



Weekly Benson Bulletin

24th February 2017 No 21

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

Attendance

Our whole-school attendance rate for this week was 96.5%.

Congratulations this week to **4Treliissick** who were top of the attendance table with 99%. *Well done!*

Who Do We Think We Are (WDWTWA)

As you know, every year we have a special Spiritual Moral Social and Cultural focus for the school. Last year it was **"When I Grow Up...."**, this year our focus is on **"Who Do We Think We Are?"** (WDWTWA). We want our pupils to explore and celebrate our place within Cornwall, within Great Britain & within the world. We want to be loud & 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

We launched our WDWTWA focus in the Autumn term when we all celebrated National Heroes Day on Friday, October 21st. In the Spring term, with St Piran's Day fast approaching, it makes sense for us to celebrate being Cornish or living in Cornwall. As you can imagine we have lots of lovely activities planned.

St Pirans Day Celebration – Friday 3rd March

The children will be celebrating St Piran's Day on Friday, March 3rd even though it actually falls on the Sunday this year. The children will be working collaboratively within their House Groups, so the children will be in family groups. Children should come to school in their normal school uniform. At registration time they will be given a coloured tee shirt by their teacher according to which house group they are in (same as sports day).

A team of staff have been busy this week coordinating the plans for the day and this is what they have revealed so far!

"Some of the activities will involve Cornish dancing, singing, history, geography, art work and a little bit of tasting! If your family are out & about this weekend, it would be wonderful if you could bring one pebble or stone to turn into a memento of the day (only one stone needed per family) If your child is the only family member at school at the moment, don't worry their team mates will help! From The Cornish Cousin Jacks."

Parents' Evenings

I know that the teachers are very much looking forward to seeing you next week for the Spring Parental consultations. Year on year, we have an excellent parental turnout. Last term 98%(!) of you met with your child's class teacher which is so wonderful – thank you!

Just to let you know that teachers and/or office staff will be trying next week to catch any parents who have not managed to make an appointment yet. Please don't take any offence if we do call you – it is just that that we care passionately about engaging with you and your child regarding their learning and development. All teachers feel that meeting with you at this mid-point in the year is so important to be able to celebrate your child's achievements and to work together on their next steps to achieving their full potential.

Since the government has changed the way children are being assessed, we have tried in advance of each parents' evening to share assessment information with you that hopefully helps to clarify the new national requirements in relation to age-related expectations. We think you are finding these letters useful because 94% of the parents who completed EoY parental surveys last year agreed that the school had done its best to provide you with information on your child's attainment against the new assessment arrangements. Mr Galler, our Assessment Coordinator, has put pen to paper again and in this week's newsletter is some further assessment information which will be good for you to read before you meet with your child's class teacher and which will hopefully negate the need to lose time on questions that we can answer in advance for you.

I would also like to make you aware that class teachers may discuss your child's attendance or punctuality with you briefly at your parental appointment. We certainly won't want to use the time to focus on either of these, but if your child's attendance rate is at 90% or below at

the current time and/or your child is coming to school late fairly regularly, then we will want to make you aware that this is a potential barrier to their learning.

We understand entirely and accept where a child has been sick or has had a medical condition issue that absence is unavoidable. Childhood illness is a fact of life, but some individual parents may not be aware how a combination of factors like illness and holidays has had a significant impact on their child's attendance and, therefore, on learning and progress.

I am available across the three afternoons/evenings if any parent would like to pop in and see me or would like to make an appointment to discuss anything with me

Volunteer helpers

The staff, pupils and I would like to say a MASSIVE thank you to our small army of volunteers who have completed the new Volunteer Application Process. This has been a huge task, but it is now up and running, meaning that the school can now recruit help where and when it is needed whilst also ensuring that all safeguarding requirements are being met. Many volunteers have been placed in areas across the school to assist in day-to-day activities, others are registered to help occasionally with off-site trips. These volunteers enable our children to take part in activities and events that would otherwise be impossible to manage.

Staff feedback with regards to our volunteers is overwhelmingly positive. One such example is Mrs Jo Williams, our SENCO, who also co-ordinates lots of swimming and running events in school. She wanted me to say a big thank you to the volunteers who have helped her so much on her trips out. She said, "They are often my deputies on these trips and are always thinking one step ahead! Fab!!"

Now that we have the register in place, we will update it termly, so delays in approval are likely. This is due to the need for applicant to undergo induction sessions before starting as a volunteer. Our Volunteer Helpers' Policy and registration forms are available from the school office. If you would like to register to help with activities, in or out of school, please complete the forms and return them to the office marked for the attention of Mrs W Teasdale.

Once again, a big thank-you to all our volunteers for sharing their time and talents with us - we are so lucky!

Parking on school grounds

Thank you for your support this week, following the note in the newsletter last week, about showing courtesy and consideration when driving or parking on the school grounds at any time of the day. It is much appreciated. One parent, who works with the carbon reduction sector, approached me this week and asked if I could possibly draw parental attention to a campaign called "Drop Off, Switch Off". It is about raising awareness that car idling anywhere, including school grounds, could be making the air in playgrounds and classrooms more dangerous to breathe. The campaign wants to inform people and to challenge potential myths e.g. that stopping a car engine, only to restart it a minute or two later, causes more pollution than idling. If you want to find out more then you can go to:

<https://foe.online-news.org.uk/prod/jan2017/quiz.html>

Helen Giblett

CLUBS

All clubs will be cancelled next week, except for Yoga and Go Active Football due to parents' evenings.

FAO: our Year 6 parents

You will have received a letter this week about our involvement in the SHEU health-related behaviours survey. Essentially it involves our Y4, 5 & 6 pupils completing a survey with questions relating to a wide range of health behaviours, for example:

**Home and Family
Leisure and Money
Exercise
Relationships, emotional health & well-being
Healthy Eating
Tobacco, Alcohol, Drugs (Yr 6 only)**

We just wanted to share with our Year 6 parents an example of the type of questions relating to *Tobacco, Alcohol, Drugs* section, just so you are aware in case this topic might pop up at home.

Please be assured these are very generalised questions and they are not being asked by the school because we think there is any issue within any child or family in Year 6. These SHEU questions are asked anonymously as this information, once processed, can be used as anonymised benchmark data in secondary schools and beyond.

Cross Country Races at Penair School

On Tuesday 7th February 40 athletes from years 4, 5 and 6 took part in the Truro Area cross country races at Penair School. We were very fortunate with the weather and the sun shone all afternoon. The children all ran extremely well in very muddy conditions, with some crossing the finishing line missing a shoe! They all showed great determination and dedication. Consequently, all the hard work and training has paid off, with **21 runners** qualifying for the Peninsula Semi Finals on 21st February at Pool Secondary School. This is the most that have ever qualified for the next round.

There were gold medals for those individuals that came 1st in their races. There were awarded to:

Maisy P	Y4 girls
Jack J	Y4 boys
Freddie I	Y6 boys.

There was also a team competition element, where our Y4 boys and girls and our Y5 girls came first.

I would like to say a huge well done to all those that competed and thank you to all the family members that came to support for the afternoon.

Mrs J Williams (Running teacher)

Netball

On Wednesday 22nd February we were invited to play in a Netball tournament at Truro Prep School. During the afternoon we played against Truro Prep, Polwhele, Mylor Bridge, Truro High and St Petroc's schools. We played really well and the enjoyed the games managing to draw 3 games, win one and lose 3 games. We are looking forward to two more tournaments before the end of the season.

Raising Money for Charity

Lucy in class 4MT is having her hair cut in school on Wednesday raise money for The Little Princess Trust, at the same time she is raising money for CLIC. She chose to raise the money for CLIC as it is the charity that have supported her friend's little sister. She has already raised £210 on her online Justgiving page and has had some very generous offline donations too. If anyone would like to donate please follow the link below:



<https://www.justgiving.com/fundraising/Lucy-AustinCLIC>

Well done Lucy. What a lovely thing to do!

Early Years Foundation Stage would be very grateful for donations of the following for their outdoor area

Milk Crates
Pipes/Guttering/pipe connectors
Carpet off cuts
Large planks of wood
Large tractor tyres x 2
Building bricks
Logs
Large and small cable reels
Steering wheels/bike wheels
Painting rollers and trays
Sails

Some of the above items such as logs we need in abundance. If you have any of the above then please come and speak to Mrs Riches or Miss Palmer in EYFS. Many thanks in advance.

Porthpean Residential Camp, 8th-10th May

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.

Spring Parental Consultations

Parents' evenings will be held NEXT WEEK on the following dates:

Mon 27/2	All classes apart from Y6
Tue 28/2	All classes (late night, until 7pm)
Wed 1/3	All classes
Thu 2/3	Y6 only

(Please note, due to personal reasons Mr Thomas is unable to see parents on Tue 28th Feb and has appointments available on Tue 7th March instead.)

Booking via eSchools is now open. If you need help with booking please contact the school office.

Information Board – there will be a display board set up in the school hall with various useful items of useful information from the School Nurse, Family Information Service, FABB, SENCO, etc. on the Tuesday evening.

If you are using a phone app for ESchools, please note the school name is: archbishop-benson.

Class Assemblies (Fridays 9am, School Hall)

5T	10 th March
1K	17 th March
RP	12 th May
1W	9 th June
2L	16 th June
5C	30 th June
RR	7 th July

All parents/carers of the class are invited to come along and watch in the school hall.

Year 4 – memories of Porthpean, Friday 19th May, 9am

(Year 6 – memories of London, Friday 23rd June, 9am – cancelled – taking place end of term)

Kitchen News

St Pirans Day – Friday 3rd March

Next week the menus for Monday and Friday will be swapped over so that pasties and homemade scones are served on St Pirans Day.

A reminder to parents of children in KS1 – we are not able to allow children to choose to opt out of school lunches and bring in a packed lunch on odd days. This is for planning and admin reasons.

FABB

We made a great start to the tidying up and cleaning of the school greenhouse this week, and our invitation to anyone who can spare an hour between 9 and 10 o'clock on a Wednesday morning is still on offer. FABB would also appreciate when families are having a spring clean in their own greenhouse or garden any spare seeds or plants surplus to requirements that can be grown and nurtured by the school children in the school greenhouse. Please contact a member of the FABB team or let the school office know. Thankyou.

Extra Maths Tuition

Mrs Roskell-Thomas currently has vacancies for anyone who would like their child to have extra maths tuition. Please phone: 01637 499664 or 07804 813026 for further details.

Polwhele House Inter-school Cross country Match KS 2

On Saturday 25th March Polwhele will be holding their annual cross country races. Children are invited to run for Archbishop Benson School in either the U9 (1km) or U11 (1.5km) race. There will be medals and certificates awarded for the top three boys and girls with the top six finishers from each team contributing to an overall team prize. The school will also be providing refreshments throughout the morning.

This event will start with registration at **9:30am**, walking the course at 9:45am and finish with a presentation of awards at **11:30am**. *The deadline for entries is Friday 26th February.* Please note that the course is multi-terrain much of which is through the school woodland. It is therefore advisable to wear running spikes or football boots.

Please can you return the slip below with the entry fee of £1 to the office by 25th February.

Many thanks.

Mrs J Williams

Polwhele Cross Country Match KS 2

My child _____ aged _____ in class _____ would like to enter the cross country at Polwhele on Saturday 25th March. I have included a £1 entry fee and **will stay for the duration of the event.**

Signed: _____

Contact no: _____

INVITATION TO COOSE TRANNACK – SATURDAY 18th MARCH 2017

Children are invited to race in the 17th annual running of 'Coose Trannack Cross Country Races' on Saturday 18th March 2017.

The event is held on the Coose Trannack Woodland adjacent to Trannack School (near Helston). It is a millennium wood with fantastic views over The Lizard peninsula. The course is sloping and represents a tough challenge for even the most talented runners.

The event is open to all children from Year Reception to Year 12 and will involve separate races for each Primary School age group.

Further details of this event are available on the Trannack School's website:-

http://trannack.eschools.co.uk/website/coose_trannack/29267

For the first time this year there will also be an adult "fun" run for anyone who likes a challenge and a bit of fun!!!

Mrs J Williams (Running teacher)

Jeff Smith Memorial Garden

We are very pleased to have received £1,000 from the Tesco Bags of Help project. This is a great start towards our new memorial garden in memory of Jeff Smith, who was Headteacher here for 23 years.

County Individual Schools Table Tennis Championships

After becoming team county champions in the Autumn term, we sent 4 boys to Penryn College for the County individual championships on Friday 10th February. We really showed our strength and depth with all of our players qualifying from the group stages and four of our players reaching the quarter finals and three the semi-finals.

Alfie beat Ruan in a very close quarter final (11-9 11-9) to get to the semi-finals. Perran also won a close quarter – final to join Sam in the semis. Sam then defeated Perran in the first semi-final and Alfie lost to a strong player from North Cornwall. The county final had some superb table tennis and in the end the player from North Cornwall was too strong and won 11-7, 11-7 and 11-7.

Well done to Sam, Ruan, Alfie and Perran and a huge thank you to Mrs Poppy for taking the children to Penryn.



Alfie, Sam, Perran and Ruan.



Second in the County, Sam

Muddy Church

Another of these popular events will take place at St Clement, Truro from 4.15pm on Tuesday Feb 28th, organised by Truro Methodist Church.

Families welcome, but all children must be accompanied by an adult. Come dressed for mud, cold conditions and do not forget WELLIES!!

Activities, worship and hot supper all based on the Bible story of Jacob and Esau and the Pot of Very Expensive Stew!!

Further details if required from Janet Tredrea 07800 586 016

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 10 March**
- **Friday 24 March**

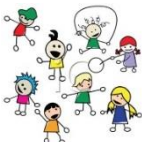
We do hold a reasonable level of uniform stock in school but this can get sold quickly at the Uniform Shops. Ordering online will ensure you get what you want.

Sainsbury's Active Kids

Sainsbury's have started their Active Kids vouchers for 2017. One voucher will be given for every £10 spent. Please ask family, friends and even neighbours to donate theirs to Archbishop Benson School so we can acquire new PE equipment to add to our sporting resources and lunchtime Huff & Puff equipment. We have a collection box in reception. Thank you.

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 Week: Mask Making



Charity Quiz Night

Friday 31st March, 7pm in our school hall in aid of the children's charity CHICKS. £26 per team (max 4 people) to include a pasty. To reserve your team contact David Rogers davidrogers58@googlemail.com or 01872 260315.

Dates for Your Diary 2017

February

Mon 27th Parents' Evenings – all classes apart from Y6
Tue 28th Parents' Evenings – all classes (late night)

March

Wed 1st Parents' Evenings – all classes
Tue 7th 5T Parents' Evenings
Thu 2nd Parents' Evenings – Y6 only
Wed 8th Spring Eucharist Service, 9am
Fri 10th Class 5T Assembly, 9am
(Parents/Carers of children in 5T welcome)
Wed 15th FABB meeting - 7.00pm in the staff room
Fri 17th Class 1K Assembly, 9am
(Parents/Carers of children in 1K welcome)
Fri 24th Mother's Day Coffee Morning – FABB
Sat 25th KS2 Cross Country – Polwhele

May

Thu 4th FABB meeting - 7.00pm in the staff room
Fri 12th Class RP assembly, 9am
Fri 19th Yr4 assembly, 9am
Mon 8th to 10th Porthpean Camp – Year 4

June

Fri 9th Class 1W assembly, 9am
Fri 16th Class 2L assembly, 9am
Sat 24th Summer Fair
Fri 30th Class 5C assembly, 9am

Mon 12th to 16th Year 6 trip to London

July

Mon 3rd FABB meeting - 7.00pm in the staff room
Fri 7th Class RR assembly, 9am
Tue 25th Leaver's Reception & Summer Disco

Term Dates for School Year 2016 /2017

Mon 20th Feb Children return to school after half term
Fri 31st Mar Break up for Easter
Tue 18th Apr Children return to school for Summer Term
Mon 1st May Bank Holiday – school closed
Fri 26th May Break up for half term
Mon 5th June Children return to school
Wed 26th July Break up for Summer Holidays

TRURO LAWN TENNIS CLUB

FAMILY

TENNIS SESSIONS

4 week course

STARTING

SUNDAY 5th March 2017

@Truro LTC 9:00- 10:30am

A GREAT OPPORTUNITY TO GET ALL THE FAMILY ON COURT AND HAVING FUN TOGETHER

Free for members

Non members cost - Juniors £1. (3yrs+) Adults £2

Message Ryan Fern on 07814533087 for more information

Come along and have some fun !!!

EQUIPMENT PROVIDED IF NEEDED

Truro Lawn Tennis Club, T13 6BH HEAD COACH RYAN FERN ryan@ryanfern.co.uk

Parents Evenings

Next week will give us the opportunity to meet with you again to celebrate your child's successes. As usual, their English, Maths and Cross Curricular books will be available outside of the classrooms for you to look whilst you are waiting for your timeslot - I'm sure you will agree that there have been lots of engaging topics covered so far this year.

As previously, the class teacher will provide you with a summary sheet that you can take away, detailing your child's baseline standards that they ended last year with, predicted end of year results for this year, targets to focus their current learning on and also any comments that relate specifically to your child's engagement with school or their specific needs.

The predicted end of year standards we will report to you have been colour coded as below:

Attainment Codes	
B (below)	Your child is not yet working from the current year-group's learning as they still need to secure learning from previous years.
E (emerging)	Your child is just beginning to grasp a few of the elements from that year group's learning. They have secured less than half of the expected learning for that age group and don't necessarily always use it independently in their work.
D (developing)	Your child has secured at least half of the learning from that year group and is applying it with increasing regularity and independence but there are still a few gaps that need to be addressed.
S (secure)	Your child has secured EVERY aspect of learning from that year group and regularly uses it independently, mostly correctly.

This chart will also be reproduced on the summary sheet as a reminder for you. What you will notice is that the letter codes typed over the colours are slightly different to those used previously – don't worry, we haven't changed the way we assess your children's work, we have just needed to give the same assessments slightly different names in order to tie in with our new online tracking system that will, when finalised, be able to provide you with more detailed information than ever before about your child's progress across their whole school journey. For example,

Previously	Now
Below	Below (B)
Working Towards	This has now been split into two bands – 'Emerging' for those only just grasping some of the required elements and 'Developing' for those who have grasped much of the content and are nearer to being 'Secure'.
At	Secure (S)



The principles of the new assessment system mean that from whatever starting point a child may have had from last year, the idea is not to push them forward into higher year groups' work and rush them through the standards but to linger longer in the current year group, working in more depth across lots of different contexts, thus achieving a 'Secure' judgement this year.

Current and future Year 3 parents only may experience what appear to be anomalies in their results as a direct result of the contradictory nature of the assessment guidelines introduced by the government last year and which have been continued with this year. In essence, all pupils learn from and are assessed against the National Curriculum criteria for their age and ability, aiming to achieve a 'Secure' judgement for their year group. However, for Year 2, the government introduced an 'Interim Framework' last year. This means that last year's Year 2 children were taught from the National Curriculum but the government required us to assess them only against a more limited number of criteria and not the criteria as a whole (which is the case for other year groups). Naturally, this meant it was easier for last year's Year 2 pupils to achieve their standard and that was what we were required to report to parents. Coincidentally, this also produced more favourable results for the government to report nationally in the press following their changes to the system. However, now those pupils are in Year 3 the government expectation is that we revert to reporting against the whole of the National Curriculum, meaning that the required standard is harder to achieve and that the end of last year's results cannot be compared like-for-like with the end of this year's results. For some children it will not make any difference. For others who achieved well on the limited objectives last year, it may appear that they have made less or little progress this year, in numerical terms, due to the government's flawed tracking system and moving the goalposts. In reality you will see tremendous progress in their books and you must keep this in mind when celebrating their successes with them even if, on paper, the statistics look less promising. From what we currently understand, and do keep in mind that government policy rarely stands still for long, this will also be the picture for the current Year 2s next year and also the current Year 1s when they reach that point. The important thing to remember is that this is a wider political issue and no reflection upon your child's ability or their teacher's commitment. If you have any concerns, please do call in to speak to Mr. Galler after school one day (although he too will be conducting parents evenings next week).

...ple a more-able pupil achieving ELG+ in Reception or 'At' in Year 4, ...e-appropriate work and really secure that in more breadth and