



Weekly Benson Bulletin

9 September 2016 No 1

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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 |

Welcome Back

I would like to extend a very warm welcome back to all members of our school community – pupils, parents (and grandparents) staff, governors, volunteers and anyone else I may have forgotten. I hope you and your families had a relaxing and enjoyable summer. A special word of welcome to all new pupils and parents. We have had lots of new additions over the holidays and we are almost completely full, which is wonderful. We look forward to getting to know you better in the weeks ahead.

As you know, we remain committed and focused on maintaining both the fabric of the school building as well as improving the internal accommodation and facilities and the Summer holidays is our busiest time.

Last year, we completed the “Big Move” project which allowed us to re-locate our EYFS area and thereby address a key Ofsted issue. Within this move, we were able to re-decorate an additional 3 classrooms as well as carrying out lots of internal class refurbishment. This year, works carried out were:

- Decoration of a further 3 classrooms
- Kitchen improvements
- Toilet improvements
- Renewal of retaining walls in the Wills Garden and the bin store
- Repositioning of Smart Boards, Whiteboards etc to improve classroom environments in Year 5 and Year 6
- Embarked upon electrical upgrade works which will be completed during half-term
- Replaced damaged ceiling tiles
- Reinstated drain covers/manholes around the KS1 play equipment
- Improved storage and shelving area to Years 5 and 6

I would like to offer a special thanks to Marilyn Hawke and Treve Sims, our site supervisors, who worked so hard over the Summer holidays with so many contractors

to get this work done on time for the benefit of the children and staff.

I would also like to thank the cleaning staff for their patience, understanding and flexibility in cleaning the school and getting it ready in the midst of all the building work that was going on

We are also very excited about further plans this year – more information to follow in time!

Review of Safety and Safeguarding

We have had three great training days with staff this week. It has been wonderful for almost 50 members of staff to get together to discuss and review some of our key safeguarding procedures and arrangements. One area came up for discussion that we have not looked at for quite some time and which we recognise needs updating – children walking home from school.

If your child already walks home after school or, now that they are in the Upper Juniors, you would like for them to do so, then the information below is essential for you to read as we will be sending a paper copy of this consent form out to all Y5 and Y6 parents and asking them to return it as soon as possible. If you have already secured permission for your child to walk home, we would still be grateful if you complete this form so that we can have up-to-date records of all the children who walk home from school

Our Walking Home Procedures

When your children arrive at school, the school has parental responsibility for them. This means that we have a duty to look after them the best we can and keep them safe. When the school finishes, parental responsibility is passed back to you.

To assist us in being able to provide the best possible care and supervision for your child, any parent/carer who wishes their child/ren to walk home by themselves needs to provide the school with written consent. For these children, parental responsibility will be passed back to you once they leave the school premises.

In order to ensure our pupils' safety, it is our policy that only children in Years 5 and 6 are allowed to walk home on their own. Where a parent or carer might ask for a younger sibling to walk home with a Y5/6 pupil, we would have to consider this on an individual basis taking into consideration the maturity of the children involved, the

age of the younger sibling, the route being taken and the after-school destination,

By signing our consent form, you are agreeing to the following expectations:

- I am aware that 3.25pm is the end-of-day dismissal time
- I am aware that once my child leaves the school site, there is no adult supervision for them and I take full responsibility for their safety.
- I have made my child/ren aware that they are to go directly to their after-school destination.
- I have prepared my child/ren for the walk to their after-school destination and explained the safety aspects

This permission form must be filled in and returned to the school before children can walk home alone. Permission will remain in effect unless and until you notify the school in writing that you wish it to be changed or rescinded.

Please note that the school reserves the right to withdraw any permission given if we have any concerns for the safety and well-being of your child/ren.

Volunteer Helpers

We are very much looking forward to working with our existing volunteers as well as recruiting new ones. We are slightly delaying the start of our volunteer helpers this year as there is a need for us to review and evaluate our Volunteers Policy and procedures. Last year there were a couple of incidences relating to confidential or sensitive school information being discussed out of school. We fully appreciate that this will have been done in good faith but any breaches in confidentiality could end up causing potential distress to other parents and/or to staff. Therefore, to safeguard all involved, we want to improve and strengthen our arrangements. We will notify you shortly when we are ready to resume our volunteer helpers programme. Thank you for your understanding.

General Reminders

"Meet The Teacher" meetings

Next week we will be holding 'Meet The Teacher' meetings for parents and carers of children in Years 1 – 6 at 8.45am. This will be an opportunity for staff to share basic expectations and routines with you, covering areas such as homework, reading, P.E., spellings etc. It is also your opportunity to ask about anything to do with the day-to-day routine of the class your child is in.

If you have more specific questions that are relevant to your child as an individual, please feel free to speak to your teacher more privately at the end of the session. We have timed the sessions to take place just at the start of the school. We appreciate that it may be difficult for some parents to attend these sessions so please don't worry if you can't make it on the day, staff are always happy to see you at the end of any day when you are collecting your child.

- Year 1 Tuesday 13/9
- Year 2 Monday 12/9
- Year 3 Wednesday 14/9
- Year 4 Thursday 15/9
- Year 5 Friday 16/9
- Year 6 Wednesday 14/9

Please can we ask for your support in ensuring that your children bring in a coat to school. As we have seen this week, the weather can be very changeable. However, unless it is raining, we like to get the children outside at break times even if it is a little damp or drizzly. Therefore the children need to have coats ready for such occasions.

Mrs H Giblett

Kitchen News

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

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

Parents of new Reception children will be given their online codes next week.

We are aware that the new menu is not yet available on our website. This is due to some technical difficulties we are experiencing and will be rectified shortly.

School Lunches

All Key Stage 1 children will be provided with a free school lunch (unless they have opted to bring in a packed lunch). We do offer a choice each day and we would request that parents choose their children's menu with them via ParentPay. This is a simple process and menus can be chosen up to a term in advance. We would suggest that parents then remind their children what they have chosen each day when possible. Please note, where choices have not been made children will be given whatever is available (usually the meat option, unless they are vegetarian).

Key Stage 2 children – we would encourage parents to pay and choose menu options via ParentPay. Although we still currently operate a cash system, this will soon be phased out until all school lunches are chosen and paid for via ParentPay only.

Music Lessons

The music teachers have been busy compiling new timetables and these start next week as follows:-

- Guitars: Tuesday /Wednesday
- Violins: Monday/Thursday
- Woodwind: Thursday
- Brass: Tuesday
- Recorders: Thursday

(Recorder lessons - If you haven't already paid, please pay via ParentPay as soon as possible. Thank you. All other music lessons are paid via Cornwall Music Trust.)

CLUBS

**A NEW CLUBS LIST WILL BE GIVEN OUT
NEXT WEEK.**

GO ACTIVE

Go Active will be running three after school clubs this term as follows:-

| | |
|------------|--|
| Wednesdays | Bubble Football/Zorbing – KS2 |
| Wednesdays | Multi Sports – Year 1 and Year 2 |
| Fridays | Football Club (Reception, Year 1 and Year 2) |

These clubs will start **NEXT WEEK!**

Forms are available from the school office. As numbers are limited, places will be allocated on a first come first served basis – forms **AND** money to be returned back to the office please. We cannot accept a form without payment.

Canoeing National Competition

Annabelle C in class 4Trelissick took part in her first ever national canoeing race and was the youngest paddler out on the course, being just 8 years old and racing against much larger 10 year olds! She got the bronze award for her Under 10 Mini K2 race together with her partner from Oxford Falcons and she also came 7th in the Under 10 Girls race in very tough conditions with temperatures sky high. These are tough national competitions racing against much larger clubs from up country and she was very proud to represent Truro Canoe Club and Cornwall. Well done Annabelle!



Year 3 French Club

Information letters were given out to the children last term. If you still wish to sign up, please ensure forms are returned by Friday 16 September. Also, preschool classes for ages 3 and 4 will start on Monday mornings/Wednesday afternoons in Truro. For more information, contact Sharon at sharon@letsdolanguages.co.uk

FABB Family Picnic – Friday 23 September 2016

Everyone is invited to join us for a family picnic from 5.30pm - 7.30pm on the school field (weather permitting). Just bring along a picnic, chairs, rugs etc and enjoy socialising with other families.

Penair School Open Evening

Penair School will be holding an Open Evening for prospective pupils and their parents on Monday 26 September from 5.00pm to 8.00pm. Letters from Penair School with the details have been given to all Year 5 and Year 6 pupils today so look out for this in your child's book bag.

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.

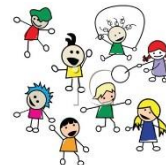
These are the dates for our Uniform Shop:

- **Friday 16 September**
- **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.

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 15 September

Dates for Your Diary

September

- Mon 19/9** FABB meeting in the staff room – 7.00pm – all welcome to attend
- Fri 23/9** FABB family picnic and games – 5.30pm – 7.30pm on school grounds

October

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

November

- Fri 25/11** Christmas Fair

Inset Days in School Year 2016/2017

28 November

