



Weekly Benson Bulletin

4 November 2016 No 8



www.archbishop-benson.cornwall.sch.uk



Message from Mrs Giblett

Ofsted Attendance Grades		
96.5% + High	96.1% - 96.4% Above national average	95.5% - 95.9% In line with national average
94.0% or below Low	90% or below Cause for concern	85% or below Persistent Absence

Our whole-school attendance rate for this week was 96.52%.

Congratulations this week to 1Withiel who were top of the attendance table with 100% attendance. Well done!

Involving Parents In Our School Improvements

At Archbishop Benson School, we try hard to encourage and value parental feedback. As you are aware we were busy last half-term collating all of the EoY parental surveys and analysing that information. We identified 2 areas for development based on the feedback from the parents who completed the survey - homework and bullying.

26% of the parents who completed the survey disagreed with the statement - My child receives appropriate homework for their age.

We hope that you have already seen how we have been responding to this. Our focus this year on spellings homework and the 99 Club is to embed a consistent, meaningful and beneficial approach to homework right across the school. We hope that you and your children are seeing how this dual focus is having a direct impact on making it easier and quicker for them to do their English and Maths work in class. I know that class teachers are looking forward to sharing lots of positive news with you about this next week.

19% of the parents who completed the survey disagreed with the statement - Bullying is dealt with effectively within the school.

We were heartened that in 2015 – 2016 a higher percentage of parents felt that their children knew the steps to take if they felt that they were being bullied. When we analysed your parental responses, we could see that this is not seen by parents as a school-wide issue but it would appear that some parents are less happy about how we deal with possible incidences of bullying when they occur. Therefore we would like this to

be one of our foci for our upcoming Parents Forum on Tuesday November 22 at 7.00 pm.

All parents are invited, but numbers for each forum are, understandably, limited. We do not want to set too much of a limit on numbers as we know that parents who want to attend are interested in that particular issue, but we also want to ensure that the number present allows for a meaningful discussion. We can facilitate about 25 parents for an evening forum.

If parents are interested in attending this forum, then we ask them to contact the office. On a first come, first served basis, we will ensure that if sufficient parents express an interest in attending that there is representation from all classes. Having done that, if there are additional spaces available then we open it up to the other names on the list in rank order. We know that some parents whose children were in Y2 and Y3 last year felt strongly about this issue when they completed the EoY surveys, so we do hope that they are able to attend.

Parents' Evening

Teachers are busy at the moment getting ready for parental consultations next week. They are genuinely looking forward to meeting with you to discuss the progress and achievements your children have made so far this year. I know that they will be particularly keen to talk to you about how the new spelling arrangements are going. As well as that, they want to discuss with every set of parents your child's specific targets for the next few months. The sharing of this information is really important as it will be crucial in helping your child to reach the new and challenging age-related expectations for every year group. We have been surprised by quite a low parental response to booking up appointments this year in some year groups, particularly Y6. This is highly unusual as last year the average attendance rate by parents for the Autumn and Spring parental consultations was over 90%. Teachers and class TAS will be contacting parents directly to book up appointments for every child. We look forward to seeing you next week.

Packed Lunch Children Eating Outside

We understand that some parents have expressed concerns about our arrangements for children eating packed lunches outside. I thought it might be useful for all parents to be aware of our arrangements.

- Every day, the lunchtime supervisors who supervise in the Junior playground liaise before lunchtime to evaluate the weather and to make a decision as to whether it is appropriate for the children to eat outside.

- Unless the weather is too wet or too cold, all Junior children who have packed lunches have the opportunity throughout the year to eat their lunch either inside in the dining hall or outside in the quiet area. They can choose on a daily basis.
- At the start of every year one of our lunchtime supervisors visits the classes of our new Y3 pupils to explain these arrangements to them
- Every Junior child who brings a packed lunch to school has the free choice to eat inside and a significant number of our children, especially in Y3, choose to do so.
- If the packed lunch children chose to eat outside, then the lunchtime supervisors ensure that they are wearing coats, as the weather gets cooler.
- Many of our packed lunch children chose to eat outside for a variety of reasons
 - They like to be outside as it is more fun than being in the dining hall
 - They get a chance to sit in a more relaxed way with a wider group of friends
 - They can eat their lunch right away rather than having to wait to go into the dining hall
- No child is expected or is made to eat outside and if parents contact us and tell us that they would like their child to eat inside either permanently or for a period of time, then we will do our utmost to ensure that this happens.

I have spoken to Mr Kitto, our Pupil Voice Coordinator, about discussing our packed lunch arrangements with the School Council and to get the children's views on this issue.

We will keep you informed as to what they share with us.

Autumn 2 has gotten off to a great start with lots of exciting events and activities being planned for the children. Our new School Council is very enthusiastic and as well as supporting Children in Need Day on November 18th, they are also keen that we mark Anti-Bullying Month (November).

Therefore on Friday, November 25th, we have arranged for a theatre company to come into school and to do series of assemblies and workshops with groups of classes right across the school. This enrichment opportunity links to your feedback about how we can improve how we deal with bullying. The children would like to be able to come dressed in blue on that day – how much or little is up to you! The importance of blue is that it stands for B.L.U.E – Be Loving and Understanding to Everyone. By dressing in blue, we are sending a loud and clear signal to everyone that we do not tolerate bullying at Archbishop Benson School.

Lost property

Dealing with lost property is a perennial issue in all schools but this year we are going to change our arrangements slightly in the hope that we can make it easier for children and parents to access misplaced/lost items of clothing.

Much of our lost property are items of clothing that children leave outside in the playgrounds at lunchtime or the end of the day. Even though our site supervisors do a visual check of the playgrounds at the end of every day, invariably some items are not spotted. They can often be

quite wet and bedraggled by the time they are discovered. These wet/dirty items of clothing will be stored in a labelled wheelie bin directly outside Y5 and the site supervisors' office. Your children will be able to direct you this.

All other lost property that accumulates during the course of a day or week will be stored in another wheelie bin which will be located in the cycle store opposite the 2 Year 2 classrooms.

By having lost property in the wheelie bins, located externally, we hope that parents will be able to check regularly and easily if they feel that their child has lost an item of clothing. A large percentage of the lost clothing is labelled and could find its way home with just a little looking!

Mrs H Giblett

School Closed Monday 28 November

Remember that the school will be closed on Monday 28 November for staff training.



CHILDREN IN NEED 2016 **Friday 18 November**

The School Councillors met this week to discuss what they wanted to do for the BBC Children in Need appeal this year. They have decided that Friday 18 November shall be a 'Go Spotty' day, inviting everyone to come to school in spots - be that spotty clothes, spots painted on your face or sprayed onto your hair – the choice is yours! We shall suggest a donation of 50p each and also invite the children to bring in any change to place on a Pudsey design on the Hall floor. In addition, the Year 5 and 6 pupils will be holding a cake sale at morning break, and there will be a Staffroom Sweepstake (guess the number of spots on a cake). Thanks in advance for your support – the children love it so much when we all join in, and it's all for a very worthy cause!

Porthpean Camp

The deposit for Porthpean Camp must be paid by Monday 7 November and the date for the final payment is Friday 28 April. A new payment item has been added to ParentPay which will allow payments in instalments up to the full amount.

Parents' Evenings

If you haven't already done so, please book your appointment to see your child's class teacher on the school VLE. The dates for the Parents' meetings are:

- Tuesday 8 November 3.40pm – 5.00pm
- Wednesday 9 November 3.40pm – 7.00pm
- Thursday 10 November 3.40pm – 5.00pm

If you have mislaid your password, please contact the school office where you will be able to reset it.

On the Parents' Evening on Wednesday 9 November, we will have representatives from School Governors, FABB and the School Nurse and information on eSafety, handwriting and spellings will be available in the school hall. Parents are welcome to come along and have a chat with any of the representatives.

Kitchen News

Our school menu is available for you to book online via ParentPay.

Menu Error on ParentPay

Apologies – due to an admin error, the menu showing on ParentPay this week was for the wrong week! This has now been corrected. However, if your child only has a school lunch on certain days, you may need to check that the correct days are ticked.

We would encourage Reception classes, Year 1, Year 2 and Year 3 need to keep booking their lunches online on ParentPay.

Flu Vaccinations

Children in Years 1, 2 and 3 have been given letters and forms to bring home regarding the flu vaccination which is being administered on Monday 21 November. Can you please return the consent form to school by Wednesday 16 November at the latest. Thank you.

Nut Allergies and Snacks in School

Due to many children across the school suffering with a **nut allergy**, please could we remind children to avoid bringing in snacks that may contain nuts. Your support with this would be greatly appreciated.

Mrs J Williams

Hydrangea Heads for Christmas Decorations

If you happen to have a hydrangea growing in your garden, the Teaching Assistants would be really grateful for donations of any flower heads you might have. They can be left in the box in the Reception area of the school office. We do need them as soon as possible so that the children can start work on their Christmas decorations. Thank you.

Uniform Shop

The school uniform shop will be held from 3.15pm onwards and can be accessed via the Junior (KS2) playground through the door between 6J and 5C.

These are the dates for our Uniform Shop:

- **Friday 18 November**
- **Friday 9 December**

We do hold a reasonable level of uniform stock in school but this can get sold quickly at the Uniform Shops. Ordering online will ensure you get what you want.

Poppies on Sale

Poppies are being offered for sale to pupils during break times. A minimum donation of 20p is asked for a poppy.

CLUBS

ALL CLUBS ARE CANCELLED NEXT WEEK DUE TO THE PARENTS' EVENINGS TAKING PLACE APART FROM NETBALL, YOGA, ARCHERY and GO-ACTIVE FOOTBALL.

CAPOEIRA CLUB

The exciting Capoeira Club is continuing this half term on Tuesdays after school for KS2 children. Capoeira is a unique art that originates from Brazil and combines elements of dance, acrobatics and martial arts. You can look on the website for more information at www.accornwall.co.uk.

There will be four more sessions this half term on Tuesdays: 15/11, 22/11, 6/12 and 13/12

Forms are available from the school office and payment of £16 for the four sessions is required with the completed form.

ALL clubs are cancelled on Thursday 1 December to enable the staff to decorate the hall for the Christmas Fair.

English Tuition

Mr Galbraith, a Teaching Assistant at Archbishop Benson, is offering private English tuition, including English as an additional language. Mr Galbraith is a qualified Teacher of English as a Foreign Language, who has worked in Japan, Italy and the UK. He has nine years of experience in working with Primary school children at Archbishop Benson.

For details, email spalpew@icloud.com or phone 07502157258.

Maths Tuition

Mrs Roskell-Thomas, recently retired from Archbishop Benson, is available for private maths tuition. Mrs Roskell-Thomas has specialised in teaching Primary Maths for over 20 years and also worked as a Primary Maths Consultant. She has worked with all abilities, but has a particular interest in working with pupils who find maths quite difficult, or may have dyscalculia. For more information, call Mrs Roskell-Thomas on 01637 499664 or 07804 813026.

Young Savers' Club

The Young Savers' Club will be held on Wednesday mornings starting at 8.30am in the Infants Entrance.



Cycling Event at Penair – Sunday 6 November

This Sunday 6 November, from 10.00am, Penair will be hosting a cyclo-cross race event. There are race categories for all ages from under 8 to adults, including an adult novice category. You do not need to have a cyclo-cross bike to enter, a mountain bike will do. Entry is £3 on the day for Under 8s, Under 10s and Under 12s. Online entry is available for all other categories via the British Cycling website, which is cheaper, but you can also enter on the day.

It is a fun day out and a great way to introduce children to an increasingly popular sport. There will be prizes for all entrants under 12.

For further information please look at the British Cycling website.

Cornwall MacMillan Christmas Fair

The Eden Project are hosting the Cornwall MacMillan Christmas Fair again this year. The Preview and Shopping Evening is being held on Wednesday 16 November from 5.00pm – 9.30pm. Tickets are £25 including supper and wine. The Day Fair is being held on Thursday 17 November from 10.00am – 4.00pm. Tickets are £15 including a light lunch and wine.

Tickets are available online from:
www.cornwallmacmillanchristmasfair.co.uk.

FREE admission to the Eden Project for those attending the Fair.

Homemade Craft and Produce Christmas Market Truro Methodist Church – Saturday 5 November

Are you a keen crafter or amateur cook? Would you like the opportunity to sell some of your Christmas crafts or produce in Truro city centre?

Truro Methodist Church will be holding a Homemade Craft and Produce Christmas Market in the Sanctuary from 9.30am until 12.30pm on Saturday 5 November. Pitches can be booked for £5 per half table or £10 for a whole, large table. Please note that they only want to have tables selling homemade craft and produce. All profits from sales are yours. If you would like to book a table contact pastoral@truromethodist.org.uk as soon as possible.

Truro Methodist Church – Messy Church

Messy Church is being held on Tuesday 8 November from 4.45pm at Truro Methodist Church. The theme is "It's good to remember". There will be fun craft activities, shoe box packing, music, worship, a shared meal and more. Donation on exit. Children must be accompanied by an adult.

Stay and Play

Truro Nursery School, in partnership with Archbishop Benson School, offer a Stay and Play session on Thursdays in St Paul's Children's Centre from 9.00am – 10.30am. Play and early learning sessions for families following the early years foundation stage curriculum for ages 0 – 5 years. Cost is £2.00 per family (up to 2 children). First session is free to new families.

Please note that there is no session on Thursday 10 November as the Children's Centre is being used as a polling station.

Next session: Thursday 17 November

Dates for Your Diary

November

- | | |
|------------------|------------------------------------------------------------------|
| Fri 11/11 | 3W class assembly – 9.00am – parents welcome to attend |
| Thu 17/11 | FABB meeting – time to be advised - all are welcome |
| Fri 18/11 | Go Spotty Day in aid of Children in Need appeal |
| Tue 22/11 | KS2 Cross Country 1.15pm. Parents are welcome to come and watch. |
| Fri 25/11 | 4MT class assembly – 9.00am – parents welcome to attend |
| Mon 28/11 | School closed for staff training day. |

December

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|-----------------|---------------------------------------------------------|
| Thu 1/12 | Autumn music recital – 2.15pm |
| Fri 2/12 | 6FT class assembly – 9.00am – parents welcome to attend |
| Fri 2/12 | Christmas Fair |

Term Dates for School Year 2016 /2017

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|------------------|-------------------------------------------|
| Fri 21/10 | Break up for half term |
| Mon 31/10 | Children return to school |
| Fri 16/12 | Break up for Christmas |
| 2017 | |
| Tue 3/1 | Children return to school for Spring Term |
| Fri 10/2 | Break up for half term |
| Mon 20/2 | Children return to school |
| Fri 31/3 | Break up for Easter |
| Tue 18/4 | Children return to school for Summer Term |
| Mon 1/5 | Bank Holiday – school closed |
| Fri 26/5 | Break up for half term |
| Mon 5/6 | Children return to school |
| Wed 26/7 | Break up for Summer |

