very much appreciated.



### Unlikely Heroes Easter Adventure

The Unlikely Heroes team are back with an Easter Adventure episode released onto YouTube on Good Friday.

Some fun and games for the Easter holidays.

To get your free postal party pack please register by 26<sup>th</sup> March.

*Claire Morrish, Children's Minister*



## Need more school uniform?

We have a selection of good quality second hand jumpers and cardigans (£3 each), trousers, shirts, winter dresses (£2 each), white polo shirts (£1 each), and various PE kit items (£1 each).

Email us with your requirements at  
[office@combedown.com](mailto:office@combedown.com)

If you have any good condition second hand uniform to donate, please send it in with your child in a carrier bag.

*All proceeds go to the Combe Down Primary School PTA*

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

April 2021

**01**  
APR    **End of Term 4, 3.15pm**  
🕒 15:15 | 📅 Term Dates

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**19**  
APR    **Term 5 Starts, 8.45/8.50am**  
📅 Term Dates

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May 2021

**28**  
MAY    **End of Term 5, 3.15pm**  
🕒 15:15 | 📅 Term Dates

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June 2021

**07**  
JUN    **Term 6 Starts, 8.45/8.50am**  
📅 Term Dates

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**18**  
JUN    **Inset Day - school closed to pupils**  
🕒 08:45 - 15:15 | 📅 Staff Training Day

Forest School Term 4

	09:30 – 11:30	13:00 – 15:00
Thursday, 11 <sup>th</sup> March	Year 6 – Redwood 1	Year 6 – Redwood 2
Friday, 12 <sup>th</sup> March	Year 3 – Cherry 2	Year 3 – Cherry 1
Thursday 18 <sup>th</sup> March	Year 4 – Beech 1	Year 4 – Beech 2
Friday, 19 <sup>th</sup> March	Year 5 – Maple 2	Year 5 – Maple 1
Thursday, 25 <sup>th</sup> March	Year 2 – Oak 1	Year 2 – Oak 2
Friday, 26 <sup>th</sup> March	Year 1 – Yew 2	Year 1 – Yew 1
Thursday, 1 <sup>st</sup> April	Reception – Willow 1	Reception – Willow 2

Support the PTA when you shop online by clicking via **Amazon Smile** or signing up with **The Giving Machine**.





Letters home this week:

*No letters home this week*

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