



Weekly Benson Bulletin

16 September 2016 No 2



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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 97.55%.

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

Safeguarding

A member of staff raised a concern about seeing one of our pupils coming to school early one morning this week wearing a dark coat and not being very visible to drivers. We thought, with the mornings and evenings getting darker, that we would remind parents to consider the visibility of their children coming to school, especially those children who may be coming to our Breakfast Club. You can get hi-vis strips/straps to attach to coats or rucksacks from stores like Halfords

We maintain a Pupil Welfare Register for each class in the school. It contains information for class teachers on pupils with health and medical issues and allergies, those who need to wear glasses as well as the names of any children where parents may not want their images used in publications or on the school website. We also record the names of any children where parents have withdrawn their permission for their child to receive Religious Education or Sex and Relationships Education.

If there has been a change in your child's health, development or diet, then please let your child's class teacher know and we will update the Class Pupil Welfare Register. If you are not sure if your child's name is on the register, then feel free to check with the class teacher.

Meet the Teacher sessions

I know that teachers have welcomed the opportunity to meet with parents this week and to discuss class routines and expectations. I hope that parents found these sessions useful. I am aware, from parental feedback, that

some of our Y3 parents felt that there was a lack of Y2-3 transition information in the Summer term.

Our usual arrangement in the Summer term is to invite new parents to meet with the new class teachers after school on the afternoon of the Class Swap. This is normally advertised in the newsletter. For some reason this did not happen this year. While some parents did pop in to see new class teachers, others understandably did not. I apologise for this oversight and we have put measures in place to prevent this happening again

We will be sending home some additional information today to our Year 3 parents relating to a variety of points raised at the Y3 Meet the Teacher meeting.

We have had a few requests to clarify the school approach to swimming and its charging policy since the swimming letter for our Year 2 pupils was sent out earlier in the week.

Firstly I would like to assure all the Y2 parents that we have not introduced new or changed arrangements this year. The arrangements we have in place are the same that have been followed for several years now. We understand that parents may feel that if their child already attends or has attended swimming lessons, and can swim in excess of 25m, that they may question the additional cost of school swimming lessons.

The 2014 National Curriculum says:

All schools must provide swimming instruction either in Key Stage (KS) 1 or 2.

It states that, specifically, pupils should be taught to:

- Swim competently, confidently and proficiently over a distance of at least 25 metres
- Use a range of strokes effectively – for example, front crawl, backstroke and breaststroke
- Perform safe self-rescue in different water-based situations.

Our lessons at the Leisure Centre will be differentiated by ability so that our more competent swimmers will work in a group on developing stamina, perfecting stroke technique and working on life saving skills, whereas less confident children will work on gaining confidence in the water. Each group's lesson will be tailored to their particular need and we can assure all parents, regardless of how competent a swimmer your child is, that they will benefit from this swimming session both physically and socially.

We have always asked parents to make a voluntary contribution towards the cost of employing instructors and transport to the pool, as is stated in our charging policy. We also use some of our Sports Premium funding to cover the costs. As with all such activities, If we do not receive contributions from parents, then we may have to re-evaluate the viability of swimming for the whole cohort. We wholly appreciate that £41 is a lot of money for any family to find at any one time and we want to do all we can to work with parents and assist them as best we can. If parents feel that they need assistance in paying the contribution then please contact the school to discuss how we can support you. We have already been able to do so with several parents. If your family is eligible for Pupil Premium funding (low income families, service families, families with looked after children) then please let the school know as we will use this funding to subsidise your contribution. Please do not allow money to be a barrier to your child accessing these swimming sessions.

Because this has not been an issue before, we were not able to anticipate this particular response by some parents. However now that we are aware of it, myself and Mrs Power have been meeting with parents and resolving any concerns on an individual basis. We invite any parent with questions or concerns to come and speak to us directly.

If it should turn out that a group of Y2 pupils are withdrawn from swimming and we cannot manage their supervision as a group, along with the other children who are going swimming, then we may need to re-consider whether we can continue with our planned swimming arrangements for Y2 in the Autumn term or whether we will need to re-arrange the swimming at another time this year or at a later stage in KS2. Naturally we will do our utmost to avoid such a disruption. We have 12 parents who have not, to date, made a payment (partial or whole) yet. It would help us greatly if those parents who have forgotten to pay could do so over the weekend using ParentPay.

Those parents who intend to pay but would like to do so in instalments could notify the school of that intention That would allow the school to know how to plan for the start of Y2 swimming this coming Monday.

Clubs

I also received some feedback this week about our after-school club arrangements this term.

Some parents felt that information on the cost of clubs with a charge was missing from the clubs sheet and that parents needed to know this before deciding to commit to a club. Therefore we have attached an updated Autumn Clubs Overview on the back page of this newsletter with charges included.

One parent fed back that they felt there were too many clubs with a charge. I just wanted to share with parents that the initiation of a variety of new clubs (some with a charge) in 2015 – 2016 was in direct response to a Parents Forum consultation in 2014 – 2015 where parents were clear about wanting more clubs for our Infant children as well as the Y3-4 year groups and that they would be willing to pay for such activities.

Before opting for external groups to run new clubs, we asked several times last year for parents to help us in

running some additional free clubs for the pupils knowing that we have some very keen and talented parents among our 300 families but we got no new offers of supporting except with football, chess and Japanese. Therefore we liaised with external groups to offer some new and exciting extra-curricular opportunities for the children.

Getting our clubs provision “right” is never an easy thing and we do welcome and value parental feedback. We are already considering potential improvements for our club arrangements for the Spring term.

Spelling

We hope that you are all getting into the swing of being back at school!

Teachers and support staff have been busy this week discussing and refining our new whole-school approach to spelling in response to the ever-increasing expectations of the New Curriculum and the new age-related assessment standards.

Some teachers may have sent out some spellings this week but others will be holding off for another week as we are about to initiate our new spelling programme. Many of you, when meeting with teachers last year at parents’ evenings, will have been made aware that spelling and handwriting are now key skills that every child has to use competently and confidently within their everyday work if they are to meet age-related expectations. In the olden days, children were given broad levels of attainment based on a best-fit model whereas the new assessment system is based on a complete-fit model and gaps in spelling and handwriting could prevent your child from achieving age-related expectations. That is why these 2 areas will be School Improvement priorities this year and we will be working with you to help your child to achieve their full potential in these areas.

Within the English Curriculum, there are set termly spellings for each year groups – these are a combination of new words and re-cap words from the previous year. We are just putting the final touches to our new-whole approach and more information will be following next week. I just wanted to clarify what is coming lest your child has not brought home spelling this week.

As an additional support for your child’s spelling, we just wanted to draw your attention to the fact that within your child’s reading record there is a list of high frequency words that they are expected to know and be able to spell for their age –group. It would be very helpful for your child if you were able to link these into the times when you read with your child – just discuss a couple a day would make a big difference over the course of a year

Dropping Off and Collecting Children

A big thank you to all our parents for being so supportive with our dropping off arrangements in KS1 and KS2. We are so proud of the children in in the Infants for coming through the Infant gate in the morning with so much confidence and energy – they make me feel old! They are showing impressive independence and resilience at such a young age and it will stand them in good stead in the years to come

We were delighted to welcome our new Year 3 pupils into the Junior playground. We expect that they will carry on the same pattern that they had last year and come directly into the playground having said goodbye to their parent or carer. Staff on duty will be reminding KS2 parents to say good bye when they drop their child off and then go off themselves. We know that you will want to support us in this and will not take offence if a member of staff should speak to you.

Please could we also politely ask all parents to make their way off the school site when you drop off children? It's not that we want to get rid of you or that we are not happy to see you but staff have reported that children in certain classes are finding it very distracting if they see their own or other parents still talking outside the classroom windows once they are in their classrooms. It is delaying some of the classes from getting settled into their lessons.

When we had our training days with staff last week, some concerns were raised about how it can be difficult at times for staff to hand children safely and orderly over to parents/carers in the Infant playground because of the amount of parents gathered in one relatively small space at the same time. We are going to be reviewing these procedures and we may make some slight changes to how we hand over the children at the end of the day to support staff in safeguarding your children. In the meantime we would be really grateful if parents could stand back from the path and shed on the KS1 playground when the children are coming out. We will ensure that your child is released safely to you, but we do need the place to be able to do this. Again, staff on duty will be reminding parents to stand back and we ask that you do not take offence if a member of staff should speak to you.

Thank you so much for your support with these arrangements.

Dates for your Diary

Penair Open Evening: Monday 26 September (5.00pm – 8.00pm).

Richard Lander Open Evening: Thursday 22 September (5.00pm – 8.00pm)

All Year 5 and Year 6 parents are invited to attend. Prospectuses will be available for both schools from the office - parents can pick one up when passing or request for one to be sent home. They will also be readily available at both schools on the open evenings.

We would strongly urge all our Y5 and 6 parents to visit both local secondary school and to find out for yourself about which school would best suit your child. You will be assured of a warm welcome

Mrs H Giblett

Kitchen News

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

Reception classes, Year 1, Year 2 & Year 3 need to keep booking their lunches online on ParentPay.

CLUBS

Multi Skills Club – Go Active

We still have spaces for this club. It is for Reception, Year 1 and Year 2 children on Wednesdays after school. The price is £3 per lesson payable in advance. Forms are available from the school office.

To give everyone a chance, non-paying club places will no longer be allocated on a first come, first served basis. It will be a random, "pulling out of the hat" type system to make it fairer on parents who find it difficult to get the slips back straight away.

Clubs where payment is required will still be numbered on receipt of the form and payment.

Asthmatics in School

Please can we remind parents of all those children who require asthma medication in school, to bring in **TWO**, working, in-date inhalers. These need to be given to the class teachers and stored in the classrooms. If any child no longer requires asthma medication, or alternatively if they have recently been diagnosed as asthmatic, please can you inform the office for the appropriate paperwork to be signed. Can you also let us know of any medical or allergy changes as well? Thank you.

Year 5 and Year 6 Children Walking Home

Can the parents of Year 5 and Year 6 children who have given their permission for them to walk home on their own, please remind them to be careful when crossing Moresk Road at the back entrance to the school. This is a busy road with lots of traffic.

Opening the Front Gates

For Health & Safety reasons, we cannot open the front gates until 3.10pm. This includes the main gate for disabled drivers.

FABB Family Picnic – Friday 23 September 2016

Everyone is invited to join us for a family picnic on Friday 23 September from 5.30pm - 7.30pm on the school field (weather permitting). Pimms will be sold at the picnic. Just bring along a picnic, chairs, rugs etc and enjoy socialising with other families. Should the weather not be kind to us and the picnic has to be cancelled, we will send a message via a school text.

Young Savers' Club

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

French Clubs

Year 3 French Club

If there are any more year 3 pupils who would like to join the French Club at school, the deadline to sign up is today! A letter was sent out at the end of last term with the full details and costs but if you need this information again please email: Sharon@letsdolanguages.co.uk 3SP will start next Wednesday, 21st Sept at 12noon and 3W will start next Friday 23rd Sept at 12noon.

Year 5 and 6 French Clubs

These French clubs will also start again next week - please can everyone remember to bring their books to the session.

Pre-School French

I am setting up a new pre-school French class for age 3 and 4 year olds in Truro. The 30 minute fun sessions (involving puppets, songs, stories and activities) will take place on a Wednesday afternoon at 2.15pm. If you are interested in this session please contact me at: Sharon@letsdolanguages.co.uk or look at my website www.letsdolanguages.co.uk Thank you. The first session will take place on Weds 21st September.

Other sessions are available for ages 5 - 9 year olds. Please see the website (as above) for further details.

Sharon Potter (Lets's Do Languages)

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 16 September**
- **Friday 30 September**
- **Friday 14 October**
- **Friday 4 November**

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.

Jumpers

Can you please check that your child's jumper has the correct name in it? We are finding that when the children take their jumpers off because they're too warm, especially at lunchtime, they're picking up the wrong one afterwards!

Diddy Dolphins Swim School

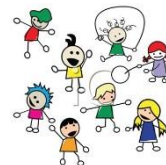
Children's swimming lessons are being held at Truro Prep School on Wednesdays after school where the children will be taught in small groups. There will be a qualified swimming teacher in the water and a lifeguard on duty. The lessons last for 30 minutes and will take place from 17.00 – 17.30, 17.30 – 18.00 and 18.00 – 18.30. The price for a ten week term is £69.50. To book a place or for more information, call 07763 752154 or email diddydolphins@yahoo.com

Mini Junior Rugby

Truro Rugby Club are looking for boys and girls to play in their Under 9 (Year 4) team. It's a great way to keep fit, have fun and make new friends doing something your child enjoys. For more information, contact Samantha Barnett at samantha@erya.co.uk or go along for a taster session on Sundays from 9.30am at the club on the Lower Field.

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 22 September

Dates for Your Diary

September

Mon 19/9 FABB meeting in the staff room – 7.00pm – all welcome to attend
Fri 23/9 FABB family picnic and games – 5.30pm – 7.30pm on school grounds
Wed 28/9 Individual pupil photos

October

Wed 19/10 FABB AGM
Thu 20/10 Autumn school disco

November

Mon 22/11 KS2 Cross Country 1.15pm. Parents are welcome to come and watch.
Fri 25/11 Christmas Fair

Inset Days in School Year 2016/2017

28 November

AUTUMN 2016 AFTER SCHOOL AND LUNCHTIME CLUBS

The following is the list of all clubs that will take place during lunch times and afterschool starting from Monday 19 September.

Should your child wish to join a club, please complete one of the permission slips on the reverse and then ask your child to return this to the teacher organising the club so they may record who has a place. Children will only be allowed to join a club if a permission slip is completed. All clubs will continue throughout the Autumn term unless otherwise stated. After half term, there may be some new clubs taking place in addition to those listed below. These will be advertised in the weekly newsletter. All children will be dismissed from afterschool clubs from the Main Entrance. Please ensure that all children are picked up promptly after the club.

CLUB LEADER	CLUB	Cost	YEAR GROUP	DAY	TIME
Mrs Riches/Miss Kemp	Cookery (maximum of 8) (KS1 area)	£3 towards ingredients	Y1 & Y2	Tuesday	3.15pm – 4.15pm
Mrs Williams-Filby	Yoga – (RP classroom) Collect form from office	£33.50	Y1 & Y2	Tuesday	3.15pm – 4.30pm
Miss Haggis	Dance Collect form from office	£15.00	Reception, Y1 & Y2	Tuesday	3.15pm – 4.15pm
Go Active	Multi Skills Collect form from office	£20.00	Y1 & Y2	Wednesday	3.15pm – 4.15pm
Go Active	Football Collect form from office	£18.00	Reception, Y1 & Y2	Friday	3.15pm – 4.15pm
KS2					
Miss B Williams	Animation (Maximum 20)	Free	Y3 & Y4	Monday	3.25pm – 4.25pm
Mrs C Hirst	Netball (Maximum 15)	Free	Y5	Monday	3.25pm – 4.25pm
Mr Kitto	Creative Calm (Art) (Maximum 10)	Free	Y3 – Y6	Monday	3.25pm – 4.25pm
Mrs Tangye	Homework	Free	Y6	Tuesday lunchtime	12.30pm – 1.00pm
Mrs J Williams	Running	Free	Y3 – Y6	Tuesday lunchtime	12.30pm – 1.00pm
Mr Mark Thomas Mr Matt Thomas	Football	Free	Y5 & Y6	Tuesday	3.25pm – 4.25pm
Mrs Williams-Filby	Yoga Collect form from office – payment required	£33.50	Y3 – Y6	Tuesday	3.25pm – 4.30pm
Josh Kanagaraj	Capoeira Collect form from office – payment required	£40.00	Y3 – Y6	Tuesday Start date to be advised	3.15pm – 4.15pm
Go Active	Zorbing Collect form from office – payment required	£30.00	Y3 – Y6	Wednesday	3.25pm – 4.25pm
Miss Haggis	Dance Collect form from office – payment required	£15.00	Y3 – Y6	Wednesday	3.25pm – 4.25pm
Mr Mark Thomas	Football	Free	Y4	Thursday lunchtime	12.30pm – 1.00pm
Mrs James	Hockey	Free	Y5 & Y6	Thursday	3.25pm – 4.25pm
Mr Sims, Mrs Fleet, Miss Haggis	Girls' Football	Free	Y5 & Y6	Thursday	3.25pm – 4.30pm
Miss MacDonald	Choir	Free	Y2 – Y6	Thursday	3.25pm – 4.25pm

CLUBS STARTING AFTER HALF TERM – KS1 RUNNING CLUB, CARD GAMES Y3, MINECRAFT Y5 & Y6

PLEASE MAKE SURE YOU SIGN UP TO RECEIVE THE NEWSLETTER BY E-MAIL BY ENTERING YOUR E-MAIL ADDRESS ONTO THE LINK ON THE HOME PAGE OF OUR WEBSITE.

