

Newsletter

July 2021

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In this issue:

Farm

Horticulture

Leavers

YFC

Archery

Sports Day

Lottery

50 Marathons

End of School Year Celebrations

Sport

Induction

Devon Show

Accelerated Reader

Army

SSLT Day

BBC Radio

Britain in Bloom

Diligentia et Labore



Message from the Headteacher

Happy holidays

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'M. Ths.', located at the bottom left of the page.

Farm News

With the dairy cows dry life has been a little quieter day to day on the farm this term, however with the sun finally making an appearance it kicked off our mowing. We managed to get our first cut baled and ready for winter fodder. We have also cut 2 fields for hay, which Mr Baker kindly baled for us making over 270 small bales. The duties boys on those two really hot evenings were fabulous and just got on with helping us load the bales in the heat. True Brymore style.

As avian influenza restrictions were dropped we were allowed to let our chickens out again, they are loving being able to be outdoors, the long days and warmer weather meaning plenty of eggs are available fresh daily at Brymore Lodge for £1 per ½ dozen. We also hatched 22 eggs which were a mixture of speckled Sussex and light Sussex chicks. They are growing on well, and will hopefully be ready as an alternative to turkey this Christmas.

When we came back after Easter the farm team and some year 9 boys were featured doing vaccinations for the lambs on the breakfast show on BBC Radio Somerset. During June Mr Kingston and a few of the boys managed to shear all of the ewes ready for the summer and we have even managed to send our first 8 lambs to market making £102 each, 6 off to the butchers and hopefully more soon to follow meaning that lamb will hopefully be available to buy on return to school in the summer.

We were kindly donated by The Yellow Door Cottage in Shurton 2 sows and a boar which are all pedigree Gloucester old spot so hopefully we will have a good supply of pork produce throughout the year. Dotty is due to farrow again in the coming weeks so keep a look out for any updates on the Brymore Farm Instagram page.

We entered and attended the online School Farms Network Conference and awards ceremony where we won the best school farm tour short video that some of the year 8's starred in. We also came 3rd in the best use of the school farm during the pandemic.

Unfortunately, with all the good news comes some bad. Sadly, one of our heifers aborted her calf due to Neospora which is a parasite that can live in dog faeces and then infect cattle through their feed. These cattle then become infected for life. This is therefore just a polite reminder to please pick up your dog poo even when walking through fields of 'just grass' as this can cause devastating affects to farmers and their cattle. (Miss Parker)





Young Farmers Club

Young Farmers has still been being held on teams however the boys have really embraced this and come up with and sorted a lot of speakers themselves. We have had Tom from an inner city farm called Mudchute Farm which you may have heard of on tv. Hawkins agri did a quiz where Adam Priest, Freddie Farrance and Jack Baker all won prizes. Farmer Tom who is an Instagram influencer, Mr Farrance talked to us about junction 24, Mr Hilton talked to us about Passmores and their new rotary parlour installation and Jack Guilding talked to us about his own farm with a lovely video tour. We are hoping to return to meetings in person in the hall after the summer and organise some trips out restrictions allowing. We celebrated during the last week with a BBQ as our last meeting of the summer and our first one face to face in over 12 months!!! I am super proud of this bunch of boys they

have really embraced the changes that have had to have been made due to corona virus. If you would be interested in doing a talk or a tour for our boys we would really appreciate it. Any ideas welcome please contact me via beth.parker@brymoreacademy.co.uk (Miss Parker)



Visiting Author

During the last week of term we welcomed a published author, ***, into the school to meet and talk to the Key Stage 3 students. The creative writing workshop was a great way of engaging the boys in looking at different types of writing and he even stayed behind to sign books and answer further questions. (Ms Warren)

Army

We welcomed the Army into school to work with our Year 10 boys in June. The boys took to the field to be put through their paces and to help encourage their teamworking and problem solving skills and we were complimented on the boys attitudes and behaviours as exemplary! Well done to all the boys. (Ms Warren)



Sports News

Athletics this year has included being able to attend some competitions including the County Championships and the Exeter Open and it was great having boys take part again. Training after school has been well attended and it is so good to see boys learning new sports like javelin, discus and hammer. Congratulations go to Sid Bush who was county hammer champion and is now off to represent Somerset at the national schools finals.

In cricket every year group has had dedicated training after school and on the whole it has been well attended and it is always good to see new boys trying out their bowling and fielding. Cricket fixtures have been limited, as lots of schools are not doing them and also the weather has been against us too. The U13 boys played North Netwon twice, one won and lost one, and two U15 teams and two U13 teams went to a softball tournament organised by Somerset Cricket Foundation and one of the U15 teams came away with a silver medal after losing in the final.

We are looking forward to boys coming back on Tuesday 7th September between 1-5pm for a pre-season rugby training afternoon and letters will go home about this for Years 8-11. Please note matches are due to start the second week back and we have three Saturday fixtures coming up in the autumn too.

In lessons boys have experienced softball, rounders, basketball plus numerous other things. As part of their end of year PE assessment boys completed a small exam alongside trying to improve their front drive—back drive times. Those that managed to complete one Chads per week this year has been significantly lower than other years which is very disappointing and boys need to note they should be doing this once a week and is always told to them when they join the school. Future fixture teams will be chosen based on attendance at training and everyone being up to date with Chads runs. Going forward we are hopeful that restrictions will have eased enough that all traditional autumn sports will be back on with training back the first week of term.

We are looking forward to welcoming a new group of Year 7 rugby players in September and hope all the new boys give it a go because it really does help create good team-working skills along with improving fitness levels. (Mr Williams)



Devon County Show

It was brilliant to be able to get out to a real show and to be able to take boys to talk to the public, prospective families and old boys about their school. Some of the boys were even lucky enough to show some sheep for other exhibitors and Year 7, Harry, who was showing his own sheep won Reserve Champion in the sheep class.

Sadly there are not as many opportunities for us to go out showing as a school yet but we are hopeful to take some older boys to a one day show during the summer. (Ms Warren)



BBC Radio Somerset

Way back in April we had BBC Somerset Radio come in and talk to our farm team. Throughout the pandemic the media have been restricting their visits out so this was one of the first they did when the initial restrictions started lifting. They were keen to talk to some of the farm team and some of our Year 9 boys about vaccinating and worming the lambs. It was great to see the boys keen to talk about what they knew and despite the long boom to allow for social distancing it felt good that normality could be creeping back. It was featured on their popular breakfast show a couple of days later! (Ms Warren)



SSLT trip to Dartmoor

Our newly formed Senior Student Leadership Team and Senior Prefects became intrepid explorers as they drove to Dartmoor for the day to learn about real leadership and team-building skills. Mr Thomas, Mrs Taylor-Lane, Mr Ball and Mr Austin accompanied the boys on, what turned out to be, a day full of most weathers but one that turned out to be hugely beneficial to all and which we hope they will remember for a long time to come. A good bunch of boys that will help us to lead the school in the next academic year and who now have a better skillset to help them. (Ms Warren)



Sports Day

As with most of our big events this year we were not able to welcome families in to watch our sports day but the boys enjoyed a sunny morning for this annual event. We had the whole school on the field separated into year groups and they all cheered on others creating a great atmosphere for those in the races along with the participants in the throwing and jumping events. Taylor house won the trophy this year and it was presented to the captain by Mr Thomas. (Ms Warren)



Lottery

Congratulations to our Summer winners of the lottery. Should anyone wish to join the lottery or even just find out how it works then please contact Mrs Wilkinson in the main office on 01278 652369 or pop in and see her in reception.

May 2021

1st place - £40.00 Mr Gregory
2nd place - £25.00 Mrs Wilson
3rd place - £15.00 Mrs Chandler

July 2021

1st place - £40.00 Mr Marshall
2nd place - £25.00 Ms Twisk
3rd place - £15.00 Mrs Warton-Browne

Leavers Service

Every year we find it hard to say farewell to the Year 11 boys at their leavers service but as we have yet to say farewell to last years boys we were determined not to let this years Year 11 go without celebrating with them. As with most things it was a little different but we were so pleased to utilise the new barn on the farm so that the families could be part of the service and whilst other students could not watch we will be showing them parts of it. It left tears in the eyes of many as we said 'goodbye' to our lockdown Year 11 boys having watched them grow from small 11 years olds to strapping young men and getting to know all of the families that become part of our community forever, We wish every single one of them good luck for the future and hope they come back to see us. (Ms Warren)



Horticulture



Boarding

Having been working at Brymore now for 9 ½ years I can safely say that we have not experienced a more testing and turbulent academic year during this time, but one that also demonstrates Brymore, the boys and staff in their best light showing what Brymore is all about. Both boys and staff were nervous retuning in September from months away from the normality of school and boarding, instantly making the best of a challenging and ever-changing situation, managing and adapting to all the Covid changes and restrictions to normal boarding life which were put into place to create and maintain a safe but yet homely environment, with both boys and staff showing true Brymore resilience and resourcefulness throughout this period of time. Returning boys showed maturity and the 'Brymore way' to the new year 7s joining us for their first time who unfortunately missed out on some of the normal experiences and routines that would normally take place prior to Covid-19. Boys did not moan or complain about the vast number of changes and alterations that had to be put into place, and made the most of the situation, adapting to everything asked of them which is a credit to all involved.



It has been a year of change with everything thrown at us individually and as a school / boarding which has included a number of staffing changes and appointments with Mr Bagshaw, Ms Greenhill, Mrs Edwards, Mrs Trebble and Miss Eastham leaving, and new staff joining us including Mrs Featherstone, Miss Moore, Mrs Wade, Mrs Graddon and Miss Gyatt with all

making immediate positive impacts within their specific roles. Staff have worked tirelessly within boarding to try and ensure that the boarding experiences for the boys has remained of the highest standard, continuing with as many activities, areas of student responsibility and sense of community throughout the houses where possible which was very difficult at times, but both boys and staff feel this has been achieved in these testing times.



The summer term has felt a bit more like the Brymore of 2019 with boys enjoying the vast number of activities available outside and making the most of the sun and lighter nights, playing and socialising with friends. Boarders have enjoyed specific house charity events (mostly involving some form of food!) and slip and slide event where all boarders enjoyed and an evening of activities and BBQ, whilst full time boarders have been able to take part in a number of trips including bowling, outings to the beach and also to the very popular annual banger racing event. We are hoping when we return in September that a further lifting of restrictions nationally will allow boys to experience the full range of trips and activities previously available to all which will be another step in the right direction.

Although this year has been very testing for all families, boys and staff we hope and feel that the boarders have benefited during this time from the structure, routine and continuity that boarding provides. During the week and at weekends boys are in their 'Brymore world' which at times can shield them from events that are going on in the outside world, which over the past 9 months will have been a blessing at times to allow them to focus on their studies and just being children.

Boarding houses have been fundraising for their chosen charities and I'm delighted to say that the following amounts were raised, suffice to say I am very proud we can as a community give something back.

School House - £607.82 (Dorset and Somerset Air Ambulance)

Reid House - £304.30 (Stand Against Violence)

Kemp House - £830.00 (Help for Heroes)

(Mr Watts)

Reading News

The house that reads the most words in the school year receives 500 house points towards their house end of year total. Here are the end totals:

Galsworthy	Taylor	Walker
17,713,096	26,298,535	25,383,105

Congratulations to Taylor!!

The following boys have earned their platinum reading badge. These boys have all read for an average of over 50 minutes a day and have achieved over 100% of their annual reading target:

Tristan Hoy	Eric Pickering	Ben Sawyer	Thomas Endicott
Samuel Findley	Charlie Saunders	Alfie Parsons	Alex Warton-Browne
Toby Moyle	Todd Moyle		

The following boys have earned their gold reading badge. They have all read for an average of over 40 minutes a day and have achieved over 100% of their annual reading target:

William Endicott	Feliks Poskus	Oscar Warren	Hadley Carreras-Bennett
Thomas Cave			

The following boys have earned their silver reading badge. They have all read for an average of over 30 minutes a day and have achieved over 100% of their annual reading target:

Joe Williams	Marley Lamb	Joe Hooper	Olly Newham
James Bagg	Harry Thorn	Samuel Adetunji	Tom Barnes
Oliver Austin	Artie Shrimpton		

The following boys have earned their bronze reading badge. They have all read for an average of over 20 minutes a day and have achieved over 90% of their annual reading target:

Seth Hamilton	Charlie May	TJ Pearce	Leon Akinboroye
Jack Wynn	Harry Daykin	Bailee Lanchester	Corey Broadey
Samuel Chedgey	Toby Lee	Harry Burnside	Anthony Vessier

Word millionaires:

Toby Moyle	4,155,957
Thomas Endicott	3,812,533
Eric Pickering	3,160,073
Ben Sawyer	2,509,043
Tristan Hoy	2,380,018
Alex Warton-Browne	2,251,395
Todd Moyle	2,321,434
Samuel Chedgey	1,902,966
Alfie Parsons	1,753,787

Oliver Austin	1,560,620
Hadley Carreras-Bennett	1,443,814
Joe Williams	1,422,111
Charlie Sanders	1,420,567
Toby Lee	1,338,520
Samuel Findlay	1,323,939
Oscar Warren	1,120,022
Aaron Adotevi	1,082,941
Charlie May	1,081,939
Fynn Evans	1,059,277
Feliks Poskus	1,046,876

The top performing class across key stage 3 is 7.2 and they have passed 827 quizzes and read for an average of 24 minutes per day.

Congratulation boys, a great effort!

Expectations:

- To have a reading book with you at all times
- To log at least 140 minutes of reading per week on 'Reading Rewards' (20 minutes per day)
- To read a book within your ZPD
- To aim to read 2-3 books (depending on length) per half term
- To take responsibility to work hard in order to try to achieve your annual personal target
- To work as part of a team and read in order to earn rewards for my class
- To work as part of a team and read in order to earn points for my house
- To share stories you have enjoyed with your peers and recommend books you have enjoyed to others
- To respect, look after and return the books you enjoy from the LRC and Room 4

You can see how well your son is progressing towards their target by visiting:

<https://ukhosted85.renlearn.co.uk/2259563/homeconnect/> and log in in with your son's username and password. Should you require any assistance or have any questions please contact me on Vickie.mcfall@brymoreacademy.co.uk

Rewards for your class!

The class who reads the most books in a term receives a reward lesson. The first reward lesson will be during the last week, before the Christmas break.

***Reward trips!**

33% of target by December

72 % of target by summer term 1 to secure a place! Good luck boys! (Mrs McFall)

*Reward trips are currently on hold due to COVID-19.

50 Marathons

Ms Rundle has been working at Brymore for over 15 years and this year completed the first ever Brymore marathon and her 50th! It was a target she set herself only 4 years ago that she would complete 50 marathons before she turned 50 and we were delighted she chose here to do the final one. Ms Rundle is a regular Chads participant and it was here that she started her running career and she has completed many marathons on her own during lockdown to ensure that she achieved the big 50th—a great inspiration for the students here! (Ms Warren)



Britain in Bloom

During the last week of term we welcomed Mr Bloxham and Mr Budge, both judges for South West Britain in Bloom, as part of their tour of the Cannington entry into the competition. Brymore grows all of the plants for the village public areas and the school and the staff here play a huge part in Cannington in Bloom and the organisation of this. The judges met with staff and boys and found out where all the village flowering plants began their life before going into the beds and borders. (Ms Warren)

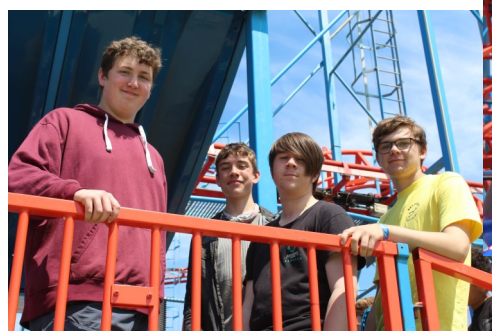


Induction

We welcomed our newest Brymore boys at the start of July along with members of their families for a slimmed down Covid safe version of their induction. As with everything for the last 18 months we had to adapt and we welcomed them in tutor group groups to the farm and they toured the school along with tutors and had a talk by Mr Thomas. Families were invited to mingle outside afterwards with a cup of tea provided by FOBSA so that they could enquire about uniform and talk to key staff. (Ms Warren)

Brean

We could not enjoy our usual activities week during the final week this year as lots of places were not accepting large groups. Years 7 and 8 were originally booked to Crealy but last minute changes meant that the whole school took to Brean Leisure Park for the day—it could have been organised chaos but because the boys were brilliantly behaved it was a great day. Staff and boys raced on the go-karts, got wet on the water ride and bumped each other on the dodgems. It was not quite the activity week we usually love but it was a great day for everyone to remember. (Ms Warren)



Archery

The boys have had some great fun over the last term in archery. The level of healthy competition has been great and battling it out were two great archers, Jacob Foord and Matt Neal-Donald with Jacob coming out on top. Jacob had won 3 archery competitions so has been awarded a pewter archer badge for excellence. Well Done. I want to give a further well done to Alex Tait, George Curtain and Erick Pickering for the level of improvement that they have made. Well done.

(Mr Ball)



Engineering and tool making

What a great terms worth of engineering and tool making that has been accomplished. What has impressed me the most is the level of quality that has been achieved, and on that note, I need to give a special well done to Alex Huxley. Alex has produced the highest quality Pneumatic engine that I have seen since we started that project. Very well-done Alex. Hot on his heels are Toby Moyles and Fraser Phillips who are close to completing their engines to a high standard.

Toolmaking students that have stood out are Jack Bacon and Josh Case for making a chipping hammer to be used when welding, Ollie Mattocks and Corey Broadey for making great screwdrivers from aluminium and silver steel. Well done also to a number of boys that have made whistles from mild steel and brass, Ollie Mattocks, Max Jeffries, Ellis Tennant and Corey Broadey. Finally a special shout out to Harry Thorn who has attended many Toolmaking courses with me and loves his engineering, I have had to keep coming up with new projects for him, well done Harry.

(Mr Ball)



Woodwork

We have had lots of different projects made over the last term and the tool box has been a popular one. We have also made some bird boxes to tie in with the Great British bird watch, which has helped the boys to be more aware of the environment we live in and how we can improve it. Well done to Archie Matthews for producing a great ferret box with a curved back and a shoulder strap, good effort Archie. And a well done to Will Guest for producing a lovely oak trinket box with finger joints. (Mr Ball)

End of School Year

Our last day of the academic year is often started with the swimming gala, however the pool is still not ready but hopefully by next year. Ultimately we tried to make the day special for the boys and we had a celebration on the field to end the year where Mr Thomas gave out many awards and prizes for everything from reading, academic performance and musical prowess to sporting endeavours, effort in all lessons and those looking after their plots with splendour. Congratulations to Taylor House who won the FoBSA Shield for most house points over the year. (Ms Warren)

Philip Prince Cup	Dedicated effort	Aidan Grandfield
Growers Cup	Work on individual plot	
Fiddington Shield	Progress and improvement in Senior Cricket	Max Buck
TE Awamutu award for junior rugby	Junior rugby	Tommy Bailey
535 American Veterans Award	Creative Endeavour	Dylan Carreras-
Martyn Knox Trophy	Chads Hill runs	Alex Jennings
Apatu Shield	Team award	Athletics team
Victor Ludorum	Excellent effort in Rugby and Athletics	Sid Bush
Jon Ball Award	A good all round hard working Brymore boy	Toby Moyle
The Holter-Hovind Cup	Overcome significant challenge (not specifically academic)	Mathew Williams
Governors' Award	Overall contribution to Brymore	Alfie Bush



2021 Upcoming Important Dates

Autumn Term

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