

'Blue' Briefing



October, 2008

Keeping you in touch with events at St. Columb Minor School

International Schools Award!



Staff from four Newquay Primary Schools show two Indian visitors the beautiful sites of Cornwall!

Welcome to the 'Blue School' newsletter.

We are proud to have achieved the International Schools Award! We were notified by the British Council at the start of the new term that we had met the criteria and we have been invited up to London in October to receive the award. This award recognises and celebrates our international activities and links. We are the only Newquay School with this award!

In September we welcomed two representatives from a group of schools in Sikkim, India to our area. We were joined by staff from The Bishops, Trenance and St Columb Major in this project. Yodida and Milan were 'wowed' by our beautiful Cornish scenery and enjoyed meeting children in all four schools.

This month's edition of 'Blue Briefing' is packed with important information and interesting articles. Once you've read it, keep it handy, so that you know what's coming up throughout the month! Looks like another exciting month at Blue School!

Inside.....

News from all year groups

Reply slips for all occasions!

Events in school this Autumn

Term dates for this year

Visit our school website at www.blueschool.co.uk

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Learning to ride the wave of life



Welcome

As we start a new academic year I would like to welcome Emma Chapman, Rosanna Pardoe and Nina Mallin to our teaching assistant team. We welcome all new members of staff and hope that they will enjoy being at Blue School!

We also welcome the following new children: Sophie and Courtney Hill. We hope that they and their families will enjoy being at St Columb Minor School.



Foundation Stage News Starfish and Jellyfish

It's hard to believe we have already been at school for almost one month!! As you already know the children have settled, are happy and are coping well with the new routines.

Thanks for having such a good go at practising sounds and letter formation with your child, they really benefit from consolidating the skills at home they have learnt here. However, we realise that many of the children are tired after full day at school – if you or your child are too tired to practise a sound, then leave it for another day. It should be fun and not take too long. Ideas for getting your child to have a go at letter formation are: writing in the sand (or mud!!), using squeeze bottles to squirt water into the shape of a letter. Make it fun!!!!

May we also remind you to PLEASE name all articles of clothing? We are still finding un-named items during PE (which now takes place every Thursday and Friday morning).

We have been running our parent consultations, where you come and make an appointment with us. If you have not done so please talk to your class teacher to arrange a time that is convenient for you.

We have lots to look forward to this month.

Dates for the diary...

Friday 10th October we hope to walk around the village and will need adult helpers please. We will leave at 9-30am and should be back at school by 10-30am. If you can help please let us know.



The Foundation Stage Team



Clams and Limpets Year 1 News

What a great start the children have made in Year 1. They are now coming in on their own and are responsible for their own book bags, water bottles and lunch boxes. It is super to see them becoming so independent so quickly. They are very capable at changing for PE and you are helping them by letting them get on with this independently – so thank you for your help in the mornings by dropping them at the door.

You will also have noticed that, in the morning, the children are settling to a task immediately when they come in. This is a really important part of the day for them as they are getting themselves ready for the learning that will take place.

Thank you to those parents who are helping in the classroom. It is such an asset to have extra adults to hear children read. We would welcome lots more help – so please do not hesitate to contact us.

We are planning to send home spellings and number bonds with your children. We will introduce these to your children as they are ready over the next few weeks. By half term, most of the children will have spellings each week.

Can we remind you that we change the **reading books** on a **Monday, Wednesday and Friday** in Year 1. Your child needs the opportunity to read a text through a few times to check they can read the words by themselves and they can use sounding out strategies and tell you all about the characters and plot in the story. If you would like some more ideas for helping your child to read at home, please come to see us. If enough parents would like this, we will happily run a session which explores the ways to hear your child read, help them become good readers and be able to enjoy reading.

Your child has now had a good period of time to settle in and we shall shortly be inviting you into school to have a discussion about your child's progress and their next targets in learning. These consultations will be held in the week beginning October 13th. We shall be sending out letters and putting up a timetable on the classroom doors nearer the time. If you cannot make the appointment time that we allocate to you, please write several alternatives on your reply slip so that we can accommodate you to the best of our abilities. As these slots are only 10 minutes long, we are more than happy for you to make an extra appointment if you wish to discuss something in greater detail. We look forward to seeing you and sharing all the good news about your child's work.

Best wishes from the Year 1 team.





Mussels and Oysters Year 2 News

Hello everyone!

We're really pleased with the way the new term has begun and how well the children have settled into Year 2.

Thank you to everyone who attended our Welcome Meeting. We hope you found it useful. If any of you have any queries about the year please do feel free to come and ask, although we will be inviting all of you to an individual consultation meeting before half term.

Our trip to Pendennis Castle was a great success with some amazing follow up work back at school! Thank you to everyone who gave up their day to come with us.

It is very important that children **read at home each night**. The children are all reading at their own levels and need practice at many different skills – phonic sounding of words, understanding of text, building their vocabulary banks etc. There are opportunities for reading in school too and the children's books should be in school to use with us and other members of staff. Please encourage them with this and make sure you sign their link card. If anyone has some time to come and hear readers we really would love to see you. We would like all **children to know their 2, 5 and 10 times tables by the end of Year 2** so please help with this. If anyone could come in to test children it would be greatly appreciated. The spelling books have begun to go home on a Monday for children to practise. Please ensure it is at school on Fridays for the test.



Thank you for your support with the India homework. It has produced a lovely display in our corridor, and our visiting Indian teachers were very impressed. We will continue to learn more about India throughout the year.

Our multiskills PE lessons have started and will continue until half term. The children found this

very enjoyable and quite exhausting!

Thank you for your support and we look forward to seeing you at our Parent Consultations.

All the teaching and support staff in
Year 2.



Term Dates for the Year

Autumn Term 2008

4th Sept—19th Dec

Half term Mon 27th Oct—31st Oct

Closure day for staff training Friday 24th Oct

Spring Term 2009

6th Jan—3rd April

Half term Mon 16th—20th Feb

Summer Term 2009

21st April—22nd July

Half term Mon 25th—29th May

For New Year 6 Parents !!!!!

Year 6 SATS week 2009 is

May 11th—15th, 2009

It is **very important** that your child is in school this week and in the weeks prior to the tests. No holiday leave will be sanctioned during SAT's week for Year 6 pupils.



Important dates in October

1st October Year 3 Visit to Eden

1st October Friends of Blue School (FOBS) This is a meeting for people interested in supporting the school with fund raising activities. We are always looking for new ideas and new members. Join us in the staffroom at 6.30 p.m.

2nd October Year 5/6 Indoor Athletics

10th October Foundation Stage classes walk around the village

10th October Cross Country Race 1

Week of 13th October Parent Consultations (letter to follow)

15th October Newquay in Bloom Presentation Evening at Hotel Bristol 7.00 p.m. (Parents welcome) Some of our work will be on display.

20th October Individual School Photos taken by Tempest (letter to follow)

22nd October FOBS Family Quiz Night—come and join in the fun and win some prizes.

23rd October High 5 Netball and Football Tournament—details to follow

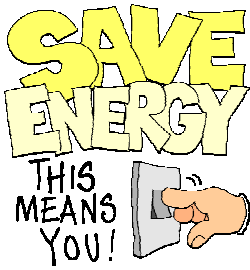
23rd October Harvest Festival in school

24th October Training Day for Staff

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Renewable Energy - update

Just to let you know that our Solar PV panels are working well and we have already saved £450 in the first 3 months! We are also pleased to inform you that we have secured external funding for a Wind Turbine, and are making plans to install this during November.



Gardens for Life

As you may remember earlier this year we joined Gardens for Life. The project has been set up by Creative Partnerships and the Eden Project to encourage contact between schools to promote 'global citizenship', using the common language of growing plants.

Last month we were very fortunate to have a visit from Mr Malang Jambang who runs the Gardens for Life project in the Gambia. He was very interested to see what we were growing in our garden and helped Y2 pupils to dig-up their prize crop of potatoes. As a result of his visit, we will now be able to link with other schools in the Gambia and be able to find out what sorts of plants the children grow in their schools.



Morrisons Let's Grow Campaign

Please help us to get free gardening equipment for the school from this campaign. This is a voucher reward scheme.

From 15th September to 6th November you will be able to collect vouchers from your local Morrisons store. You will receive one voucher for every £10.00 that you spend. So if you were going to shop there anyway please collect the vouchers!

The school can redeem these for free gardening equipment. If you want to know more go to www.morrisons.co.uk/letsgrow



Year 4 Gardens for Life visitor from Gambia.

We were delighted to have had a visitor from Gambia in our school last week. He was called Malang and he came in to talk to our class about

Gardens For Life a project that our school is involved in. It is an international project and we were so excited to hear about someone else's garden on the other side of the world. Here is some information that Malang shared with us.

The Gambia is located in West Africa. It is the smallest country in continental Africa. The Gambia is surrounded on its northern, south eastern sides by the much larger country of Senegal, and its western side by the Atlantic Ocean. Famous for its smiling people and its fabulous bird life. The Gambia is a haven of peace and tranquillity in a region that suffers badly from civil strife. The major contributors to the Gambian economy are agriculture, tourism and trade. Malang works at the headquarters of the Makasutu Wildlife Trust.

Malang told us that it is so important for the village people in Gambia to grow their own food in the country because they do not have very much money to buy things and they don't have supermarkets nearby. He told us that his garden was very big compared to ours!

By Rachel Millington.

Malang told us that the gardens in his local school in the Gambia were twice the size of our classroom !

By Ruby Somers

I learnt that for the school dinners in some parts of Gambia they have to grow their own food. The children who sleep at the school have to help to cook the food. Some children have to walk about seven miles to get to school.

By Jordan Morgan

By Otters Year 4 and Mrs Jenkin.

P.S. If you have any tokens from Morrisons we are collecting them to buy some more gardening equipment. Thank you.



Mackerel and Cod News Year 3

September has flown by and we can't believe that we're already about to get stuck into some more fun learning in October.

We are all enjoying learning about **Habitats** and our host country of **Indonesia**, whilst in literacy we have been learning about **narrative settings**.

Next week will see all of Y3 visiting The Eden Project to participate in a rainforest survival workshop. We are really looking forward to this trip and know it will be both inspiring and interesting.

Please can you make sure your child has PE kit in school everyday and that they put their reading book and link card in the class baskets every morning so we can check and change them if necessary.

Well done to all those who are learning their spellings each week for the Friday 'test'. A certificate is sent home with their score on it on a Friday so that you are able to celebrate their success at home.

Please come and see us at any time if there is anything you want discuss but, unless it is urgent it would be easier to see parents after school.

Many thanks and enjoy your October
Best wishes,

Debbie Curtis, Emma Lawton and Helen Willson



beach. The A team and B team came joint third with Luke Craddock winning the boys open event!

Is that surfer you?

R.Withers P.E Leader



Parents Forum

We held the first Parents' Forum of the year in September. A small group of parents met with Jennie Walker to discuss a range of issues including: Why free fruit for KS2 stopped, Why we did not take part in the weighing and measuring exercise again this year, What should our prospectus contain and How do we look after new families. Do you know the answer to these questions? If not, perhaps you should consider coming along to the next meeting. The forum is your opportunity to sit and discuss school policy and ideas with the Headteacher. If you don't understand something or have an idea about how we could improve something we would love to see you.



Music

Thank you to all those children who have already enthusiastically been attending Choir on a Thursday lunchtime. A reminder for any other children who would like to come along (KS2 choir starts at 12.15pm and KS1 choir starts at 12.35pm in Otters room). Currently, we are doing songs from the charts that we all know. All are welcome to come along, particularly the boys of whom we are rather low on numbers. Come on boys I know we have many great male singers in school I have heard you in assembly !!

Music lessons have now all started and are going well. Please make sure that you have paid for the lessons by dropping the money into the school office. Some of the lesson times have already changed due to the relevant teachers assessing your child's ability and therefore putting them in a appropriate group. Lesson times are on a rotation system each term so that your child does not miss the same part of the school day all year.

If there are still children who would like to take up lessons please pop in to see me as children leave there are sometimes places available. If not I will put your child's name on a waiting list. Instruments are available to hire and discounts and concessions are available for people claiming benefits. Thank you

Julie Jenkin Music Subject Leader.

October Sports News



Well done to all of the children who are now fully involved in the various autumn sports clubs. As usual the clubs are full and all have waiting lists apart from cross country which can take a larger amount of children and netball which desperately needs more boys! Come on boys it will give you a head start if you think basketball might be the game for you.

The **cross country team** has two events in October to be announced and the **football club** will begin its fixtures in this month as well.

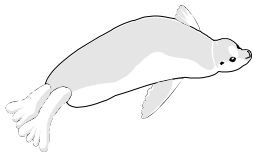


Already this term we have competed in the first Primary School Surf Festival at Tolcarne

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Otters and Seals News Year 4

Wow! Is it already October? We've been so busy time has flown by! Especially when you are learning about Airports!

Miss Taylor has really settled in, as have all of our children, even our new child who has joined Blue School this term.

Thank you to all of you who attended our Welcome Meeting. We hope you found that useful. If any of you have any queries about the year please do feel free to come and ask, although we will be inviting all of you to an individual meeting before half term.

We would like to draw your attention to the fact that children really must be **reading at home each night**. The children are all reading at their own levels and need practice at many different skills – phonic sounding of words, understanding of text, building their vocabulary banks etc. There are opportunities for reading in school too and the children's books should be in school to use with us and other members of staff. We will be rewarding children that are reading regularly so please encourage them and make sure you sign their link card. If anyone has some time to come and hear readers we really would love to see you. You will need to do the voluntary helper induction which will be scheduled very soon. We would like all **children to know as many times tables off by heart** as possible. Please help your children to do this. There are tapes, computer programmes and books available to help make this a little more fun.

We are sure by now you are aware that as well as learning about airports we are finding out and making connections with **Kenya**. Both of these topics have really excited the children and they are producing some lovely work.

We have also enjoyed our **Languages Day**. We learnt about all sorts of languages including sign language and hope you've seen our posters welcoming you to our classes in many different languages.



The Keepers of the Otters and Seals



Voluntary Helper Induction Session

If you would like to help out in school you have to go through our induction training session. The next one is on Thursday 2nd October 2.15 p.m.. It will take about an hour and cover such topics as: Child Protection, Health and Safety, Responsibilities of a volunteer and so on. Jennie Walker runs these sessions on a regular basis so if you can't make this one pass your details to the school office and they will notify you when the next one is organised. Hope to see you there!



VOUCHERS

As you may know our school has been collecting for FREE cooking equipment as part of Flora's **Cooking with Schools** scheme and as we want to collect for as much equipment as possible, we don't want any of your valuable tokens to go to waste. **Tokens are available on special packs of Flora until the end of October 2008.**

Each token is worth **20p** towards our school's collection and just one 1kg pack could give us **£1** to spend on a range of items from cooking utensils to a portable oven – that means more hands-on cookery time in the classroom for the children. You have until the end of December 2008 to register your FREE cooking equipment tokens for our school - simply send the tokens to school and we will do the rest.

Thank you! Miss Simpson



Friends of Blue School FOBS!

Well the committee has met for its first meeting of the year and we have been discussing lots of ideas to raise money and have fun over this year.

We are organising a Quiz Night on the 22nd October. This will be a family event and so we hope lots of you will come along and have fun whilst raising much needed cash for the school. Bingo is organised for later in the term. A separate flyer giving Quiz Night details will be coming your way soon.

WE STILL NEED YOU!!! This is about **OUR CHILDREN** and we as parents need to come together to support the school. If you are interested please come to one of our meetings. We usually meet on the first Wednesday of each month at 6.30 p.m.



VOUCHERS

Thank you for all the vouchers you are collecting!! With the Tesco vouchers for Computers we got over 8000 vouchers and received ICT software for KS1. We did well with the Sainsbury's Active Kids and have received 6 buckets of tennis balls, Velcro balls, football balls and playground balls

We are still collecting for Nestle Box Tops for books. New collection is Morrisons 'Let's Grow'! Scheme.

Please pop all vouchers into the right boxes just inside the door of the RBLC! Or give them to me!

Happy Collecting - Thankyou! Miss Simpson

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Governor Corner

It hardly seems possible that it is only four weeks since we waved goodbye to the summer (!) holidays and returned to school. So much has already gone on and our new Starfish and Jellyfish have settled in so well that I have to keep reminding myself that they really haven't been with us for all that long! There are many new children who have also joined at other stages in the school as well as several new members of staff. On behalf of all the Governors I extend a big welcome to you all and hope that you will be very happy at Blue School.

Last term ended with a fantastic array of opportunities, outings, social events and success stories for the children at our school and parents often say, "I wish it was like that when I was at school; we never did anything as fun as this". None of this happens without good leadership and high standards and I thank Jennie Walker and all the staff for the commitment and hard work that makes our school such an inspiring and creative learning experience.

Governors also have a part to play in this! There are eighteen members on the Governing Body at Blue School and we are actively involved in all areas of school life. We attend the annual Whole School

Review Training Day and help to set the priorities for the school. Ensuring that we achieve these priorities is the backbone of our work in school and through our committees (Finance, Teaching and Learning and Staffing and Environment), monitoring duties and social events the children and staff find us popping up everywhere! I am delighted to say we are always made to feel very welcome and it is wonderful to be a part of such a happy, focussed and positive part of our community.

Vacancies do occur! Maybe next time you should consider joining us! I am always happy to speak to any members of our community who would like to find out more about becoming a governor. You do not have to be a parent, we have local business people, politicians, police and so on. Anyone who would like to have an active involvement is welcome to come along and discuss the possibilities.

Before finishing I would like to say how proud we are of the schools achievement of the prestigious 'International School Award'. We have seen the school 'come to life' with the introduction of the international primary curriculum and it is so exciting to see the school now making real links with schools abroad. It was fascinating for our staff to meet the two Indian teachers and Jennie Walker has many interesting tales to tell about working with two schools in Malaysia during the summer holiday. As a school we have much to share but we also have much to learn!

Jessica Fergusson Chair of Governors

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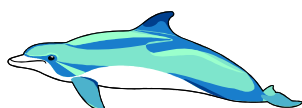
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Dolphins and Swordfish News Year 5

It has been an extremely busy start to the new school year in Year 5. Already we have embarked on a trip to Futureworld@Goonhilly and those that went to year five camp have only just returned and, as I write this article are making the most of the weekend to catch up on their sleep and replenish their energy ready for the week ahead.

The trip to **Goonhilly** was superb, the weather was great and the children learned plenty about communication on Earth and in space, the state of the planet and it's future and how this knowledge can be applied to our Mission to Mars project. I would recommend using the family return tickets and see for yourselves, it's a great day out.

Camp was amazing. The weather was brilliant for the three days. The children really learned to bond as a group by working together on many problem solving activities in the centre and in the surrounding woodlands. The visit to the aquarium was very interesting and the children discovered how creatures have adapted to the environments and took part in art workshops run by the staff where they constructed great models of strange sea animals. The second day in the woods saw the children making camp fires using only the resources around them, building shelters and cooking sausages, potatoes, bread and even bananas on a camp fire. The staff from Cornwall Outdoors were amazing and showed the children many survival tricks and tips. We were also fortunate to be able to use the climbing wall, which really tested the nerves!

The evenings were spent enjoying the plentiful (and tasty) food, reflecting on the days events through diaries and photo slide shows and watching a film or two.

Camp ended with a spectacular coastal walk down to the beautiful village of Kingsand where the children explored the rock pools. A memorable experience for all that went.

Back to the reality of school now, and we would like to thank you for ensuring that 100% of the children had their P.E kit for the first week. As a reminder though, your child needs **separate footwear for outdoor games**, preferably trainers. Plimsols are not suitable as outdoor footwear. They will also require warmer clothing as we progress into the winter months.

Many thanks for all your support so far, particularly those that have given up their time to help within the class and on trips. Please feel welcome to make an appointment to see us at any time to discuss any queries you might have concerning your child's progress and school experience.

Paul Boutwood, Helen Murray and the Year 5 team.



Thinking about the Winter!!!

Hello to all! – I am a parent governor at the school and one of my roles has been to be part of a 'Flu Pandemic Planning Committee'. Each school across the country has been informed by the Government that plans have to be in place for when / if there is a serious Flu problem.

As you are probably aware, from watching the news, we are due for a worldwide flu epidemic any year now. The last time one struck millions of people died across the world and thousands died in the UK. This all seems very serious but it is something that we can plan for on a family level and assist the school in its planning.

The most essential information we need is up-to-date contact numbers and email addresses. This enables the school to contact parents and guardians by a variety of means if there is any problem or crisis at the school. Remember how important communication details were when it snowed! It may be useful as a family to discuss with the children what to do if there is an emergency at home and who to contact – relatives, neighbours and friends, emergency services. (At school we will be discussing emergencies and what to do.) If your son and daughter cannot come to school as they are ill or as parents you are ill then you must still let school know. At all times the school is obliged by law to provide an education, even if it temporarily closes due to excessive 'flu' problems. Therefore the school is working on a system to enable basic schoolwork to be done at home via the Internet and/or posting. We will share this process when needs be!

Gosh – this is serious and shocking to think about really! It has made me really think and consider plans for what could happen. So please help us and support those of you who have already given your up-to-date details and email addresses – **WE NEED YOURS TOO!**

Yours Sarah Thomson (Parent Governor)



New School Meal Prices

New meal prices take effect from the 6th October 2008. The increase is as follows:

Meal provided to	Current Price	Increased Price from 6 th October 2008
Pupil Paid	£1.76	£1.90

Scolarest is the new contractor for providing school meals in Cornwall.

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Sharks and Whales News Year 6

The children are continuing to work very hard in Year 6 with superb enthusiasm. Thank you for the large turn out to our 'Welcome to Year 6' meeting for parents. We feel this evening was very successful and served to give you a real insight into this important year.

All children now have a link and tables card to aid their reading and tables understanding. We feel it is vital that the children read regularly this term to aid all areas of the curriculum and practice their tables as the Numeracy they are doing demands a good knowledge of multiplication facts. We have set the children the challenge of knowing all their tables on the card by Christmas!

Last week the children went on an exhilarating coastal walk discovering the features which make our coastline so special and how tourism has contributed to making Newquay the town it is today. On a glorious day the children investigated caves, experienced coastal erosion first hand and discovered the impact that people and tourism have on our coastline. They also walked over five miles with a welcome lunch on the beach inside Newquay Harbour! The children were very well behaved and a credit to our school whilst out in our community. Well done!



We have also been enjoying the beaches in the past month. Porth beach is spotless after our beach clean and the children really enjoyed the first primary surf festival at Tolcarne where Luke Craddock won the boys event! Thank heavens for our Indian summer!

the boys event! Thank heavens for our Indian summer!

Finally we would like to encourage all of our Year 6 to become part of our Cross Country Team who compete in the Newquay Tretherras League. This event is in school time and we have won the Year 6 competition for the last four years in Year 6 so let's try to keep the run going! We are especially desperate for more Year 6 girls to join the team!



Ali Major & Russell Withers and all Year 6 Team



2008 Harvest Festival

Before you start getting things together for our usual food collection please stop!! This year we have decided to have a change. In consultation with Reverend Chris and our Gardens for Life Coordinator Gill Harper we have decided to try to help children in another country develop their garden. We have had so much help, advice and support in developing our garden that we thought that it would be good to return the favour to children in an area where growing food is a vital part of their existence. So with this in mind we have decided to support the 'Seeds for Africa' campaign.

Seeds for Africa aims to help African families and communities by the provision of indigenous seeds, agricultural equipment and relevant technical advice, giving individuals and communities a future, not just a temporary answer.



Our Harvest Festival is on Thursday 23rd October. At our service this year we will be collecting money instead of food and we ask for a donation of around £1.00 to

support this project. Please give what you can! For as little as £5.00 a fruit tree can be planted and a whole orchard costs just £250.00. A vegetable garden can be set up for £250.00. All seeds and plants are locally sourced in Africa, allowing sustainable growth and promoting independence. Our ceremony is an 'in school' service for the staff and children of the school. Unfortunately we do not have enough room to extend an invitation to visitors, however, you are welcome to come in and see our 'Seeds for Africa' display in the hall before or after school. Please support us in this venture.

Doodle for Google

We were so proud of Daniel Rowe for reaching the finals of the Doodle for Google competition. Here is his design.



We hope you voted for him!

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Images from Year 5 visit to the Tamar Centre
(September 2008)



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