MONT A L'ABBE SCHOOL

Autumn Term 1 Newsletter

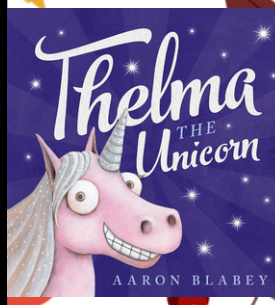
23rd October 2026

HAPPY HALF TERM AND HALLOWEEN!

It's hard to believe how quickly time flies by as we reach half term already! There's been fantastic learning across the whole school over the last few weeks. We are proud of how well new classes have come together and new learners to our school have settled in - well done everyone!

Over the past few weeks, our school community has been busy, engaged and making the most of what has been a wonderfully warm and sunny start to the term. Across the school, learners have embraced a wide range of learning opportunities, exciting experiences and memorable outings, while continuing to demonstrate great engagement and hard work in their daily learning.

At Primary, learners have been immersed in the magical story of Thelma the Unicorn, which has provided a wonderful focus for Communication, Language and Literacy (CLL) activities and helped celebrate what makes us special and unique while learning all about ourselves. Meanwhile, students at Secondary and L'Etacq have been exploring the imaginative world of Alice in Wonderland, inspiring creativity, discussion and a wealth of engaging learning based in character discussion and the concept of 'Who?'.





A particular focus this term has been Personal, Social, Health and Economic (PSHE) education, following our September INSET day where staff came together to further develop and strengthen practice in this important area. It has been fantastic to see high-quality PSHE teaching taking place across the school, supporting learners' wellbeing, independence and personal development.

Our Senior Leadership Team has also been working closely on improving car park and transport safety, ensuring that arrival and departure times remain as safe and efficient as possible for everyone in our community. We would like to thank parents and carers for their support and cooperation as this work continues. It has also been lovely to welcome families to our recent Coffee Morning, providing an opportunity to talk about buses, pick ups and drop offs and to connect, share experiences and strengthen our partnership between home and school.





Learners continue to thoroughly enjoy visits from our therapy dogs, Nico and Lester at Primary and Bentley at secondary whose calm and friendly presence continues to bring so much joy and comfort throughout the school.

As always, we are incredibly proud of the achievements, kindness and determination shown by our learners each day. Thank you to our families, staff and wider community for your ongoing support. We hope you enjoy reading about the many successes and special moments from across the school in this newsletter.

Wishing all our families a lovely half term,

Tricia Moloney

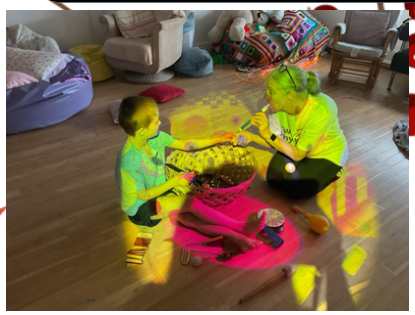
Turtle Class

Turtles have had such a brilliant first half term! We have settled back into routines amazingly and have welcomed our new learners. Some little friendships are starting to show, and we're doing some great parallel play. The learners have been working hard on phonics, with some of us starting to recognise those all important phonic sounds. We've explored all things glitter, rainbows and unicorns for our CLL book and immersed ourselves into the story. Turtles have been focusing on all the numeracy vocabulary like up, down, fast and slow, with some brilliant engagement in our numeracy circle times, as well as having a big focus on our numbers to 5. Well done Turtles for an amazing first term, and settling so well into the class!














Dolphin Class

Dolphin class have enjoyed all things sensory this term, exploring different resources with focus on things we can see, touch, hear, taste and smell. We have introduced Two Rhythms sessions as well as a trip out on Wet Wheels, which was enjoyed by the boys! Our topic book 'Thelma the unicorn' has been a fun book to focus the learning around colours and animals. Brilliant work - well done boys!

Octopus Class

It's been a wonderful first term in Octopus Class! Everyone has settled in so well, and we are so proud of how the children have grown in confidence and embraced their new learning environment. As part of our autumn topic, we have been exploring the changes around us and enjoying discovering all things autumnal. One of the highlights of the term has been our class trip to the market, where the children had great fun exploring and buying a variety of autumn fruits and vegetables.
The children have also been developing their functional play and social skills, building friendships and learning together through fun, engaging activities. We are so proud of how well everyone has settled into Octopus Class and look forward to seeing their progress continue next term!








Regal Tang Fish Class

It has been a great half term, and everyone has done really well settling into their new class and making new friends. We have loved reading and learning about Thelma the Unicorn, especially the exciting paint splash confetti activity and taking turns chanting “Thelma!” into the microphone. The children have been using the GRID throughout the day to support their communication and share their choices and ideas. We have also enjoyed swimming, Sensology, Bucket time and maths sessions, with lots of engaging songs, fun activities and great learning taking place. We are very proud of everything the children have achieved and look forward to seeing everyone after half term!











Rainbowfish Class

What an excellent start to the year for Rainbowfish class! Everyone has settled into their new classrooms, building positive relationships with the team and their peers. We have enjoyed getting stuck into our book for the term 'Thelma the Unicorn', dressing up as Thelma and her friend Otis, as well as learning some of the songs. The children have enjoyed getting a little spooky this week, carving pumpkins and making decorations for the Halloween Disco. We really hope everyone has an enjoyable half term week, and we look forward to welcoming the children back in November!

Lionfish Class

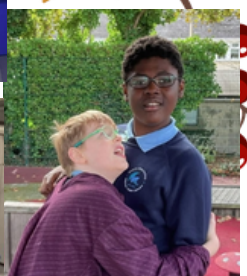
What a wonderful start to the year we have had! The children have loved getting to know their new teachers and meeting their classmates, building new friendships and settling into their new routines. It has been lovely to see their confidence grow as they become more familiar with their new classroom and one another. Our book of the half term has been Thelma the Unicorn, which the children have thoroughly enjoyed exploring. We have brought the story to life through a range of exciting sensory activities and engaging worksheets, giving the children lots of opportunities to explore, learn and develop their skills in a fun and interactive way. During Maths, we have been busy completing our maths assessments to help us identify each child's individual needs and set personalised targets for the year ahead.

The children have also been thoroughly spoilt with daily sensory activities! These have provided wonderful opportunities for exploration, discovery and enjoyment, while supporting their sensory development and engagement in learning.

We are so proud of how well the children have settled into Lionfish Class and look forward to a fantastic year filled with learning, laughter and new adventures. We hope everyone enjoys a well-deserved half-term break!









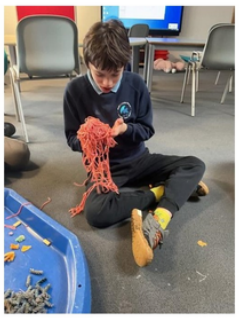

Clownfish Class

We have all settled back into school really well after the summer holidays. We have enjoyed our book 'Thelma the unicorn', exploring the sensory elements that go alongside it and doing some lovely unicorn art. We have also been doing an amazing job using our talker iPad and eye gazes to recognise our friends in class.

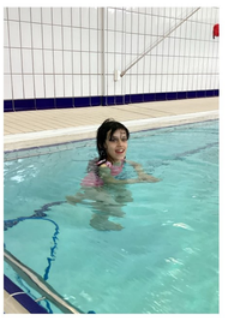
Mandarinfish Class

It's been a busy half term in Mandarinfish class, where we've all done brilliantly getting to know our friends and staff and becoming familiar with new routines. Our learning has been full of exciting, sensory-rich experiences where we've been developing our curiosity, communication and engagement along the way. Through the CLL story, Thelma the Unicorn, we've been exploring our 'All About Me' theme, celebrating what makes each of us unique and learning about the special people in our lives. We've loved sharing photographs of our families, recognising familiar faces and creating beautiful artwork together. We've also been getting adventurous with our taste buds through food tasting sessions, discovering different flavours and textures, and becoming more confident trying new things. Another huge highlight has been our weekly swimming sessions, where we've all made incredible progress in the water!



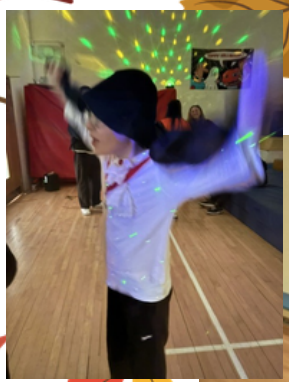
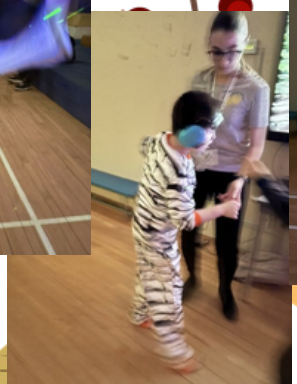
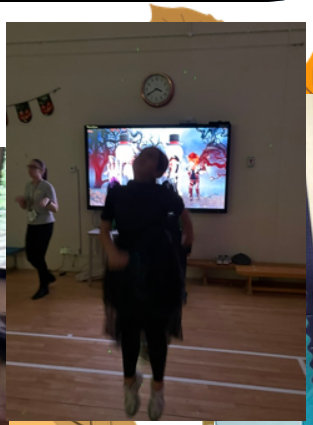
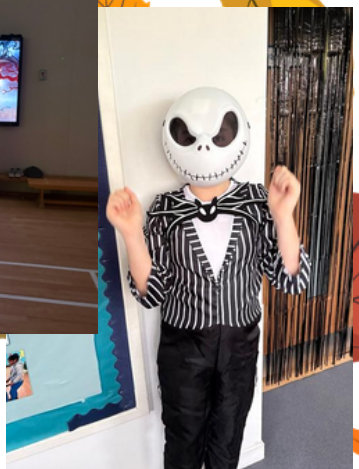







Primary Halloween Disco!

Lots of fun to be had dancing, climbing and swinging to the music!



Victory Class

This term, we have enjoyed learning about Alice in Wonderland, exploring its wacky characters and roleplaying its magical moments. We have also spent valuable time in the community, including parks, gymnastics, football with friends and Jump Jersey. Lots of fun with our new classmates!

















Mary Rose Class

Mary Rose Class have worked hard on our communication using technology this half term and we are seeing some very good progress with this. We have also had some fun making beautiful creations, dancing and interacting together.



Santa Maria Class

This term, we focused on getting to know each other, building positive relationships, and developing our communication skills. We spent time learning how to work together, take turns, listen to others, and express our thoughts and feelings in different ways.

Our whole-school story was Alice in Wonderland, which inspired many of our learning activities. We enjoyed exploring the characters, retelling parts of the story, and taking part in creative and sensory experiences linked to the book. In maths, we concentrated on learning about time, prepositions, and counting. Through practical activities, games, and everyday routines, we practised counting objects, understanding positional language.












Mayflower Class

In Mayflower we have been designing our own 'wonderland' and looking at 'who' would be in our magical world. We have each created beautiful and unique worlds which represent who we are.








Cutty Sark Class

This term, we have been observing and embracing autumn through art, cooking and outdoor experiences. During our visit to Grow Jersey, we collected pumpkins, which we used in our cooking. The kitchen team made us a delicious pumpkin cake, which we all enjoyed with our lunch at secondary. In our cooking sessions, we have also been practising following recipes from Snacktember. For Eco-Schools work, we harvested the last of the produce from our raised beds and cleared them ready for the next growing season. We're also caring for the fir tree seedlings we planted with Ben from Jersey Trees for Life, learning about the care young trees need as they grow. We have embraced many new routines and worked hard on our executive functioning and fine motor skills. Our learning has focused on managing time, keeping our classroom clean and organised, and developing greater independence. In PSHE, we have also been learning about how to look after ourselves and how to stay safe. Alice in Wonderland has been another highlight this term. We celebrated a Mad Hatter's tea party, bringing the story to life through a special shared celebration. Alongside these activities, we have continued our weekly speech and language therapy sessions focusing on phonological awareness and developing our understanding of the sounds in words.

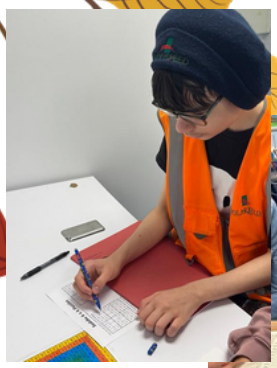


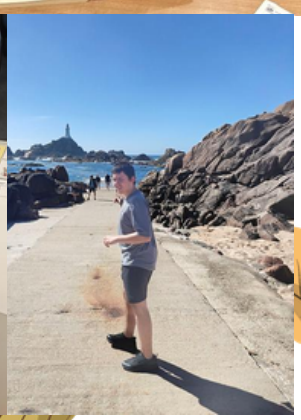
SS Vega Class

The SS Vega learners have made a fantastic start to the school year and continue to show great progress in their learning and personal development.

Kaci has been fully engaged in her Toe by Toe sessions and she has been working hard to develop her literacy skills. David has been participating in PSHE lessons alongside the Mayflower class, where he has been learning about consent and positive relationships. Lio continues to engage very well with school life and is now attending school every morning and afternoon. He enjoys community walks, with Corbière Lighthouse being one of his favourite destinations. Jaiden has recently discovered a love of Sudoku puzzles and has been developing his problem-solving, concentration, and logical thinking skills.

Well done to all our SS Vega learners for such a positive and successful start to the year! 🌟



Marco Polo Class



This half term, alongside our CLL learning about Alice in Wonderland, the boys have had a brilliant time fishing in Tamba Park lake.






Ellen MacArthur Class

This half term, we have stepped into the magical world of Alice in Wonderland, exploring its quirky characters while developing our descriptive writing, storytelling and communication skills. We met the Mad Hatter, mixed 'Drink Me!' potions, decorated 'Eat Me!' treats and enjoyed our own imaginative Mad Hatter's Tea Party. It has been a wonderfully creative and exciting journey through Wonderland!



Vasco Da Gama Class



This half term we have been learning about Alice in Wonderland. We made shrinking potions, made jam tarts, had a Mad Hatter Tea Party and we have played Croquet. It has been an interesting journey down the rabbit hole for everyone.









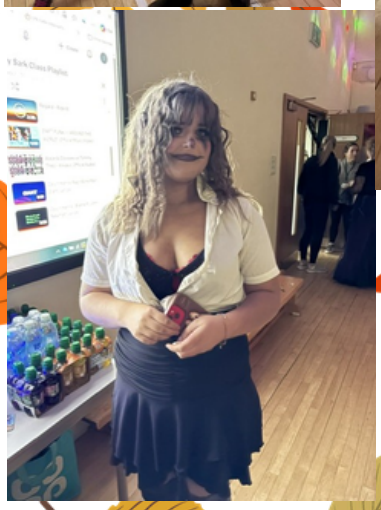




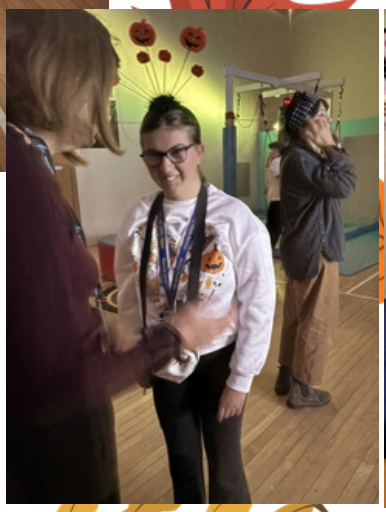












Secondary and L'Etacq Halloween Disco!

What a fabulously spooky way to celebrate the end of this half term. It was great fun dancing to the Halloween classics and spending time with friends across the school community!

The Friends of Mont a l'Abbe School (PTA)

EARLY BIRD CHRISTMAS BAZAAR

Sunday 15th November 2026

11am - 3:30pm

(10-11am Sensory Hour)

Please contact Karen O'Brien, our Chairperson k.obrien@montalabbe.sch.je if you can offer any help.

We will be collecting good quality toys after half term for our ever popular toy area - all donations welcome. Thank you in advance.

Eco Schools

Eco-Schools: Learning, Growing and Wellbeing! 🌲🌳🐝🐞

We were delighted to welcome Ben from Jersey Trees for Life and Catherine from the Jersey Beekeepers Association, who launched an exciting competition that many of our learners entered! We continue to develop our knowledge of nature, biodiversity and the importance of protecting our environment through ongoing lessons, discussions, practical activities and educational trips. There is always something new to discover as we learn how to care for the world around us!

Our Next Eco Day - Monday 2nd November Our next Eco Day will focus on Healthy Living and Wellbeing. We will explore ways to look after our physical and mental health, connect with nature and discover how spending time outdoors can help us feel happier and healthier. Through a range of engaging activities and experiences, we will learn how caring for ourselves and caring for our environment go hand in hand!















STEM Go Kart Project

Some students from L'Etacq are beginning a go kart project alongside Teams from Hautlieu and Haute Vallee, as part of the STEM on Track project sponsored by PWC. We will be building a fully functioning go kart with the help of two students from Hautlieu school. Recently we visited Trinity Show Ground to see a replica F1 car and try lots some F1 simulators. It has been wonderful to see the students from both schools working together and engaging in this inclusive experience.



Dates for the Diary:

- Sunday 15th November: Christmas Fayre
- Wednesday 9th December 2pm: Phase one Christmas Sing-a-long (Primary Gym)
- Thursday 10th December: Christmas Jumper Day
- Friday 11th December 2pm: Phase Two Christmas Performance (Primary Gym)
- Wednesday 16th December 1:30pm: Secondary & L'Etacq Christmas Performance (Haute Vallee Theatre)
- Wednesday 16th December onwards: Kitchen closed until end of term
- Friday 18th December: End of Term
- Monday 4th January: Back to school

