

Tarves Primary School Newsletter



Friday 28th May 2021

Dear Parents/Carers,

A word from Mrs Conn

What a wet and dreary May we have had! This hasn't dampened our spirits, however, and we are in full-flow with Outdoor Learning and Transition activities across all ages and stages. More information will follow directly to specific year groups involved.

We have made the very difficult decision to continue to limit the number of events in school due to developing variants of the virus which is still with us. This time of year, we would normally have had a whole School Show as well as Sports Day etc. I hope you will understand our choice this year and we look forward to having a full calendar next year! Each class will have a day off timetable to celebrate and your son/daughter's class teacher will be in touch directly with further information.

We are all relieved to hear and see some sort of 'normality' slowly returning and I thank you in advance for all your continued support as a school community to maintain the restrictions still in place for a while longer.

Your child's report will be issued today via Groupcall as a PDF (P1-P7 pupils) at 5pm. The children have had the opportunity in school to see their report and have their say. Please do take the time to read though and select a time slot for an appointment for a parent/carer consultation meeting which will be held on Google Meet on Tuesday 8th or Wednesday 9th June. We have opted for a shorter version of the report due to the nature of the school year. We will return to our usual proforma next academic year. Any queries, please contact us via the usual channels. Thank you!



Moving-Up Morning

Moving-up morning will still go ahead as normal. Current P2-P6 pupils will have the opportunity to meet their new class and teacher in the coming weeks. More information will follow as soon as possible.

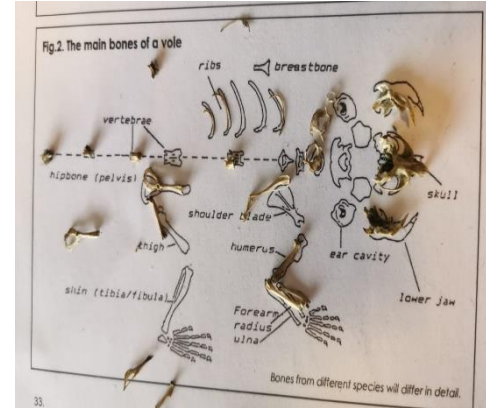
Plea for volunteers/coaches for next academic year

I know how busy everyone is, but if you would be able to spare some time next academic year, Covid situation permitting, we are SO keen to have parent/carer volunteers to run some clubs on a day and at time that would suit you best. There is absolutely no pressure and we would work around whatever you would be able to offer. I know in the past we had a football team, basketball, netball etc. and we would love to be able to offer these again to the children. Local football leagues have contacted us to ask if we have a team we would like to enter... there are plenty of willing children! We are in the process of working with the team at Active Schools, but would love to have our own. If you have a particular skill or interest (we love the weird and wonderful, too!) we would love to hear from you!



Outdoor Learning Day

Outdoor Learning Day was a huge success, thank you to Miss McBeath and Miss Tornes for planning and to everyone for getting stuck in! We had a blast building dens and getting creative with loose parts, playing games in our Outdoor Classroom, planting seeds, and we even dissected owl pellets and then restructured the skeleton of a vole! We are very lucky to have such an amazing environment and we are looking at ways to develop this further next academic year. Watch this space...

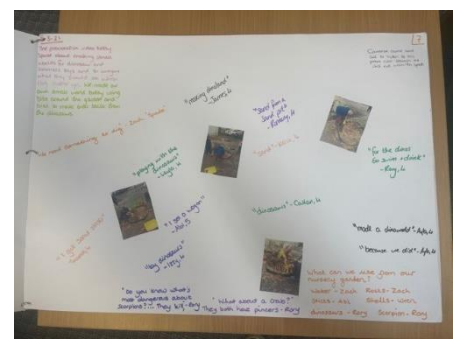


Virtual Nature School - Nursery

I am thrilled to announce that the Nursery team have just completed a course on outdoor learning with the *Virtual Nature School*. The focus was on "looking" outside, with the children discussing what they found and deciding what they would like to learn about in more detail over a 6-week period.

This consisted of

- looking up
- looking down
- looking in
- looking through
- looking at
- looking under

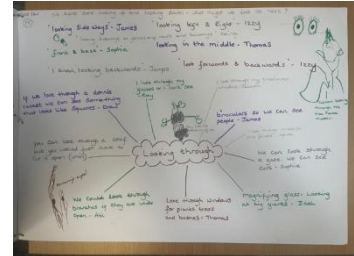
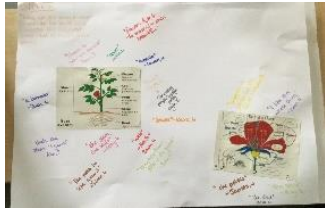


Vikki and Michelle write about the experience:

Each week we used these words, watched provocation videos, discussed what these meant and what we would like to learn about and then recorded all our learning in a floor-book. Each day we would learn new things that sometimes led us to asking more questions, leading us to have to research the answers.

At the end of the 6 weeks, we had completed a 44-page floor-book full of learning, all across the curriculum after taking part in sky collages, measuring spider webs, exploring flowers, roots and absorption, transient art, making tracks and patterns, colour mixing, bird watching and nest making.

We found it a rewarding and valuable experience for the staff and an engaging, thought-provoking project for the children. They really enjoyed making their voice heard in their learning journey through the Virtual Nature School.



We have used the floor-book system very successfully, showing the children's learning, recording it in an effective way and how to revisit and embed the learning that has taken place. We will continue to use the floor-books for our future learning interests. We have also discovered the flexibility potential in our learning activities, there are many things that we can do outside that we might previously have thought were best done indoors.

Well done to the Nursery team! What an incredible achievement and wonderful learning experience for the children.

Dates for the Diary

- Monday 7th June is the Occasional Day Holiday for the Meldrum Cluster and Tarves Primary School and Nursery will be closed. Staff and pupils will return on Tuesday 8th June 2021.
- Tuesday 8th and Wednesday 9th are Parent/Carer Meetings via Google Meet.
- End of Term is Friday 25th June 2021.
- Start of Term is Thursday 12th August 2021.

Please do not hesitate to contact us should you have any questions or comments.

Lara Conn
Head Teacher