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Dear Readers,

Welcome to the regular glimpse into the lives of our two, local primary schools, and the second article of the summer term, which seems to be flying by – it's hard to believe that we're halfway through the final term of this academic year already.

Both schools celebrated the King's Coronation in style with a day of coronation-making activities and parents invited into school to help their child create a crown for the crown parade in the afternoon. I am pleased to report that we managed to find a (brief) break in the weather to hold the parade outside. It is lovely to see school packed with parents and children together, and it marked a truly historic occasion in a very special way. Thank you to those parents who were able to take some time off work to attend and thank you too to Rev Glyn for judging the crowns at Burlescombe...not an easy feat as there were so many to choose from. I would also like to thank Mrs. Hunter and Miss. Ody for organising such successful events at both schools.

Children in years 5&6 have been busy recently with the KS2 SATs examinations. Everyone in school could not be prouder of the attitude displayed by our children – **determination, motivation, resilience** and **perseverance** have been on display in spades, and we look forward to celebrating the results with children in July. Children in other year groups during the week were busy with their normal learning routines, and although the area used for their learning for some year groups changed, what didn't change was the concentration and commitment to their studies that was shown by children – they really are the *shining stars* of our schools.

Children in KS1 also undertook their SATs examinations recently too, and it gives me great pride to be able to report exactly the same attitude was displayed by the younger members of our school community. Good luck to year 1 children who will be taking the National Phonics Screening Assessment soon, and also to children in year 4 who will be sitting the national Multiplication Times Tables Check (MTC) this month.

Fortunately, whilst it is undeniably "exam season", assessments are not the only thing children have been doing and will be doing for the rest of term. Selected children in years 5 and 6 have taken part in Quad Kids athletics and a rounders tournament, both at Uffculme School, and every member of years 5 and 6 recently went to the Plough Theatre in Great Torrington to see Quintessence, an award-winning play that makes Shakespeare fun for kids. This play is written and performed by Emily Carding as an AI robot programmed to re-start humanity after an ecological disaster on Planet Earth, with the complete works of Shakespeare as its guide to the human spirit. Originally commissioned by the London Science Museum, the play debuted at Brighton Fringe festival where it won the fringe

review's Outstanding Theatre award. This promises to be an exciting foray into the world of Shakespeare and is something that every child in years 5 and 6 across the trust will be attending.

Children in years 3 and 4 have recently taken part in a Tri-Golf festival, again at Uffculme School. Both schools have their Sports Days coming this month and after half-term, children in year 6 at both schools will start their Enterprise Activities, where they wash cars and sell ice-creams to raise money for a trip out by train to Exmouth for the day. Along with the year 5/6 residential to London, end of term awards & leavers' services, Bikeability, visits from our new intake children for next year and the year 6 cream tea afternoon, there is certainly a lot to look forward to.

Finally, if you have passed either school recently, you will not have failed to notice the new, secure entrance gates for both schools. This represents the commitment that we have to ensure that the schools' sites are as robust as they can be from a Safeguarding perspective. This is a substantial investment from the trust, and is one that we have long wanted, but not been able to afford. There are many other improvements and upgrades to both schools' sites on the horizon, which given the wider, educational environment we find ourselves in with the current levels of government funding, is a testament to the benefit of belonging in a family of trust schools.

The next edition will be the final edition for this academic year, so I look forward to telling you all then about the how wonderful the end of term activities were. 😊

Until the next time,

Take care and Climb to your Highest.

R. Rolley