

1st October 2021

# Tavistock Primary and Nursery School Newsletter



**Tavistock**  
Primary & Nursery School

*Excellence for all*

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Dear Parents and Carers,

Last week 18 year 6 children put themselves forward to speak in front of their peers and the Senior Leadership Team for selection for the position of House Captain. We were very proud to see so many of our pupils willing to offer their time, effort and energy to help others at school and take on this level of responsibility. **CONGRATULATIONS** go to **Francesca, Daniel, Eloise, Cooper, Ruby, Phoebe, Lottie and Madison** who were selected as our **8 new House Captains**. I would also like to say **WELL DONE** to Luke, Katie, Joe, Clara, Ollie, Jasmine, Roxy, Milly-Grace, Oscar and Megan for the courage they showed in standing and for their excellent speeches – they made Mrs Alexander's, Mrs Base's and my job of choosing very difficult. There will be other opportunities for roles of responsibility this year and it is reassuring to know we have such a large group of children willing to step up.



We are looking forward to seeing you all at our parent consultation evenings next week. Please make sure you have booked your appointment through parentmail. If you are unable to make the available dates, please phone the office to make an alternative appointment to talk to your child's class teacher. We want to see every parent!

**Mrs L. Handel**  
Headteacher

**REMEMBER**

**Although Tavistock Goose Fair has been cancelled this year, the school will remain closed to children on Wednesday 13th October.**

## New Starters

*"Despite the challenging environment faced by all schools throughout the Covid pandemic, Tavistock Primary has demonstrated exceptional practice in terms of transition opportunities."* - Parent

We are very pleased with how well our new reception children have settled into the school. They are enthusiastic and inquisitive about their learning and have made lots of new friends. **Well done!**

## Dates for Your Diary

- > Week commencing 4th October Birkability for Y5
- > Mon 4th and Weds 6th October Parent consultation meetings
- > 13th October INSET day
- > 22nd October Harvest Festival at St Eustatius Church.
- > 25th-29th October half term
- > December 17th Last day of autumn term
- > 5th January First day of Spring Term
- > Week commencing 28th March Y4 residential trip to Dartmoor
- > Week commencing 9th May Y5 residential trip to London
- > Week commencing 27th June Y6 residential trip to Porthpean

## Garden Days

Classes 2 and 3
Friday 22nd October
Classes 4 and 5
Wednesday 20th October
Classes 6 and 7
Friday 1st October
Classes 8 and 9
Monday 20th September
Classes 10 and 11
Tuesday 19th October
Classes 12 and 13
Friday 8th October
Class 14
Thursday 7th October
Class 15
Wednesday 6th October
Nativity performance and Christmas end of term assembly dates to follow

Today marks the start of October and thus a new 'Musician of the Month'. This month is the legendary **Nina Simone**.

The children can expect to learn about the artist and hear some of her music in assembly and in class.

Nina Simone has influenced lots of modern artists. She crossed many genres, including Jazz, Blues and Gospel.

October is Black History Month. Nina Simone was very involved in the Civil Rights Movement, making the choice of her for musician of the month particularly apt.

Happy listening!



## FREE gardening equipment for your school

For every £10 you spend (in store or online) at Morrisons, you'll get a Grow Token to help your school get everything they need to get growing. Download the MyMorrisons app today to start collecting Grow Tokens and choose the school you'd like to donate them to.



*My story on Monday began:  
Mountainous seas crashed on the cliffs,  
And the desolate land grew wetter ...  
The teacher wrote a little note: Remember the capital letter!*

*My poem on Tuesday began:  
Red tongues of fire,  
Licked higher and higher  
From smoking Etna's top ...  
The teacher wrote a little note: Where is your full stop?*

*My story on Wednesday began:  
Through the lonely, pine-scented wood  
There twists a hidden path ...  
The teacher wrote a little note: Start a paragraph!*

*My poem on Thursday began:  
The trembling child,  
Eyes dark and wild,  
Frozen midst the fighting ...  
The teacher wrote a little note: Take care - untidy writing!*

*My story on Friday began:  
The boxer bruised and bloody lay,  
His eye half closed and swollen ...  
The teacher wrote a little note:  
Use a semi-colon!*

*Next Monday my story will begin:  
Once upon a time...*

Poem by Gervase Phinn

## Feedback and Marking

The way we teach is always changing, as research constantly provides better ways to help children learn. Every year we write a plan to make improvements to the children's learning experience and keep up to date with developments. This is called a School Improvement Plan. For the last few years we have been working on better ways to give children feedback on their work. Feedback is only any good if it helps children improve! Research has shown that the feedback that helps children know more and remember more is usually verbal and as immediate as possible, i.e. at the point when the children are trying out new learning and making the inevitable mistakes that come when we try new things. This is a long preamble, but I wanted to explain the thinking behind our decision to no longer write in children's books. Teachers continue to look at children's work, just as much, if not more than ever. However, the way they let children know how they can improve has changed at Tavistock Primary and Nursery School. If you are interested, your child's class teacher can give you more information at parent consultations. You are also welcome to ask me, Mrs Alexander or Mrs Lashley when you see us out and about on the playground. Books will not be routinely available at this term's parent consultations, as this meeting is to talk about how your child has settled into their new class, but teachers might refer to work in children's books while they are talking to you, so I wanted you to be prepared! I think this poem (left) by Gervase Phinn illustrates the point better than any explanation from me.

## HARTBEEPS

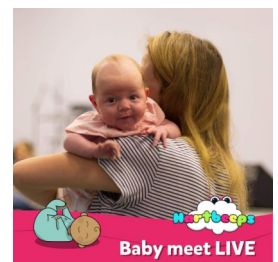
**Our FREE Baby meet booking is now open!**

**When?** Monday 25th October at 12pm

**Who is it for?** For babies from 0-5 months **Where?** Tavistock Red & Black Club

**What's it all about?** I am so excited to be hosting this event for new parents!

Please join me for a **FREE** Hartbeeps session plus a chance to socialise and meet other families. There will be refreshments available after the session as well as our Hartbeeps pop up shop!





# House Captains

The results are in and your new House Captains have been appointed! Congratulations and welcome to your new role, **Eloise, Cooper, Lottie, Maddison, Ruby, Francesca, Daniel and Phoebe!**



## Outside Classroom Update

We have finally heard from our insurance company, and are delighted to confirm they will be covering the full cost!  
**A new classroom has now been ordered.**

An extra special thank you goes to **Charles Gray Kitchens** who, on seeing the skip in our playground, volunteered to fund it for us. **THANK YOU!**



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Primary and Nursery  
school for 2-11 year olds

Extended hours  
provision - open from  
8.00am-6.00pm

Rich and varied experiences  
through excellent facilities  
inside and out.

We're on Instagram!

Make sure you head  
over and follow us to  
stay up to date with  
news from the school.



**@tavistockprimary**

## Covid 19

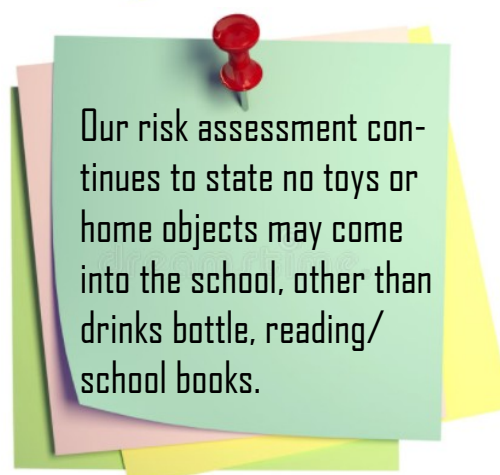
### Covid Symptoms

YOU MUST NOT COME TO SCHOOL if you have any symptoms of Covid 19. The legal rules for 10 day self isolation and testing continue to apply. If you are a close contact of someone who has tested positive for Covid 19 you should also self isolate, unless you are under 18 or have had both vaccines. You should test regularly throughout the 10 days, if you have been a close contact of someone who has tested positive for Covid 19. Please inform us if your child tests positive for Covid 19.

We are continuing with the recommended good hygiene regimes:

1. Ensure good hygiene for everyone.
2. Maintain appropriate cleaning regimes.
3. Keep occupied spaces well ventilated.
4. Follow public health advice on testing, self-isolation and managing confirmed cases of COVID-19.

Our updated Covid 19 risk assessment is available on the school website.



## Family Service

**Sunday 3rd October 2021 at 9.45am**  
**St Eustachius Church—Everyone welcome!**

Mini Messy: Wednesday 6th October 4pm-5pm  
Craft and workshop—Inside church, following current COVID guidelines. Everyone is welcome, accompanied by an adult please.

Contact Sarah: 07929 911892  
churchsteustachius@gmail.com  
These are free events, but donations are welcome.

## October Holiday Camps

**Mon 25th—Weds 27th**

**Monday:** Football & GK

**Tuesday:** Just Play Football

**Wednesday:** Cricket, Frisbee, Hockey & Tennis

Mark Wickett: mark@markwickettsoccerschool.co.uk

5-11 years old

£15 cash or £16 cheque per child per day.

More information will be coming home with your child.



## Reading Volunteers

We are welcoming volunteers back into school now that some Covid restrictions have been eased. Volunteers make a real difference to children in our school. If you would like to volunteer, an application form can be found on our website.

## Job Vacancy

Mealtime Assistant: 1.25 hours Mon-Fri.

Follow this link for an application form which should be emailed to [admin@tavistock-pri.devon.sch.uk](mailto:admin@tavistock-pri.devon.sch.uk)

<https://www.tavistock-pri.devon.sch.uk/website/employment/296419>