



Weekly Benson Bulletin

23 September 2016 No 3



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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%.

Congratulations this week to 3Portscatho and 5Carne who were top of the attendance table with 100% attendance. Well done!

Every year we have a special SMSC focus for the school. Last year it was "When I Grow Up....", this year our focus will be "Who Do We Think We Are?" (WDWTWA). We want our pupils to explore and celebrate our place within Cornwall, within Great Britain and within the world. We want to be loud and proud in celebrating our differences as well as recognising all that we have in common with people around the world. We also want to be inspired to be the very best that we can be both now and into the future.

To launch our WDWTWA focus, we are going to be celebrating National Heroes Day on Friday 21 October. National **Heroes Day** is a simple campaign based on schools encouraging their pupils to honour their personal heroes by going to school dressed as their hero in lieu of their uniform for one day. On this occasion we are asking the children not to come dressed as superheroes as one of the main purposes of this day is for our children to discover both known and unknown **British** national heroes.

"Heroes" come in all shapes and forms, as we know from the Olympics and Paralympics this year, so your child might like to come dressed as their mother or father, a soldier, nurse or fireman through to a famous sportsperson, scientist, explorer, musician or artist. They might want to celebrate a family ancestor who was in World War 1 or 2 or a current family member who is serving with the forces or doing some other amazing work around the world. It is entirely their choice. We are looking forward to being amazed!

The background to National Heroes Day in Great Britain is that it was founded by Danny Glavin, a teacher from

Fareham, Hampshire. After hearing about the tragic death of his childhood friend whilst serving in Afghanistan, he decided to fund-raise for a military charity in his memory. The day was endorsed by Prime Minister David Cameron. It was first celebrated in 2011, on 21 October (the same day as the victory at Battle of Trafalgar). Now Danny has founded The Inspiration Federation and co-ordinates the Heroes Day Educational Programme within schools across the United Kingdom. We will have a charity collection on the day for a worthy "heroes" charity like **Help for Heroes** and the children can bring a donation on the day.

We are looking forward to a lovely school celebration. Thank you for your support in advance.

School Improvement in 2016 – 2017

As I mentioned in last week's newsletter, we are already well under way with a range of curriculum and school improvements for this year. During the week, we continued our work on agreeing a whole-school approach to spelling and this new approach, along with a new weekly spelling template for each class, will be initiated from Monday. Spellings may not come home on Monday – it will depend on the routine in each classroom but your child should be able to tell you.

We will look forward to your feedback on this new approach and I am sure teachers will be discussing it with you at the Autumn parental consultation meetings

In response to parental feedback in the Spring Parents Forum last Spring, we have been steadily working away on revising and refining our Homework Policy. Using the feedback we wanted to improve our homework arrangements so that we had a whole-school approach in place that was clear and straightforward for parents to understand and engage with. We wanted to ensure consistency within year groups as well as steady progression as the children move up the school. During the course of this term, we will also be building up and promoting the Class VLEs (virtual learning environments) where you will be able to log on, via the school website, and find out a little more about what your child is doing at school and how you could support this from home.

We have attached the revised Homework Policy to this newsletter but it is also available on the school website. Happy reading!

In 2014 – 2015, we were delighted to be able to create a bespoke outdoor play area for our Reception children to enjoy. It has been a wonderful addition to the EYFS area

and has made such a difference to the children's learning.

This year, we will be developing an outdoor play area for the Year 1 children too. It will not be nearly as grand as the EYFS area but we still want to create a space where the children can enjoy and gain from the many benefits of outdoor learning.

We will be working with FABB to see how we can work together over the next few years to slowly build up this new learning space. We are ready start on our plans. Our site supervisors will be erecting temporary fencing outside the Y1 classrooms next week. This temporary fencing will remain in place for a number of weeks while the Year 1 staff experiment with the best arrangement. We will then look to erect more permanent fencing in Autumn 2.

We would ask parents if they could help us in ensuring that the children stay back from the fencing and do not attempt to climb it as it will not be securely fixed in place. Thank you for your support

School Uniform

The weather has been pleasingly mild this week and the children have been able to enjoy being on the school field at lunchtimes and making the most of the sunshine. There is, however, a bit more of a nip in the air and so that is a sign to us that the Junior children can now resume wearing their school ties.

We look forward to seeing them all looking wonderfully smart on Monday.

Diary Dates

In 2014 – 2015, parents fed back to us, via the Parents Forum, that they would really welcome as much possible advance notice for upcoming events this term. We have attached to this newsletter some key dates for the Autumn term which we hope helps you in terms of being able to work around work and other family commitments.

Mrs H Giblett

Kitchen News

Our 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.

Individual School Photos

Individual school photos will be taken on Wednesday 28 September during the school day. Only families with pre-school children are invited to come in from 8.20am so that they can have their photos taken with their siblings. Family groups of brothers and sisters will be taken throughout the day.

Health Check Booklet

These have been sent home for children in Reception classes and Year 6 via their book bags. Please read and

return the completed forms to the school office or teacher. Thank you.

CLUBS

Multi Skills Club – Go Active

We still have spaces for this club. It's 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.

Parking and Dropping Off Children

Can we please remind you that ONLY parents of KS1 children are allowed to park in the school in the mornings to drop off their children. Parents of KS2 children should drive around the drop off point to drop off their children.

If you're parking in the road, please be considerate to our neighbours. We have received complaints of drives being blocked by parents who are waiting to collect their children after school.

The path at the top of the KS1 playground is very narrow and is becoming congested in the mornings. We would be grateful if, to allow other parents to drop off their children, you could leave the school grounds once your child is safely in the playground.

Young Savers' Club

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

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 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.

Second-hand Uniform

For a short time, while stocks last, FABB will be selling off the second-hand uniform that they have left. This will be on the same dates as the Uniform Shop (see above) and will take place from 2.45pm under the covered area outside 2Lerrin or, if wet, in the library. Due to lack of storage, we will not be accepting any more second-hand uniform.

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

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 to book a place.

Mini Junior Rugby

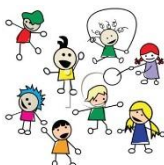
Truro Rugby Club are looking for boys and girls to play in their Under 9 (Year 4) team. It's a great way to keep fit, have fun and make new friends doing something your child enjoys. For more information, contact Samantha Barnett at samantha@erya.co.uk or go along for a taster session on Sundays from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

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 30 September – Physical fun

Dates for Your Diary

September

Mon 26/9 Penair Open Evening 5.00 – 8.00
Wed 28/9 Individual pupil photos

October

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

November

Tue 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

2016 – 2017 DIARY DATES Updated 24.9.2016

TBA – To Be Arranged		TBC – To Be Confirmed	
TRAINING & STAFF DEVELOPMENT		DATE(S)	TIME/NOTES
Training Day 4 - school closed		Monday, November 28th	
Training Day 5 – school closed		Not yet arranged	
PARENTAL CONSULTATIONS & SEN SUPPORT		DATE(S)	TIME/NOTES
Autumn Parental Consultations Week		Tuesday, 8 November	Until 5.00pm
		Wednesday, 9 November	Until 7.00pm
		Thursday, 10 November	Until 5.00pm
SEN Parents' cafe		Wednesday, October 5th	8.45

ASSESSMENT	DATE(S)	TIME/NOTES
Y1 Phonics Screening & Y2 Phonics Re-screening	Week commencing June 12th	
Year 2 SATs Tests	May 2017 (all month)	
Year 6 SATs Tests	May 8 th – 11 th (Programme of revision throughout Summer1 half-term)	
Year 3 – 5 end-of-year assessments	Programme of revision throughout Summer 1 half-term	

COLLECTIVE WORSHIP	DATE(S)	TIME/NOTES
School Harvest Celebration	Wednesday, October 12	9.45
Autumn music recital	Thursday December 1	2.15
KS1 Christingle	Monday, December 12	2.00 & 6.30
KS2 Christmas Service (rehearsal)	Wednesday, December 7	a.m./p.m (TBA)
KS2 Christmas Service	Thursday, December 8	Evening time TBC
Reception Christmas Nativity	Tuesday December 6	2.30 & 6.00
Whole-school Christmas Dinner	Wednesday, December 7	

CLASS ASSEMBLIES		
Class 3W	Friday, November 11	9.00
Class 4MT	Friday, November 25	9.00
Class 6FT	Friday, December 2	9.00

ADDITIONAL DATES	
AUTUMN	
Y6 Open Evening at Penair School	Monday, September 26 (5.00 – 8.00)
School Photographs (individual)	Wednesday, September 28
National Heroes Day	Friday, October 21
Children to come dressed as their own personal hero (not any superhero!)	
National Anti-Bullying Day (BLUE Day)	Friday, November 18
Children to come dressed in blue to celebrate BLUE theme (Be Loving & Understanding to Everyone)	
KS2 Cross Country event in school	1.15p.m. Tuesday, November 22
Truro City of Lights	Wednesday, November 23
FABB Christmas Fayre	Friday, November 25

Archbishop Benson CofE Primary School

Homework Policy – Updated 23/09/16

At Archbishop Benson we believe that homework is an important part of the learning process. Homework encompasses a whole variety of activities instigated by teachers and parents to support children's learning. It should extend learning and not be 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.

Aims

- To ensure that parents are clear about what their child is expected to do.
- To ensure consistency of approach across the school.
- To use homework to support and complement learning in school.
- To extend learning beyond the classroom environment.
- To provide opportunities for parents, children and the school to work together in partnership.
- To encourage parents and children to share and enjoy learning experiences.
- To practise and consolidate basic skills and knowledge, particularly in Literacy and Maths.
- To encourage children to develop the responsibility, confidence and self-discipline to study independently.
- To prepare pupils for the requirements of secondary school.

Expectations of Amount and Type of Homework

Expectations of Amount and Type of Homework				
	Reading	Spellings	Maths	Other opportunities
EYFS	Read at least 4 times a week for 10-15 mins	Weekly phonics/key word reading and writing practice.	Counting and recognising numbers in the environment .	Engage in regular learning experiences e.g. cooking, gardening, visiting the library, looking at labels, prices or signs, counting, learning nursery rhymes/stories. These experiences will be shared in school.
Y1 & Y2	Read at least 4 times a week for 15-20 mins	Phonics/key word reading and spelling practice weekly	Number bonds to 10/20 2, 5, 10 multiplication tables	Personal, creative projects linked to class theme developed over a half term.
Y3 & Y4	Read at least 4 times a week for 20-25 mins	Weekly spellings	Multiplication tables	
Y5 & Y6	Read at least 4 times a week for 20-25 mins building up stamina and speed to read longer texts.	Weekly spellings	Multiplication tables Occasional additional maths homework to consolidate current learning.	
Y6 may have additional homework set linked to personal assessment targets.				

Whilst the above table outlines guidelines, teachers may feel that there is the need for targeted homework for individuals. The class teacher will discuss specific homework with parents. Teachers may also set 'one off' homework linked to the school's PSHE programme or for entry into a competition.

Reading

We hope that children read regularly and that reading for pleasure is valued at all times and is not just confined to homework. We want to promote a love of reading in every child. We encourage parents to discuss their children's books and ask questions about them to ensure that there is a development of comprehension skills as well as an emphasis on accurate reading.

Spellings

We aim to teach children to learn spelling rules and exceptions that they will then go on to using independently in their writing. Spellings will be set in line with age related expectations of the National Curriculum. However, children may be set spellings from lower year groups if it is evident that they are not spelling them correctly when writing independently. Some children may need to repeatedly practise spelling rules if they are not applying the rules independently.

Maths

Homework will be based around age related basic maths skills. Children learn well when they are given frequent 'real life' opportunities to practise number and calculation skills e.g. using money/ telling the time.

Projects

Children will be expected to complete a piece of work or project linked to the class topic set by the teacher. These projects will be shared with the class, celebrated in whole school assemblies, presented in a class exhibition or awarded certificates.

Responsibilities

It is our expectation that homework will be completed carefully and returned on time. Teachers will provide support for children to help them with any homework that they are finding confusing or difficult. Where homework is frequently missing or incomplete, the teacher will have a discussion with parents. Parallel class teachers will ensure that both classes receive homework of equivalent content and expectations.

The Headteacher will:

- Promote the whole school homework policy to staff, parents and pupils
- Monitor and evaluate the efficiency and effectiveness of the policy.
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The teacher will:

- Set regular homework opportunities
- Provide adequate and appropriate feedback to pupils through praise and encouragement or marking.
- Set high expectations
- Ensure pupils understand what is expected of them and whether homework can be found/completed in homework books or on the VLE.
-

Parents will:

- Provide a suitable place for home learning and supervise appropriately
- Make it clear that homework is valued and support the school.
- Ensure and check that tasks are completed on time and to a suitable standard.
- Be actively involved in homework and support children in their learning
- Contact the class teacher over any queries/ concerns about homework
-

Pupils should:

- Do their best to complete the task
- Ask for help if needed

ICT

We encourage the use of ICT to complete homework when appropriate. Children may be asked to access homework through the VLE. Where homework is expected to be completed on line, work can be either completed on the VLE or uploaded from a Word/ppt document. All children will be expected to engage with the VLE over the year. This maybe through sharing photos/ video clips from home, answering questions or blogging.

SEN

For pupils with specific needs, homework will be differentiated or simplified according to their needs. Children should only spend the advised time on the homework, as recommended by the class teacher. Parents may add comments to the homework stating the time spent on the homework.

Equal Opportunities

All children are provided with equal access to homework. We provide suitable homework opportunities regardless of gender, disability, ethnicity and socio-economic background.

