

South Molton Community Primary School

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Headteacher: Mr T Parkin



Dear Parents & Guardians,

20/03/26

It has been a wonderfully sunny week in school and the children have had so much fun exploring the outdoors. We have opened up the school roundabout as so many children have been bringing in their scooters and bikes this week for our Big Wheel Event (more details below). It would be fantastic to see families keeping up this healthy habit in the warmer months!

We had the first of our residential this week where our year 5 children visiting Dartmoor. Miss Simpson has written an excellent recount below of their time. We would like to say big well done to the children for showing a 'can do' attitude and giving the activities a go. We look forward to our further residential next term.

Eco-Committee

This week Miss Marrow and Miss Langmead met with the Eco-Committee. They had a fantastic time discussing future plans and actions they can take to improve our school environment sustainably. Keep your eyes peeled for future updates!



Dartmoor Residential

Our Year 5 residential began with soft, misty rain that made the moor feel even more atmospheric. Far from dampening spirits, it added to the sense of adventure. The children arrived full of excitement, ready to embrace whatever the day brought. After settling into our accommodation and enjoying a warm, hearty lunch, we wrapped up well and headed out onto the moor. During our walk, we explored the local environment, discovering Dartmoor's unique geographical features and learning how the landscape has shaped life in the area. Working together, the children showed fantastic teamwork as they constructed their own shelters, putting problem-solving and cooperation into action. Back at the centre, a delicious supper refuelled everyone before we layered up once more for an evening of orienteering. Even as the rain returned, the children's resilience shone through. They tackled every challenge with determination, enthusiasm, and a brilliant sense of adventure.

This morning began slightly cloudy on Dartmoor, but spirits were high after a delicious, cooked breakfast. Once we gathered our essential clothing and equipment, we climbed into the minibus and set off for Hound Tor. After a safety briefing, we split into two groups. One group went to explore weaselling, safely guided through the narrow gaps and twists between the rocks. It was a brilliant opportunity for the children to show resilience and face new challenges. The second group learned the basics of rock climbing, practising how to climb one of the impressive tors. At lunchtime, both groups met back together to enjoy the packed lunches they had made earlier that morning. As the sun came out in the afternoon, we switched activities so everyone had the chance to try both experiences. Throughout the day, the children showed fantastic teamwork and supportive collaboration, cheering each other on, offering helpful suggestions, and celebrating one another's successes. The activity leaders were genuinely impressed with their determination, encouragement, and positive attitude toward every challenge.

After a good night's sleep, Year 5 began their final morning on Dartmoor with a hearty breakfast before organising themselves to prepare packed lunches. Our last activity was archery, where they demonstrated confidence, concentration and great awareness of safety while encouraging one another. We enjoyed our lunches in the sunshine before helping pack the coach for the journey home. We have thoroughly enjoyed our Dartmoor trip, with the children securing valuable skills in cooperation, perseverance and resilience. A huge thank you to all the adults for their support throughout. *Please see photos below.*



Choir Coffee Morning

Our school choir were invited to sing at The Assembly Rooms today for the Cancer Research Coffee Morning. The children sang beautifully as always, and it was a privilege to represent the school when supporting such a good cause. Thank you to all those who came to see us perform.



U9 Girl's North Devon Football Qualifiers

Our U9 Girl's football team enjoyed a fantastic day at the North Devon Football Qualifiers held at Kingsley School. Playing in glorious sunshine, the girls showed brilliant teamwork, determination and resilience throughout the tournament. Every player gave their all on the pitch, supporting one another and demonstrating excellent sportsmanship. Their hard work paid off with some great moments of attacking play and strong defending, making it a really enjoyable day for all. It was a lovely day in the sun and a great experience for everyone involved. We are very proud of the team and how they represented the school – well done, girls!



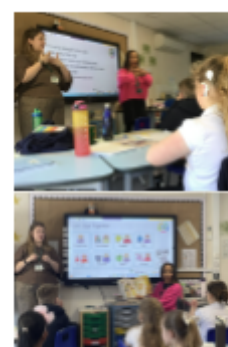
☀ Big Walk and Wheel – Active Travel Success ☀

This week, our school has taken part in the Big Walk and Wheel, celebrating the importance of active travel and encouraging children to walk, wheel, scoot, or cycle to school. It has been fantastic to see so many pupils taking part with such enthusiasm!

One of the highlights has been seeing children riding their scooters and bikes around the school roundabout at lunchtime. This has given everyone a chance to build confidence, practise skills in a safe space, and most importantly—have fun!



This week is British sign language awareness week. In line with this, Puffin class had a visit from Kylie (deaf worker) and a BSL interpreter. They learnt all about sign language and learnt some feelings signs to go with the story the Colour Monster. They then learnt to sign the songs "If you're happy and you know it" and "this is me". The children were really engaged with this and loved joining in to learn lots about sign language.



This week, Dunkery and Landacre classes took part in an exciting introductory martial arts session led by Master Kelly from Matt Fiddes Martial Arts. All of the children thoroughly enjoyed the experience and took part with great enthusiasm. The session was full of energy, focus, and learning. Children worked hard using pads to practise correct punching technique, concentrating on accuracy, control, and proper form. They also developed their skills by reacting to a foam bar, improving both awareness and defensive movement.

Beyond the physical techniques, the session reinforced the core values of martial arts: discipline, respect, and self-control. Students were reminded that martial arts are not about hurting others, but about building confidence, control, and using skills responsibly.



Reception enjoyed a wonderful Outdoor Learning session this week, where they planted sunflower seeds. Before getting started, the children carefully went through the instructions displayed on the board, learning step by step how to plant their seeds correctly. They discussed how to take care of their plants, including the importance of watering them every few days and making sure they have enough sunlight to grow strong and healthy. The children are very excited and can't wait to see their sunflowers begin to grow! This hands-on experience helped the children understand why planting is important, including how plants grow and the role they play in our environment. It was a fantastic learning opportunity, combining science and responsibility.



I hope you all have a lovely weekend and continue to enjoy this glorious weather!

Mrs Charles-Jones

Upcoming Events

Yr3/4/5 Spring concert Wednesday 1st April 9am and 2.30pm

Spring Fling Disco - 8th May

Fathers Day Shop - 11th and 12th June

KS1 Sports day - Friday 26th June 2026 - 1.30 - 3.00

KS2 Sports Day Friday 3rd July 2026 - 9.30 - 12 and 1.30 - 3.00

Race For Life Event: Friday 10th July - 2pm-3pm

Summer Fair - 17th July

Residential meetings

Yr4- Pinkery Weds 25th March 3.20 in Puffin classroom

Yr6- London- Weds 3rd June 3.20 in Pinkery classroom

Full term dates for the year are on our website



Social Media

Explore our facebook www.facebook.com/Southmoltonprimary/

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