



Message from Mrs Crocker

Easter now seems like a distant memory as this Summer Term seems to be gaining momentum! However, the summer term is not living up to its name yet. I hope you're all enjoying the 'heatwave' that I heard the weather forecasters promising us earlier in the week! It just feels like it's never going to stop raining! However, this has not dampened the spirits or activities for the children. Earlier this week Sapling Class had an amazing (albeit VERY wet!!) residential trip to Brecon where they canoed along the canal, went gorge walking - which included an adventure through a disused railway tunnel - and the following day they enjoyed a caving session at Llangattock escarpment. They were certainly tired when they got back, but had all had a fantastic experience.

On the subject of Sapling Class, some of you may already be aware that Mrs Davies has been off school recently and is unlikely to be back before half term. However, I am thrilled to announce that Mrs Davies is expecting her first baby and she was happy for me to share this exciting news with you all. I'm sure you'll join me in sending our congratulations to her and her husband about this exciting news!

Statutory Testing in the Summer Term

The summer term is always very busy with various government statutory 'checks'. As we are a local authority school, we obviously must comply with these, however we really pride ourselves on managing them in a child-friendly way, so not to put undue pressure or worry on the children. An example of this is the Year 6 'Sats Breakfast' which really becomes for focus for the children! You may receive some further information in the next few weeks to explain a little more about some of these 'checks'. In a nutshell, here are the main assessments and checks that take place:

Year R - At the end of Year R, each child will be assessed against 17 key areas called the Early Learning Goals (ELG's). This is known as the Early Years Foundation Stage (EYFS) Profile.

Year 1 – On Tues 11th June, children complete a phonics check with Miss Cook. (This will also include any Year 2 children if they didn't meet the standard in Year 1.

Year 2 – KS1 SATs – these are now **not** statutory, but we will still be using the materials to help inform a teacher assessment during the Summer Term.

Year 4 – At the start of June, the Year 4 children will complete an online timetables check. They have to answer 25 questions (up to 12x12) with 6 secs to type an answer.

Year 6 SATs – these take place the week beginning 13th May. Mr Crocker will be sending some further information and a timetable to Year 6 families very soon.

Pre school news

It has been a busy start to the summer term, the children are enjoying our gardening project, their seed experiment has demonstrated seeds don't always need soil to grow!

If any families have spare plants, we would be very grateful, the children have chosen to plant a strawberry bed, sensory garden with herbs, flower garden and vegetable patch, their pumpkin seeds have started to grow indoors.

Last week we discussed how to make planet earth happy with various activities such as litter picking around our local area, walking to the woods, planting seeds and using homegrown ingredients to cook with. This week the children have enjoyed our story The odd fish and learnt through play the damage plastic does to the ocean animals.

On Wednesday afternoon Elifs family kindly brought 3 goslings into our garden, the children all enjoyed this visit very much getting an opportunity to feed and stroke the goslings.

Our monthly welly walks continue to be popular; we welcome any parent/ carer with a child under 4 to join us as we explore the fields around preschool and then back into our setting for hot chocolate and toast finishing with songs.

As the weather hopefully warms up labelled suncream and a sun hat will be essential as well as usual wellies and waterproofs all left in preschool.

Thank you and have a lovely weekend,

Julie, Beth and Sophie

Date for diary!

Welly walk Tuesday May 14th 9.15 until 11.00am

Dates- All our upcoming events and important dates can be found on the calendar on our website.

[Michaelchurch Escley Primary School - Calendar \(michaelchurchprimary.com\)](http://michaelchurchprimary.com)