



# Weekly Benson Bulletin

## 30 September 2016 No 4

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### Message from Mrs Giblett

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

Our whole-school attendance rate for this week was 97.56%.

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

### New Volunteer Helper Arrangements

I would like to start by apologising for the tone of the text that was sent out this week asking parents to contact us if they wished to support the school as a volunteer helper. The text mentioned that parent helpers would not be allowed to help in their child's class. This text was sent in haste and I should have ensured that it also said that not all parents would be allocated to their child's class. It should also have said that more information was to follow in the week i.e. an invitation to our Volunteers Coffee Morning. I regret any upset this text may have caused.

Therefore I was pleased to see over 30 parents turned out for the coffee morning along with one of our governors. There will be another session shortly for those parents who were not able to attend today. The most important message that we wanted to get across was that we are hugely grateful to our volunteers for their support and they make a real difference in the school. However our current arrangements, which have not been reviewed in many years, are not working as well as they should be. The purpose of this coffee morning was to speak to parents and to help them to understand the issues we are facing and to work with us to make our volunteer programme work for everyone – you, the staff and all our pupils

The coffee morning was not about focusing on the negative because we are so grateful for our volunteer helpers and the benefits that they bring to school far outweigh any issues that arise. We presented and discussed a more proactive approach to deploying our volunteer helpers in school that will also allow them to actively contribute to our school improvement priorities

this year of spelling and handwriting. Within our revised arrangements:

- We are happy for Reception parents to volunteer to help in their child's year group.
- We are happy for all parents to be able to volunteer to help out with special "one-off" trips or events in their child's class
- We will be looking to allocate all regular volunteers right across the school depending on the needs of the school and the skills of the individual volunteers

I would like to thank Mrs Teasdale who did a lovely presentation for the parent volunteers on how they could make a real difference to the progress of our Junior children with spelling and handwriting, which are now essential skills for the children to have to enable them to attain age-related expectations.

I was glad that parents were able to express a range of views and while everyone may not like or agree with these changes, there was definitely a strong feeling at the meeting that parents wanted to support the staff and children in the school. Parents could see that our new procedures are a mutually supportive arrangement – while you are supporting children, other than your own, right across the school, you know that other parents are committing just as strongly to your child.

We genuinely believe that volunteers, who support regularly within the school, will gain more than they feel that they are losing with these new arrangements e.g. you could learn to do joined up handwriting along with or ahead of your child.

By bringing in our new arrangements in terms of how we deploy our team of volunteers, as well as initiating a more structured approach to recruiting, vetting and supporting volunteers, we feel that we are managing the issues of

- Confidentiality
- Conduct
- Safeguarding
- Equity for all children
- Parents contributing to our important school improvement priorities

Because we have decided to do a complete review of our volunteer arrangements, we will be introducing:

- Volunteer Application Form (including DBS check)
- Volunteer Agreement Form
- Volunteer Reference Request

- Volunteer induction meetings

We will look to get established volunteers started in classes as soon as possible and we can arrange the induction in the next couple of weeks. Mrs Teasdale and Mrs Hawke will get onto this as quickly as possibly next week. If you or a member of your family has been thinking about volunteering to help out in school, then now is the time to do it as we are planning some great induction training and some follow-up training too – don't miss out.

A sincere thank you for your support and patience.

### **Y2 swimming**

Parent helpers in Year 2 can continue to help with Y2 swimming this Monday and we will review how this might change once we have had a chance to examine our new Volunteers Register next week.

### **FABB AGM**

I am looking forward to meeting new and existing parents at the FABB AGM Wednesday 19 October. Further on in this newsletter, there is information from Jo Olds, Chair of FABB, about this upcoming meeting. Please do take time to read it.

Jo will be standing down as Chairperson after three years in this role. On behalf of pupils, parents, staff and governors, I would like to offer a huge vote of thanks for all that she, with the FABB team, has achieved. This means that we will be looking for a new Chair of FABB. I know that there are individuals within the FABB committee who have expressed an interest e.g. Emma Potter, mother of Tom in Y1, who is currently our FABB fundraiser. But she, along with the rest of the FABB committee, are very keen for parents to feel free to nominate non – committee parents for the role of Chair or other officer roles within FABB. That could be you!

The FABB committee do not want the AGM election process to appear like a done-deal. All parents can be assured of a warm welcome on 19 October.

### **Harvest Celebrations**

We are looking forward, hopefully, to seeing many of you at our Harvest Service on Wednesday 12 October at 9.00am.

As part of our harvest celebrations we will be looking to support Truro Food Bank who do such incredible work in the community. It is a sobering thought to realise that thirteen million people live below the poverty line in the UK, with individuals going hungry every day for a range of reasons, from benefit delays to receiving an unexpected bill on a low income.

The children think that no-one should have to go hungry in the UK and we want to do our bit to help make this happen. The change in the seasons is a time when foodbanks see an increased demand in their services. The Harvest period is the perfect opportunity for them to stock up on a range of items, ensuring that they can continue to provide food parcels to people struggling during these busier months.

Therefore we have been in contact with the Truro foodbank and they have given us a specific list of non-perishable, long-life food items that they would really welcome. Our new School Council is deciding which year

group will collect which food item and we will share this information with you next week.

I have done an assembly with the children today about all of this, so hopefully they will be full of information and enthusiasm!

*Mrs H Giblett*

### **FABB AGM**

FABB is holding its Annual General Meeting on Wednesday 19 October, 7.00pm in the school hall, everyone is welcome to attend. (Please bring a small plate of food to share after the meeting). Having been Chairperson for 3 years I am now stepping down so the hunt is on for a new Chairperson for the academic year 2016-2017. Additionally we will be electing/re-electing for the roles of Vice Chairperson, Secretary, Treasurer and Fundraiser. Being a parent of a child attending Archbishop Benson School automatically means you are a member of FABB, even if you don't attend meetings so if any of the positions are of interest and you wish to put your name forward for one of the roles please complete the slip below and return it in a sealed envelope to the school office marked for the attention of Jo Olds, FABB Chairperson. Any nominations will need to be in by Friday 14 October. Elections for all the roles will take place during the AGM by those people in attendance. If you wish to find out more about FABB before committing yourself please do not hesitate to contact me, you can leave a message at the school office. I know the school are really appreciative of the work of FABB and the additional resources we are able to provide from our fundraising each year benefits every child in the school at some point.

*Jo Olds*  
**FABB Chairperson**

### **FABB AGM 2016 OFFICER NOMINATION FORM**

Name .....

I would like to stand for the position of  
\*Chairperson / Vice Chairperson / Secretary / Treasurer  
/ Fundraiser \*please circle as appropriate

I have been nominated by (Name)

.....  
I am \*able / unable to attend the AGM on Wednesday  
19<sup>th</sup> October 2016

Signed:.....

Date: .....

Signature of Nominator:.....

**Please return this slip to the school office in a sealed envelope marked for the attention of Jo Olds, FABB Chairperson.**

### **School Photos**

Order forms have been sent home via your child. Orders must be returned to school by **Monday 17 October** please. Any orders received after that date will be returned to your child and you will need to send them directly to Tempest yourselves. This will incur an extra charge.

### House Captains for the Autumn Term

Islip	Rebecca D Matthew H
Grindal	Poppy D Cadan P
Beckett	Abigail T Luke S
Tennison	Maisie M Alex H

### School Councillors 2016 – 2017

1K	Millie T
1W	Isabella N
2PG	Isabella C
2L	Luke D
3SP	Myles R
3W	Ed C
4T	Isabella E
4MT	Sam M
5C	Jack A
5T	Ella O
6FT	Evie G Faye F
6J	Daniel C Oliver W

### FABB News

**Christmas Fair** – please note the change of date from Friday 25 November to Friday 2 December. There is a planning meeting next Wednesday, 5 October at 7.00pm everyone is welcome. Please contact Karen Standen if you would like to help with the planning, new ideas are always welcome.

**Class reps** – we are currently confirming the list of class reps for this academic year. We are especially in need for class reps for RP, 3SP, 4MT and 5T, but would love to hear from anyone who feels able to help. Anyone wishing to volunteer should contact Jo Olds via the school office for more information.

**School disco** – Our Autumn term disco for all children will be held on Thursday 20 October. The KS1 disco will be from 5.45pm - 6.45pm and KS2 from 7.00pm - 8.15pm. Please look out for the flyer and permission slip in book bags nearer the time. .

### Porthpean Camp

Letters have gone home this week about the Year 4 Porthpean camp. The deposit must be paid by Monday 7 November and the date for the final payment is Friday 28 April.

### Kitchen News

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

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

### Truro Youthworks Youth Club

A brand new Youth Club is starting on Friday 14 October for 10 year olds and anyone in Year 6 of primary school at the Revolution Café in Truro. It will run from 6.30pm – 7.30pm.

### CLUBS

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

### Lost Shoe

After the KS2 Dance Club on Wednesday, a Year 4 girl came home with one size 3 and one size 1 shoe. Please would you check your girl's shoes. The girl in Year 4 needs both size 3 shoes! 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 14 October**
- **Friday 4 November**
- **Friday 18 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.

### Young Savers' Club

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

### 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](mailto:diddydolphins@yahoo.com)

### Truro High School Open Morning

Truro High School are holding a prep and senior Open Morning on Saturday 1 October from 10.00am to 1.00pm. There will be lots of activities to take part in so if you're interested in finding out more, give the school a call on 01872 242904 or email [registrar@trurohigh.co.uk](mailto:registrar@trurohigh.co.uk)

### **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](mailto:samantha@erya.co.uk) or go along for a taster session on Sundays from 9.30am at the club on the Lower Field.

### **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 5 October – Parachute play**

### **Dates for Your Diary**

#### **October**

- |                  |   |
|------------------|---|
| <b>Wed 5/10</b>  | Christmas Fair planning meeting –<br>7.00pm – everyone welcome                      |
| <b>Wed 12/10</b> | Harvest Service in the school hall –<br>9.00am – all welcome to attend              |
| <b>Wed 19/10</b> | FABB AGM – 7.00pm   |
| <b>Thu 20/10</b> | Autumn school disco<br><b>KS1 – 5.45pm – 6.45pm</b><br><b>KS2 – 7.00pm – 8.15pm</b> |

#### **November**

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|------------------|---|
| <b>Tue 22/11</b> | KS2 Cross Country 1.15pm. Parents<br>are welcome to come and watch. |
|------------------|---|

#### **December**

- |                 |                |
|-----------------|----------------|
| <b>Fri 2/12</b> | Christmas Fair |
|-----------------|----------------|

### **Inset Days in School Year 2016/2017**

**28 November**

