



# Weekly Benson Bulletin

13 January 2017 No 16

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## Message from Mrs Giblett

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

## Attendance

Our whole-school attendance rate for this week was 96.95%.

Congratulations this week to 2Porthgidden who were top of the attendance table with 100% attendance. Well done!

I just wanted to make one correction to last week's newsletter. The percentage of children with 100% in the Autumn term is not 75% (yet!). It was 35%, which meant around 150 children received a 100% attendance certificate this week.

As I mentioned last week, our whole school attendance rate for the Autumn term was 96.9% which is very pleasing. I have had my termly attendance meeting with the Education Welfare Officer (EWO) who monitors our attendance rates. Naturally she is also impressed with our great overall Autumn attendance rate. She examines the attendance reports of all pupils with attendance rates of 90% or below. Where a child's attendance rate may be 90% or below, within a term, due to a holiday or a bout of illness, she just expects the school to monitor that child and ensure that attendance does not decrease any further across the year. Where a child's attendance rate is 90% or below over a number of terms or years, then she expects the school to be proactive in discussing this with families and she too will get involved where necessary.

To date, we have sent out a termly attendance review letter to all parents whose child's attendance has been 85% or below in the previous term. The letter is just to make parents aware of their child's attendance percentage and to offer support or to meet with parents where the absence may be due to factors other than holiday or a block of illness. Over time we have seen the number of pupils with attendance below 85% drop which

is excellent for these children but we still have approximately 3% of our pupils whose attendance hovers fairly consistently between 85 – 90%. Any attendance at 90% or below is concerning as the national average is around 95.5%.

Therefore when we do our end-of-Spring attendance review letters in April, we will now be sending them to all parents whose child's attendance has been 90% or below in the previous term. I just wanted to give parents advance notice of this slight change in our attendance monitoring. I am always available if any parent wishes to meet with me to discuss any attendance or punctuality issues or concerns

## Maths Training Day

I just wanted to let parents know that the teaching staff had a really inspiring and energising training day on Monday. We were so delighted to have quality time with a great trainer to enhance our subject knowledge and skills in relation to the new Maths curriculum. Thank you for your support in terms of arranging child care so soon after Christmas. I know that your children will see the benefits of this training right away in their Maths lessons.

## The Big January Games Collection

I would like to say a big thank you to FABB, on behalf of our pupils and staff, for all their hard work in co-ordinating the collection this week. A big thank you to you also for your generous donations of toys and games. I know FABB have been busy sorting the donations and I am hoping that your children will be coming home very shortly all excited about their refreshed wet play boxes. The names of the children who brought in games have been entered into a prize draw which will take place this afternoon during assembly.

## Girlguiding World Thinking Day – 22 February

World Thinking Day is a special day for members of Girlguiding. It is a time when Girl Guides and Girl Scouts across the world think of each other and their commitment to international friendship and understanding. Traditionally, all members of Girlguiding are encouraged to wear their uniforms to school, college or work on World Thinking Day. Usually it falls in half-term but this year it happens in the middle of the week following half-term. Therefore, on this occasion, the school is happy to give permission for members of the Rainbows, Brownies, Guides and the Senior Section to proudly wear their guiding uniform to school on that day

Naturally, we would be willing to consider similar support for other groups like Cubs and Scouts.

Mrs H Giblett

## **CLUBS**

All clubs will start next week commencing Monday 16 January.

### **Quiz Night**

Our ever popular Quiz Night will be held on Friday 20 January in the school hall. 6.45pm for a 7.00pm sharp start. Entry fee for a team of 4 (Maximum) is £26 which includes a meat pasty (a vegetarian one can be pre-ordered). Shamy's Bar will be there to serve Skinners Ale, wine and soft drinks.

To reserve a place for your team, please contact either David Rogers at [davidrogers58@googlemail.com](mailto:davidrogers58@googlemail.com) or phone on 01872 260315 or Pete Tatlow on 01872 241007 or [ptatlow@btinternet.com](mailto:ptatlow@btinternet.com). You will need to reserve your place by Wednesday 18 January to enable the pasties to be ordered!

### **JEFF SMITH MEMORIAL GARDEN - TESCO**

#### **WE NEED YOUR VOTES TO "BAG" US THE £5,000!**

Archbishop Benson School is bidding to bag a massive cash boost from the Tesco Bags of Help initiative.

Tesco teamed up with Groundwork to launch the monthly funding scheme, which sees grants of £5,000, £2,000 and £1,000 – all raised from the 5p bag levy – being awarded to local outdoor community projects.

Three groups in every Tesco region have been shortlisted to receive the cash award and this month shoppers are being invited to head along to Tesco stores to vote for who they think should take away the top grant.

Archbishop Benson School is one of the groups on the shortlist.

***"As Headteacher of Archbishop Benson School for 23 years, Jeff Smith was renowned for his unwavering commitment to creating a nurturing and enriching school in the heart of Truro. He would be delighted to know that our proposed memorial garden, in his honour, is a continuation of his compelling vision for the school."***

***In a world that is becoming increasingly busy and demanding for children, we want to create a calm and peaceful garden area that would allow our pupils to freely engage in quiet interaction and contemplation on a daily basis. We are very excited at the potential opportunity to create a landscaped outdoor area, with seating, that could be used creatively and therapeutically to enrich the lives of our children. We feel passionately about the health and wellbeing of our pupils and we know that many groups of children ranging from our Breakfast and Lunchtime Clubs through to our nurture groups and Family Learning***

***groups would benefit enormously from such a tranquil spot, as well as being freely available to all children at Breaktimes and lunchtimes.***

***It would mean the world to the children, parents, staff and governors of Archbishop Benson School if we received community support and backing for this memorial garden, as we continue to endeavour to serve successive generations of Truro families to the very best that we possibly can."***

Voting is open in stores from 2 January to 28 January. Customers will cast their vote using a token given to them at the check-out in store each time they shop.

Tesco's Bags of Help project has already delivered over £24 million to more than 2,400 projects up and down the UK. Tesco customers get the chance to vote for three different groups each month.

Please make sure that if you're not offered a token at the checkout, you ask for one ..... or two ..... or three!!!!!!

## **Kitchen News**

**The current menu will continue until the Spring half term.**

### **Year 5 Netball**

Our Year 5 netball team, who have only been learning netball since September, played their first matches this week at Penair against Threemilestone and Kea Schools Year 6 teams. Although they lost both matches, they played some brilliant netball with Silvenna and Jake scoring the team's first ever goals. They worked together effectively and demonstrated great sportsmanship. It was a great experience and we were very proud of them. We are all now looking forward to playing against other local schools in the coming weeks.



Congratulations to the team – Jayden, Jake, Ellie-Maeve, Silvenna, Ella, Olivia H, Gaby, Ellie and Gracie.

**Jo Olds and Christian Hirst, Year 5 Netball Coaches**

### **Water Bottles**

Please can all children be sent into school with a water bottle. Several children (particularly the older ones) forget to bring one in and are using cups. However, as it is very difficult for the teacher to monitor, these are tending to be shared, causing the spread of germs. School water bottles are available from the office for £1.50 and extra lids can also be bought for 30p each.

## Swimming Gala

We were competing against Bosvigo, Kea and Devoran (last year's winners).

Our first place pupils were: Jake B, Lillian R, Sam P and Maisie M. Everyone did brilliantly though. The relay results were: Y5 girls 4<sup>th</sup>, Y5 boys 1<sup>st</sup>, Y6 girls 2<sup>nd</sup> and Y6 boys 2<sup>nd</sup>. Overall Kea were 4<sup>th</sup> with 45 points, Archbishop 3<sup>rd</sup> with 48 points, Bosvigo 2<sup>nd</sup> with 49 points and in 1<sup>st</sup> place with 56 points were Devoran. We all had LOTS of fun!!



Congratulations to Kaelyn G, Maisie M, Lillian R, Dulcie P, Noah H, Sam P, Perran R – G, Dan C, Elizabeth G, Florrie G, Xanthe K, Poppy T, Oliver B, Jake B, Max S and Joe H. Thank you to Mrs Williams, Mrs Miles and Mrs Poppy.

***By Maisie M and Kaelyn G***

## Reception and Year 5 Trip to Eden Project Thursday 26 January

Reminder – if you haven't yet paid for your child's school trip to the Eden Project on Thursday 26 January, can you please do so as soon as possible on ParentPay. Thank you.

## Rotary Young Photographer Competition For Year 5 & 6 Pupils

We would like to invite pupils in Year 5 and 6 to enter their photography into the Rotary Young Photographer Competition. This year the theme is 'Reflection', and the children are invited to submit a portfolio of 3 photographs to represent this theme. Details of the competition may be found on our school website from Monday onwards.

The closing date for completed paperwork & entries is Wednesday 25 January – please hand them to Mr Kitto in an envelope by this date. We have had excellent results in previous years, with two of our pupils' photographs being included in a charity calendar last year.

Good luck and happy snapping!

## SCOPE - "About Disability"

Free workshop for parents and carers of **children with additional needs:-**

### **SLEEP SUCCESS**

Helping your child to sleep

- Raising awareness of good sleep practice
- Strategies for parents
- Discussion with time to share ideas

Includes:

- The impact of sleep disorders

- The bedroom environment
- A good bedtime routine
- Night waking
- Keeping a sleep diary

Date: Friday 24 February

Time: 9.30am – 1.30pm

Venue: St Paul's Children's Centre (next to Archbishop Benson School)

Please book your free place via the school office.

***Mrs J Williams - SENCO***

## 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 20 January**
- **Friday 3 February**
- **Friday 24 February**
- **Friday 10 March**

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.

## Young Savers' Club

**The Young Savers' Club is held on  
Wednesday mornings from 8.30am in the  
Infants Entrance.**

## Year 6 London Trip

The deadline for the final payment of the Year 6 London trip has been extended from 31 January to Friday 10 February. You can pay by instalments on ParentPay.

We are now finalising the itinerary and payments have to be made to guarantee the trips for the children. We would like to invite all Year 6 parents to a meeting on Tuesday 24 January in 5C at 3.30pm where we will be able to give you more information.

## Porthpean Residential Camp

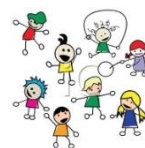
The date for the final payment for the Year 4 Porthpean Camp is Friday 28 April. A new payment item has been added to ParentPay which will allow payments in instalments up to the full amount.

## 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 17/1 – explore mark making**





### Dates for Your Diary

#### 2017

**Fri 20/1** FABB Quiz night – 6.45pm for 7.00pm sharp start

#### February

**Thur 9/2** Valentine's Disco

#### March

**Wed 15/3** FABB meeting - 7.00pm in the staff room

**Fri 24/3** Mother's Day Coffee Morning

#### May

**Thu 4/5** FABB meeting - 7.00pm in the staff room

#### June

**Sat 24/6** Summer Fair

#### July

**Mon 3/7** FABB meeting - 7.00pm in the staff room

**Tue 25/7** Leaver's Reception & Summer Disco

### Term Dates for School Year 2016 /2017

#### 2016 -2017 Term Dates

**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 Holidays**

