



March 2022 NEWSLETTER

Achieving and flourishing in our Christian Community



Dear Parents & Carers

Spring has suddenly sprung upon us in the past few weeks and the pupils have enjoyed spending more of their learning outdoors. I hope that you and your family have managed to enjoy the outdoors too!

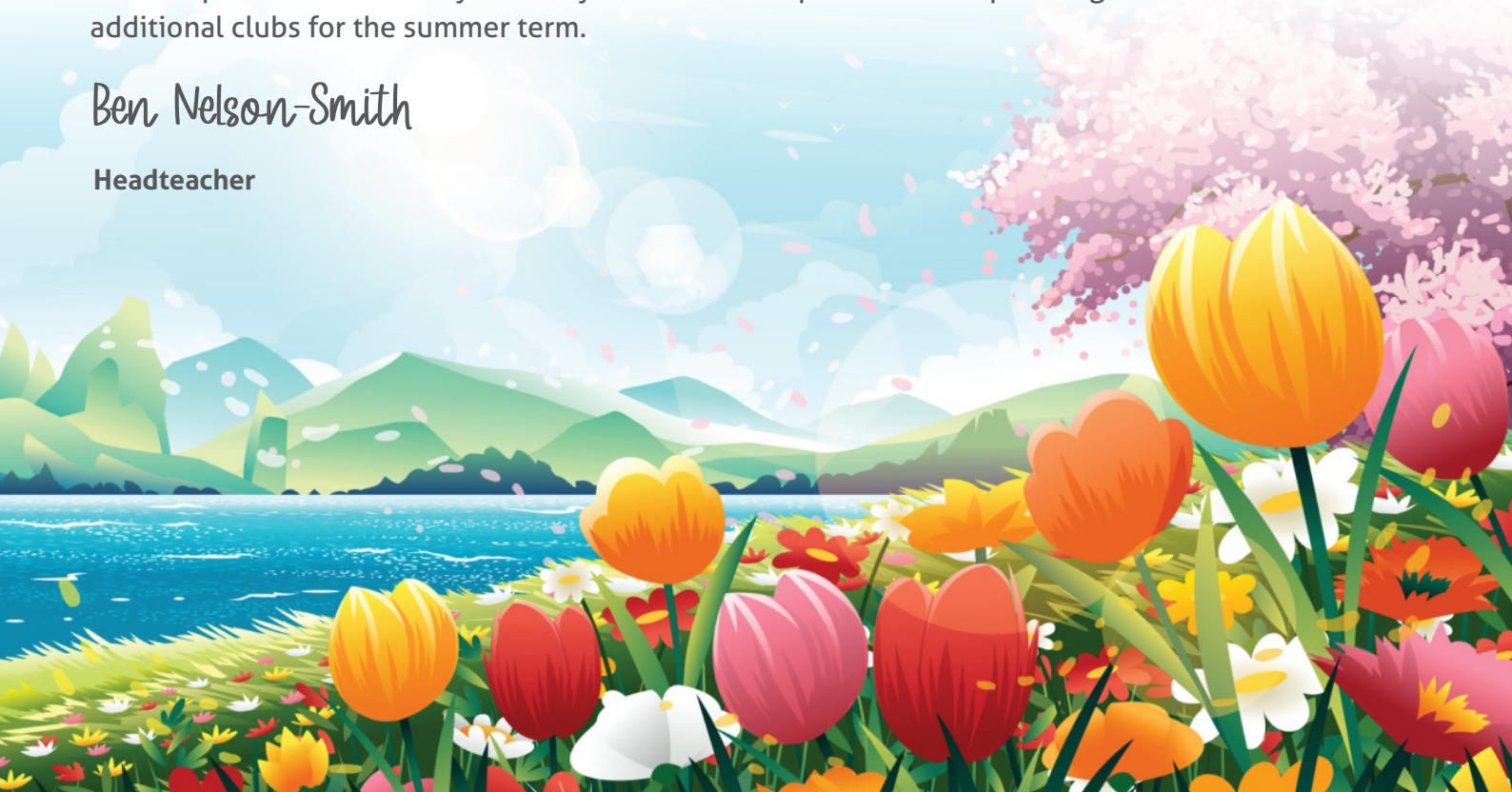
The month of March started with a bang with World Book Day 2022. The children and staff looked fantastic in their costumes and had a great day extending our love for reading. There were plenty of chants of 'Take It Off!!' around the school as the children anticipated who was behind the masked reader. World Book Day is a great way to promote a love of books but we want to ensure that a love of books is promoted on a daily basis. It is important that all children read regularly to improve their reading fluency so that they can learn knowledge across the whole curriculum.

It's been a hands on start to Spring 2 as the children took part in their design technology experience. Each year group went through the process of designing, making and evaluating towards a desired outcome. Our pupils put new equipment (such as drills and saws) we have bought to the test and learnt how to use them with accuracy. The children are now well under way in their latest geography experience.

This half term has also seen an increase in extra-curricular clubs as we try to provide further opportunities for pupils to further explore their passions and find new ones. It was great to see many of our Key Stage 2 pupils representing the school in football fixtures, for some their first experience of a competitive match. They certainly made Collaton proud! We are planning to introduce further additional clubs for the summer term.

Ben Nelson-Smith

Headteacher



Our Curriculum is built on three core values:



Academic Excellence

The acquisition of a deep body of knowledge across a range of subjects. Our curriculum provides a progressive plan for pupils build upon knowledge and skills.

Character Education

Through our character gateways, our pupils grasp possibilities and opportunities of life beyond the classroom – becoming well-rounded individuals.

Learning to Learn

We emphasize the importance of learning how to learn. Pupils are explicitly taught how to work independently, collaboratively and use their creativity to become life-long learners.

Expression

Character Values



Have the **confidence** to present myself in an **honest** and **insightful** way that reflects what I value.



OUR FOCUS IN

Spring Term 2

Each half-term, we focus on specific areas of our curriculum intent, whilst revisiting and developing the whole curriculum. This links to the areas mentioned in the 3 circles above.

Academic Excellence

We ensure that learning is sequential so that knowledge is built upon. Many subjects will be delivered through daily and weekly lessons. Design technology and geography have been focus subjects throughout Spring 2.

Character

Our character gateway for this half term has been 'Expression'. In particular, we have focused on how to express honesty. Children have been discussing how it takes courage to be honest and unpicking what are the causes of being dishonest. We have been praising children when they have been honest in school.

In addition to our developing towards our gateways, we always encourage manners and politeness. This month, we are encouraging pupils to respond confidently to comments like 'Good morning'. Please can parents also support with this.

Learning to Learn

This half term, we have been supporting the pupils to develop their independence for learning. We can't assume that children know how to be independent so each class is focusing on specific areas of independence which get more progressive the older they get. For example, year 2 are learning which resources may assist them best with learning while year 6 are learning how to work to a deadline. All this will help our pupils to become life-long learners.

Year R

Where Will My Feet Take Me?

In Reception we have spent some time exploring journeys in stories. We then looked at some of the landmarks around our school grounds and planned our own journeys. We made maps and followed them with our friends, deciding whether our journey had gone in a circle or whether we had missed anything out.



Year 2

Year 2 have been busy making wind chimes. To make our wind chimes we learnt and practised some new skills. We have learnt how to lash two sticks together, tie knots, and thread beads. and drill holes.



WIND CHIMES

"We used our designs to make the wind chime of our choice. We used the skills that we had learnt to create our own."

Bug Hotels

Year 4

The children have been busy designing, making and evaluating bug hotels for our school forest.

As part of their journey, the children have produced a design brief. The children have factored in uncontrollable boundaries (such as time, cost and materials), which have impacted their designs. Once they were happy, the children created a prototype to trial out their designs. They identified what was working well and what could be adapted to further improve their bug hotels.

The children measured, sawed and sanded their frame (made from baton), before drilling holes ready to fix the baton together. Again, the children were constantly evaluating their product to consider how it could be further improved. For example, one group decided to add in an extra shelf across their bug hotel with excess baton they had left.

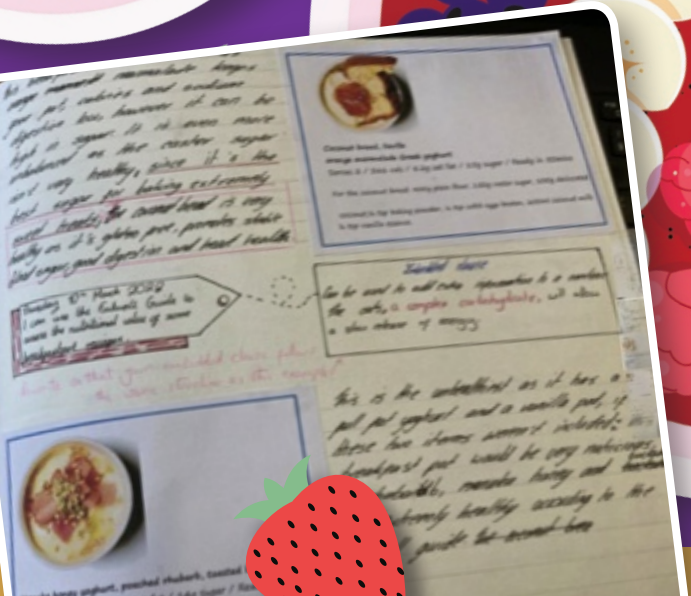
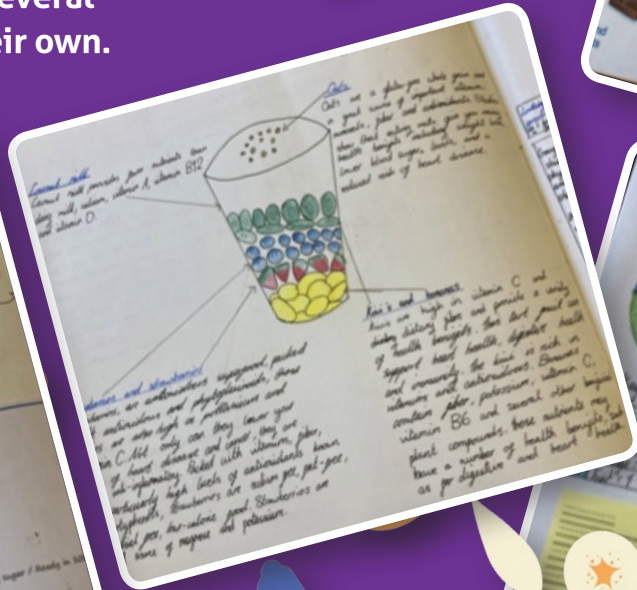
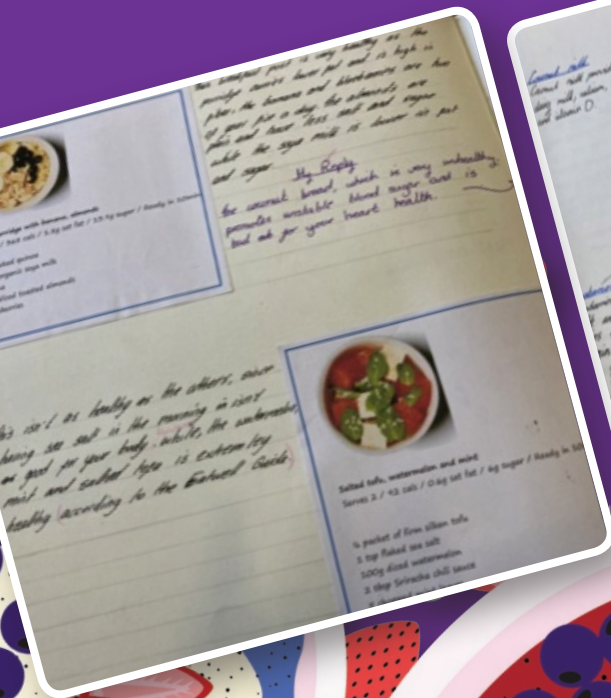
The children are delighted with their final products, and so are the bugs who have found a new home!



Nutritious Breakfasts



Year 6 wanted to design and create a nutritious breakfast pot, which would give the pupils at Collaton St. Mary the best possible start to the day. They learned all about a healthy and balanced diet and discovered healthy alternatives to some more traditional ingredients. Using this knowledge they critiqued several recipes, before creating their own.



COMIC RELIEF

OFFICIALLY FABULOUS

Thank you to everyone at

Collaton St Mary Primary School

You raised an incredible

£153.00

for Red Nose Day 2022

The money you raised will help people across the UK and around the world live free from poverty, violence and discrimination.

Sir Lenny Henry

RED NOSE DAY FUNNY IS POWER

FR REGULATORY



Pupil Absences

If your child is ill or absent from school, please remember to report any pupil absences to the school office in the morning before 08:50.



Collaton Attendance March 2022

Whole School	90.1%
Year Group	% Attendance
Reception	92.86
1	93.10
2	96.55
3	80.36
4	95.31
5	81.25
6	93.75

Well done to **Year 2**, our attendance winners for March!

Thank you!

Thank you! Your donations to the empty drink can collection have raised over £259.00! Please continue to donate and help raise even more money for our school! Your donations are gratefully received.

Book Swap

The book swap is a great success! It is great to see the children excited about swapping and sharing stories. Please continue to encourage your children to read and swap their books.

Lunches

Please remember to book your child's lunches in advance. Home packed lunches also need to be booked onto ParentPay in advance.

Empty Drink Cans

Please remember to donate your crushed drink cans only (we are unable to take food tins, aerosols etc.)

Collaton Clubs in Action

It has been great to more clubs in action this term as we work towards get back to more normal. This half term has seen the introduction of a few new clubs: netball club, KS1 multi skills club, chess club, walk and talk club and cup stacking club. We are excited to announce that there will be more clubs introduces again in the summer term.

In addition, our football teams were in action this month against other schools. For many of the pupils, it was their first competitive football game. It was great to see everyone getting stuck in, having fun and showing great determination.



WORLD
**BOOK
DAY**

3 MARCH 2022

25 YEARS

WORLD BOOK DAY®

We had a wonderful World Book Day to celebrate our love for reading! We made a day of it and our families and staff did us proud with their amazing costumes linked to their favourite book/characte. The Day consisted of a range of fun activities:

Whole School Worship

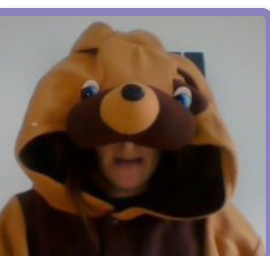
We kick started the day with a whole school Worship to launch the purpose and see the wonderful costumes around the school.

Read around the school

Pupils had a chance to choose which member of staff and which book they would like to listen to scattered around the school.

Class based activities

The children then took part in activities in the class to continue the celebration.



THE MASKED READER

New for this year, staff went into disguise and took part in the 'Masked Reader' where children had to guess which member of staff was behind the mask. There were chants of 'TAKE IT OFF' being heard around the school.



What Parents & Carers Need to Know about

ROBLOX



With more than 150 million users worldwide, Roblox is one of the most popular video games of recent times. Roblox allows users to create their own gaming experiences using Roblox Studio: building levels and games then allowing other people to play them. Similarly, players can play each other's creations, either on their own or with other people online. While it's a tool that can help foster creative thinking, Roblox is also intermittently in the news amid concerns over young users' safety.

No Age Rating

Roblox is rated 7+ by PEGI, but the platform itself doesn't have a minimum age requirement. It does ask for a date of birth when registering, but this can be easily fabricated. The sheer quantity of games available on Roblox means that some will fall into teen/adult categories. Users can also interact with each other freely – and the game has, historically, attracted scammers, griefers and online predators.



Chat Functionality

Users can join group chats with almost anyone through the Chat & Party function. While the chat has some filters, predators still try to find ways around these to prey on young children. There have been recent reports of adults pretending to be children, attempting to groom younger players and encouraging them to chat privately in an unmoderated environment away from the game.

In-App Purchases

Robux is the in-game currency used to buy things like special outfits or emotes, and to play certain sections of the game. A subscription service (costing £4.99 per month) called Roblox Premium offers more privileges and more in-game currency. Robux can also be purchased in batches, for up to £4.99. Children can easily pay for these, or purchase a membership, without realising it.



ODers

An 'ODer' (online dater) joins Roblox to find someone to 'date' online. While there's nothing inherently wrong with finding love on the internet, it becomes an issue in a space that's populated by children and young teens, like Roblox. Online dating is against Roblox's community guidelines, but certain player-built games on the platform are specifically for 'ODers' and should be avoided by children.

Online Predators

Roblox's developers aim to maintain a safe place for children; they employ human moderators for their players' protection. But there will, sadly, always be individuals who try to bypass these safeguards so they can chat to children and attempt to communicate outside the game. Anyone asking for your child's personal information or to talk privately should be blocked and reported.



Advice for Parents & Carers

Take Note of Ratings

Recent press reports drew attention to Roblox's issues with potentially offensive content. Some players were using Roblox Studio to create games featuring nudity, sexual activity and extreme political views. In response, Roblox is introducing a ratings system which will rank content by age appropriateness, with clear warnings if a game is not suitable for younger players.



Set Parental Controls

Roblox has controls that allow parents to moderate who their children can talk to and which games they can play. To enable these, add your email address to your child's account through the Security menu, and create a secure PIN to stop settings being tampered with. Then head into the Privacy menu where you can apply moderation to in-game chat, personal messages, invites and more.



Disable Messages

It's advisable to block all messaging if you have concerns over your child's safety. If they're playing with friends they know in real life, encourage them to chat in another way (like on the phone), so you know exactly who they're talking to and how. Accounts can be tweaked to allow messages from specific groups of people, such as friends or users that your child follows.



Block and Report

To report players in a game, find the Roblox symbol on screen (or the 'Settings' button on some devices). Identify the offending player and click the flag icon. Clarify why the player is being reported by choosing a reason from the list. If you think a particular game is inappropriate, you can also flag it for a moderator to check by following the same steps but selecting 'Game' instead of 'Player'.



Encourage Creativity

It could prove a little too complex for younger children, but Roblox Studio is a great place to start learning the fundamentals of game design. Many budding developers have created Roblox games which have become popular among the community. There are plenty of tutorials on making games on sites like YouTube. You never know, your child's creation might be the next big thing!



Meet Our Expert

Mark Foster has worked in the gaming industry for several years as a writer, editor and presenter. He is the gaming editor of two of the biggest gaming news sites in the world, UNILAD Gaming and GAMINGBible. Starting gaming from a young age with his siblings, he has a passion for understanding how games and tech work, but more importantly, how to make them safe and fun.



National Online Safety®

#WakeUpWednesday

<https://corp.roblox.com/parents/>
<https://www.bbcnews.com/news/roblox-condo-games-kids-exposed-pornographic-scenes-sex-acts/>

Collaton St Mary Primary School

Diary Dates 2022

Tuesday 5th April

Easter Activities: Egg Rolling,
KS1 Bonnet Parade & KS2 Easter Cards

Monday 11th April – Friday 22nd April Inclusive

Easter Holiday

Monday 23rd May – Friday 27th May Inclusive

Year 6 Residential Trip

Monday 30th May – Wednesday 8th June Inclusive

Half Term Break

Monday 20th June

Science in School Day –
parents invited to attend a show

Tuesday 21st June

Sports Day

Tuesday 28th June

Reserve Sports Day

Wednesday 29th June – Thursday 30th June Inclusive

Year 5 Residential Trip

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