



Weekly Benson Bulletin

21 October 2016 No 7

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 97.65%.

Congratulations this week to 4Tintagel and 5Carne who were top of the attendance table with 100% attendance. Well done!

Dropping Children Off

Please could we 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 KS2 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.

National Heroes Day

Pupils and staff enjoyed a chance to dress up as National Heroes today, with representatives from each year group sharing facts about their hall display heroes. The School Council had a vote and chose David Attenborough as its National Hero, as he has taught generations of children about the natural world and given them a love for plants and animals. Many thanks to parents/carers for the fabulous costumes – you're all heroes!

Volunteer Helpers

Thank you for your patience while we have been introducing our new Volunteers' Policy and proforma. We are delighted that we have had such a positive response to our new arrangements with almost every volunteer from last year signing up again for this year. We are also really pleased that we have recruited new volunteers as well.

We have arranged for 2 induction sessions for all volunteers after half-term:

- Friday morning, 4 November (9.00 am)
- Monday after-school, 7 November (3.30pm)

Once volunteers have attended the induction sessions and signed the Volunteer Agreement form, they should be able to start right away. Mrs Teasdale will be able to inform volunteers where they have been allocated at these induction sessions.

We are aware that not all volunteers may be able to attend these sessions. Please let the office know if this is the case for you and we will try to accommodate you at a later date.

Homework Policy

At Archbishop Benson we believe that homework is an important part of the learning process but we are aware from parental feedback over the past few years that parents feel that homework has not been sufficiently consistent or regular across the school. We have listened to and taken on board parental comments in our end-of-year parental surveys e.g.:

- In the 2013-2014 parental survey, several comments were made about the need for more consistent levels of homework rather than all at once/ad hoc.
- In the 2014-2015 parental survey, several comments were made about homework in the Juniors being sporadic

It was this feedback that triggered a whole-school review of our Homework Policy & Procedures in 2015 – 2016. At our Spring 2016 Parents Forum, the general view was:

- Parents would be happy with limited amount of basic skills work with additional voluntary options for those who want it.
- Homework would be more effective if it just focused on Spellings/Reading/book reviews/times tables

In the Summer term 2016, the school reviewed our existing Homework Policy and Procedures, in the light of parental feedback, and have produced a revised and streamlined policy which we are sending home to you today.

This new policy outlines the expectations regarding the amount and type of homework issued across the school. Our homework focus in 2016 – 2017 will be on the development of basic skills in Maths (99 Club) and English (spelling and handwriting). We want to ensure that homework extends learning and does not become onerous or cause undue stress to the family. We also acknowledge the importance of play and free time in a child's growth, health and development. While homework is important, it should not prevent children from taking part in the wide range of clubs and organisations that play an important part in the lives of

many children. We believe that children develop their skills, interests and talents to the full only when parents encourage them to make maximum use of the experiences and opportunities that are available outside of school.

Alongside implementing a consistent whole-school approach to homework this year, we will also be responding to other related feedback.

Assistance for parents to support their children i.e. methods of teaching maths, science etc

We were really pleased to be able to provide a spellings workshop for parents this week and we remain committed to providing other similar workshops this year.

The new assessment system is tricky for parents, perhaps termly written feedback showing whether child is below/at/above expectations in Reading/Writing/Maths and attitudes would be useful.

We are in the midst of researching and evaluating new and alternative ways of reporting to parents. We will keep you informed of how we are progressing in future newsletters.

Wet Play Appeal

We are focusing this year on enhancing play opportunities for our Infant and Junior pupils. Wet playtimes are not too regular but even so, we still want to make them as enjoyable as possible for our pupils. We would like to create new wet-play boxes for each classroom with simple and collaborative games & toys. We hoped that you might be doing a clear out over half-term of toys and games in the run up to Christmas and could possibly donate items to the school:

- Dominos
- Playing Cards
- Snakes & Ladders
- Ludo
- Lego

Wet Weather

As you know, we are very proud of our commitment to cross-country running. Quite soon after half-term, we will be having our annual KS2 cross country event.

The children will be practising for this event and this prompted me to remind parents that we do, as rule, take children out for sports and play on wet, damp and drizzly days, therefore we would like to highlight that children need:

- to bring coats to school that are both warm & waterproof
- to have in school (Junior children) a school PE sweat shirt and leggings/tracksuit bottoms

Thank you for your support

Mrs H Giblett

School Closed Monday 28 November

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

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.

Kitchen News

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

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

Parents' Evenings

From Monday 31 October at 10.00am the booking system on the school VLE opens for you to book your times to see your child's teacher. 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.

FABB

At our AGM this week the following officers were elected

President	Helen Giblett
Chairperson	Emma Potter
Vice Chair	Adele Halford
Treasurers	James Tucker and Karen Robilliard
Secretary	Jo Scrimgeour

We currently still have a vacancy for a Fundraiser. If anyone would like more information on this role, please contact Emma.

Class Reps for 2016-2017 were confirmed as follows

RR	Hannah Crewdson
RP	Currently Vacant
1W	Currently Vacant
1K	Sarah McGill
2L	Claire Hay
2PG	Sarah Hills & Emma Johnson
3SP	Currently Vacant
3W	Caireen Anderson
4T	Amanda Colwill
4MT	Sarah Wheston
5C	Karen Robilliard
5T	Jo Olds
6J	Becky Dawes
6FT	Jessica Allen-Lucas

If anyone would like to volunteer to be the class rep for RP, 1W or 3SP please contact your class teacher or a member of FABB

Everyone had a great time at our disco last night. Thank you to the parents and staff who helped and of course our DJ Alan Fleckney. Our next event is the Christmas Fair on Friday 2 December. In order to make this a success, lots of help will be needed both in the preparation and helping to run the stalls at the fair. If you are able to help, please contact your class rep or Karen Standen who is co-ordinating this year's fair.

The FABB team hopes you have a lovely half term and look forward to seeing anyone who is able to make our next meeting on Thursday 17 November.

Jo Olds, outgoing Chair of FABB

Logging on to ParentPay

Whilst our school website is under reconstruction, you can log on to ParentPay to book lunches or pay for trips etc by logging on to www.parentpay.com

Year 4 Football Tournament

On Friday 14 October, our Year 4 A and B teams went to the Penair Year 3 and 4 football competition. It was a fantastic afternoon with some excellent football played. Our A team won their group with 3 wins and a draw, scoring 11 goals and conceding none. We beat Kea, Bosvigo and Tregolls and were unlucky to draw with St Marys. This put them into a final playoff match with the winners of the other group, St Erme. We saved our best football for the final and created chance after chance. However, their goalkeeper was exceptional and kept them in the game. Finally, we made a breakthrough when Jack J assisted Alfie, who finished clinically to win the game and the tournament. It was a great performance from the boys and our amazing defence of Darwin (goalie), Jack B, Sam and Louis didn't concede a single goal all day! Louis, Ryan and Jack played well in midfield and Alfie was excellent up front. However, the outstanding performer of the day and scorer of the best goal was Oscar, who was superb on the left wing!



Our A team celebrating their success!

Our B team also had a good afternoon and got better and better throughout the day. They lost their first match 4-0, their second 2-0 and were very unlucky to lose their third match 1-0. They could feel themselves improving all the time and were determined to get something out of their last game, against Tregolls B. They played really well and defended superbly to end the day with a well-earned draw and point. Henry was particularly impressive in goal and Jago led the line well up front.



Our B team: well done to Keby, Jack, Matthew, Summer, Ameen, Henry and Jago.

A huge thank you to all the parents and Mr Crocker for helping to take the children to and from Penair.

CLUBS

CAPOEIRA CLUB

This will continue after half term on Tuesdays after school. The cost is £4 per session payable in advance. Forms are available from the office.

GO ACTIVE CLUBS WILL BE PROVIDING THE FOLLOWING AFTER-SCHOOL CLUBS AFTER HALF TERM

Fridays – Football for KS1 - 6 weeks -£20

Wednesdays – Archery & crossbows for KS2 - 6 weeks - £30

Forms available from the school office.

(Multi-sports & Zorbing will finish at half term)

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

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 4 November**
- **Friday 18 November**
- **Friday 2 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.

SEN Café

The SEN Café will be held in the Nurture Room on Wednesday 2 November from 9.00am to 10.00am.

Year 6 Applications for Senior Schools

A reminder that applications to Cornwall Council must be made by 31 October. If you're sending your child to a private school or considering Elective Home Education, can you please email the council to be removed from their list. Email jdixon@cornwall.gov.uk

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.

Truro Bonfire & Fireworks Display **Tremorvah Playing Field - Friday 4 November 2016**

Tremorvah Playing Fields Group, in association with Truro City Council, are holding their annual bonfire and fireworks display on Friday 4 November from 5.00pm to 7.00pm. The event is kindly sponsored by local solicitors Stephens Scown and will raise money for Cornwall Air Ambulance and Penhaligon's Friends.

Gates open at 5.00pm with the fire lit at 5.45pm and fireworks set off at 6.45pm. Hot food and refreshments will be on sale and there will be stalls selling snacks, glow-sticks and sparklers.

Adults £3, Children over 4, £1 and under 4's free. Any child bringing along a guy will have free entry – judging will be by Truro's Mayor, Councillor Rob Nolan at 5.30pm.

Tremorvah Fields are on Bodmin Road, opposite Archbishop Benson School, Truro. Time 5.00pm – 7.00pm.

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 Baptist Church Light Party

On Monday 31 October Truro Baptist Church are holding a Light Party from 5.45pm. The dressing up theme is "The Brightest Light Ever". How bright can YOU dress up? There will be a fancy dress parade and lots of activities. For more information call them on 01872 241984

Homemade Craft & 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.

What Would You Like to See in Your Local Museum?

The Royal Cornwall Museum invite parents and grandparents who have brought their children along to their holiday activities to come along and take part in research into what should change, if anything, with these activities at the Museum. The focus group of 6 people will last about 1.5 hours. All participants will receive a £20 Waterstones gift voucher. Refreshments and sandwiches will be provided. The date for the focus group is Tuesday 8 November at 11.00am and it will take place at the Museum. If you would like to take part, phone Sophie Meyer on 01872 245174 or email rsvp@royalcornwallmuseum.org.uk

Truro Lawn Tennis Camps

Truro Lawn Tennis Club are running Autumn tennis camps in half term from Monday 24 October to Friday 28 October from 9.00am – 11.00am. For more information, contact Ryan Fern on 07814 533087 or email ryan@ryanfern.orangehome.co.uk

Truro Arts Company

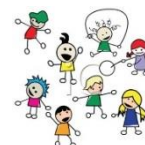
Truro Arts Company will be holding various half term workshops next week. For information on the activities available, you can visit their website www.truroartscompany.co.uk.

Feelgood Theatre Company

A Halloween Theatre Workshop is being held by the Feelgood Theatre Company at the Piran Theatre at Truro High School. It will run daily from Monday 24 October to Wednesday 26 October from 10.00am to 3.00pm and is for children aged from 5 – 12. The cost for 3 days is £89.

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 3 November

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

Dates for Your Diary

October

Mon 31/10 Children return to school

November

Tue 1/11 Autumn music recital – 2.15pm – time to be advised

Wed 2/11 SEN Café – Nurture Room 9.00am – 10.00am

Fri 11/11 3W class assembly – 9.00am – parents welcome to attend

Thu 17/11 FABB meeting – time to be advised - all are welcome

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

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 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

