



Weekly Benson Bulletin

11 November 2016 No 9

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 95.92%.

Congratulations this week to 1Withiel and 6Fistral who were top of the attendance table with 99.00% attendance. Well done!

THANK YOU!

I just wanted to say, on behalf of staff, a BIG thank you to all the volunteer helpers who have started working in classes this week. I have heard such lovely, positive comments from teachers about how wonderful their new helpers have been. They are really excited about having this extra help and are excitedly planning as to how to make best use each week of this wonderful additional resource. Thank you!

We hope that our helpers are also feeling positive about their deployment to various classes around the school. Like all new systems, we do not expect to get it right first thing. We understand that there will be glitches but we would be very grateful if you could feedback to us on both the positives of being a volunteer helper in our school as well as any issues or concerns you might have. Myself, or Mrs Teasdale, are more than happy to meet with you and hear your feedback.

Teachers are now asking if they could have more helpers! If you do have any spare time in the week, we would love to have you in school. Even if you do not want to work directly with children, there is always something that you could help us with. Please contact the office if you feel you could do some voluntary work or if you would like to meet with myself or Mrs Teasdale to have a chat.

Updated website

We have been busy over the last half-term updating our school website. We hope that you like the new layout. We wanted to try and make the website as easy as

possible to navigate, so that anything you might want to access was no more than 2 clicks away. We know we won't achieve that right away but it will be our focus for the year.

If you do use the website and feel that you have some helpful feedback to share with us, either positive or otherwise, then we would be really pleased to hear from you while we are in this development stage. You can feedback to Mr Banks, our ICT Network manager – abanks@archbishop-benson.cornwall.sch.uk

Attendance and Punctuality

I just wanted to say thank you to all our families for your continued support in terms of getting your children to school every day and on time. Our overall attendance rate for Autumn 1 was 97.6% which is a great achievement. Thank you.

Every half-term Rachel Jarman, our Education Welfare Officer (EWO), has a meeting with me to review our attendance and punctuality for that half-term. Naturally she is impressed with our overall attendance rate so far this year. When she looked at our Late Book, to check our overall pupil punctuality, she was a bit surprised to see unusually high levels of pupil lateness on Wednesday and Thursday of this week.

We realise that there are a variety of issues that can contribute to pupil lateness:

- Some parents mentioned that traffic, and parking in and around Bodmin Road, is worse than ever. We do appreciate that this appears to be the case and that it can be incredibly frustrating for parents but if that is now the new reality, then it may be the case that certain families have to start their mornings five minutes earlier to compensate for this. Our EWO has asked us to politely challenge those parents who repeatedly give traffic as the reason for their child's lateness.
- Some parents, whose children have been late, have expressed their frustrations that the school driveway is always congested in the mornings and car park spaces are not easily available for Infant parents because so many Infant parents are choosing to wait and wave to their children in the playground rather than leave and free up the spaces for other parents to use. Understandably some of these parents did not feel it was fair that their child was then marked as late.

If any parent feels that this is the cause of their child's lateness, then please record that in the Late Book. I do check it regularly and if this is a recurring issue, then I will bring it to the Resources Committee to discuss the effectiveness of our dropping off arrangements.

Whatever the reason for your child's lateness, we are legally required to monitor all pupil lateness. We are not doing so to try and catch parents out or to make them feel bad first thing in the morning. We try to be as polite and welcoming as possible to all late comers and we ask that parents respond in the same way to us.

After an EWO visit, it is often necessary for me to contact some parents, mostly by letter, to inform them if we have some concerns regarding attendance. If you do receive such a letter, then I hope that you will make an appointment to see me so we can see what we can do together to improve your child's attendance. However this time, I am delighted that I will also be sending out some improvement letters too.

I will be notifying some parents where we have concerns about recurring poor punctuality. Again we are not trying to upset or annoy parents and I hope that they will want to meet with me to see if we can help in resolving any issues.

Use of photos

Class 3W did a wonderful job today with our first class assembly of the year to parents. Seeing parents in the hall prompted us to remind you about our policy in relation to photographs being taken of our pupils while in school. We do allow parents, legal guardians, and family members to take images of their child participating in school activities but it is based on the collective commitment of all parents that any photos taken can only be used for family and personal use.

We need to make parents aware that when any parent or guardian takes a photo of their child in a school event, there is always the possibility that the child may be photographed with a friend, or that there may be other children inadvertently in the background. However we work on a basis of mutual trust that these photos are only ever used for personal and domestic use and that parents never upload images of their child, where other children are also in the photo, onto any social media websites etc.

If any parent does not want their child's image to appear in the school newsletter, website or other forms of communication, then please let us know and we will add them to our Restrictions Register.

Mrs H Giblett

School Closed Monday 28 November

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

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.



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 date for the final payment for the Year 4 Porthpean Camp is Friday 28 April. A new payment item has been added to ParentPay which will allow payments in instalments up to the full amount.

CLUBS

LUNCHTIME RUNNING CLUB ON TUESDAY 15 NOVEMBER IS CANCELLED DUE TO MRS WILLIAMS BEING AT A MEETING.

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.

Kitchen News

There will be a school Christmas lunch on Wednesday 7 December. Details in next week's newsletter

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

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.

Friends of Archbishop Benson School – FABB

Everyone is invited to the next FABB meeting which will be held in school on Thursday 17 November at 7.00pm. Do you have some great ideas for raising money for our school? Would you like to help decide how to spend the money raised by FABB? Do you like eating cake? If you would like to know more about FABB, eat cake and share ideas then come along to the next meeting. You don't have to make any sort of commitment to help. If you want any further details or have any questions then contact Emma Potter or Jo Scrimgeour by emailing friendsofarchbishopbensonschool@gmail.com or via Facebook and the group "Parents of kids attending Archbishop Benson School" or by leaving a message at the school office.

FABB would be particularly grateful if the class representatives could attend this meeting as well.

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.

Boys Football Matches v Truro Prep School

On Monday 7 November, our Year 5 and Year 6 boys' football A teams played Truro Prep School.

Benson Year 6 A 3-1 Truro Prep A

Our Year 6 A team match was a league game. It was a well contested affair and we took the lead early through Freddie. Truro Prep equalised but we managed to score again just before half time when Lewis S finished to make it 2-1. There were chances for both teams in the second half and we managed to grab a third goal when Jake scored to put the result beyond doubt.

Benson Year 5 A 3-2 Truro Prep B

Our Year 5s also played well and managed to earn a deserved 3-2 victory against Truro Prep B. We played really well as a team with some excellent passing and teamwork. Our goals were scored by Lewis T, Jayden and Bradley C. Sid played particularly well in midfield and Ollie B was strong at the back.

Truro Primary Schools Football Competition

On Friday 4 November, our boys A team went to Truro College for the Truro Primary schools football tournament.

We won our group with a 3-1 victory, a 1-0 win and a 0-0 draw. We then played a semi-final against a strong St Agnes side. Unfortunately, we lost 3-0 but had a great afternoon.

Well done to Noah, Dan P, Sam P, Jake B, Oliver B, Perran R-G, Lewis S, Max D and Freddie I.

Young Savers' Club

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

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.

Truro Bonfire and Fireworks Night

A big thank you to everyone who attended the bonfire and fireworks night on Tremorvah Playing Fields on Friday 4 November. We hope you had a great time! With your help we raised over £4,000 in just two hours which has now been divided equally between Cornwall Air Ambulance and Penhaligon's Friends. Thank you to all the children who helped out on the night, to our sponsors, Stephens Scown, Truro City Council Parks Department and Truro Round Table.

Tremorvah Playing Fields Group

Truro Baptist Church – Launchpad

On Sunday 13 November from 4.00pm, Truro Baptist Church are holding their popular Launchpad event. There will be music, games, reflective activity, bible stories, craft activities etc. A picnic tea will be provided. All are welcome. If you would like more information, call 01872 241984 or email mail@trurobaptist.co.uk

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.

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 – 7.00pm in the staffroom - 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 Children to wear something blue for Anti Bullying week
Mon 28/11	School closed for staff training day.

December

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

Fri 16/12	Break up for Christmas
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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

