

## Newsletter Issue 13: 16<sup>th</sup> March 2018

Dear Parents,

Our school procedures in the event of snow and school closure were put to the test a few weeks ago and once again, snow is forecast this weekend. It is unlikely the school will close, but please familiarise yourself with our procedures which are included in this newsletter.

Last week we received a visit from our 'Challenge partner' who spent the morning visiting classes. We were delighted with her report and share the summary below;

**'This is a self-improving school. Even though the school has been judged as outstanding, the school development plan shows the school is not complacent. Teachers continue to focus on improving achievement even further and ensure all groups of pupils do as well as each other. Staff take on new ways of working and strategies to deepen pupils learning skills.'**

It's that time of year again when the senior leadership team and governors review the progress we have made during the year and identify areas of focus for continued improvement for the future. This self-review forms part of our ongoing school improvement cycle and helps us to devise the 'School Improvement Plan'. With this in mind, next week you will receive our annual survey and I would be grateful if you could take a few minutes to complete the questionnaire and return to either your child's class teacher or the school office by Thursday 29<sup>th</sup> March 2018. The questionnaire will also be available on the school website and you are able to submit this electronically if you wish to the following address [secretary@st-marys-fal.cornwall.sch.uk](mailto:secretary@st-marys-fal.cornwall.sch.uk)

Warm regards

Jacqui Scarborough



### **Are you able to help?**

We're looking for volunteers;

- to hear readers in classes
- to make phonics resources for KS1
- **on the 'Walking Bus'**
- to be on standby to cover for other volunteers who help with supervision on the swimming coach
- to help with transportation to sporting events

## DIARY DATES

### **March**

19<sup>th</sup>

Red House- Dress Down Day

21<sup>st</sup>

Reception Class Celebration @ 9.15am

Penitential Service KS2 @ 10am

22<sup>nd</sup>

Class 3 visit to Hall for Cornwall

Class 4 visit to Geevor Mine

23<sup>rd</sup>

Reception Class visit to Glendurgan

Lenten Dress Down Day - What do you want to be? or Denim

27<sup>th</sup> Safer Internet Assembly @ 2.30pm  
 28<sup>th</sup> Attendance Clinic with the Education Welfare Officer from 9:00am  
 29<sup>th</sup> Lenten Dress Down Day - Yellow and wellies for the Easter Egg Hunt  
 Break up for the Easter Holidays @ normal time

## **April**

16<sup>th</sup> Return to School - Summer Term  
 20<sup>th</sup> Reception Class visit to Truro Museum  
 Classes 3 & 4 swimming  
 26<sup>th</sup> Class 5 Junior Lifeskills visit to Falmouth Fire Station  
 30<sup>th</sup> - 1<sup>st</sup> May Class 5 Art Residential to Carnyorth

## **Lenten Donations**

On the 23<sup>rd</sup> March instead of making a donation, please bring in a food item for the Food Bank. These could include small Easter Eggs, packets, tins, dry foods e.g. tea, coffee, cereal, pasta, rice etc. but no fresh foods please.

## **Fairtrade Coffee Morning**

Class 3 hosted a fantastic Fair trade Coffee Morning last Thursday. Nearly 60 families and friends of the class attended. Ruby Watson and Indiana Dalziel were the Masters of Ceremony. The children had made cakes using Fair trade ingredients, which they sold with tea and coffee which was of course Fairtrade throughout the morning.

They had painted and potted up plant pots with the Fairtrade symbol on. They read speeches that they had been written in class to persuade the audience to support Fairtrade, as well as presenting an assembly explaining what Fairtrade does to help poorly paid farmers.

Alongside all of this there were: quizzes, stack the banana game to have a go at, chocolate tasting, a raffle, guess the number of cocoa beans in the jar and Fairtrade Bingo.

The children ran their stalls diligently and took their roles seriously. Big thanks to Aubrey's Granny who served the drinks throughout the morning, Mrs Watson who manned the cake stall and Sarah Slater in the kitchen. A total of £220.15 was raised for the Fairtrade Foundation and an additional £111.50 was raised by the Fairtrade shop. Overall a great success! Well done Class 3 and thanks to all those who came along to support the event.

## **Internet Safety Day- 27<sup>th</sup> March 2018**

A presentation for parents about safe, responsible and positive use of the technology for children and young people is planned for 2:30pm on Tuesday 27<sup>th</sup> March. Class 6 will be leading the session for parents where they will present key messages about how to stay safe online with a particular focus on the responsible use of social media. This session is suitable for parents of children from all classes and we hope that as many parents as possible will be able to attend.

## **Spare Swimming Kit**

Calling all Year 5 and 6's - last term a number of pupils borrowed the school's spare swimming kits. If you borrowed one, please can it be returned to school asap. This will enable the Year 3 & 4 swimmers to have access to spare kit, if needed.

If anyone has a spare towel/girls swimming costume/boys swimming trunks that are not longer needed, the school would appreciate any second-hand kit. Thank you!

### **Books Wanted**

Thanks to Mrs Chapman, Mrs Price and Mrs Sutcliffe for all their help with organising the new school library. They have made the following request.

Any donations of good quality paperback fiction books for our library, would be greatly appreciated. Books from the following authors are particularly popular: David Walliams, Antony Horowitz, Michael Morpurgo and Jacqueline Wilson. We do not require any picture books at this time. Thank you in advance!

### **Go Active**

If your child wishes to sign up for next term, the following clubs are available:

KS2 Summer Sports Club - Mondays starting 16<sup>th</sup> April for 12 weeks.

KS1 Summer Sports Club - Fridays starting 20<sup>th</sup> April for 12 weeks.

KS2 Archery/Crossbows - Wednesdays starting 18<sup>th</sup> April for 6 weeks.

For more information and costs, please see Mrs Neal in the School Office.



The Go Active Holiday Clubs will be running on various days during the Easter holidays at a cost of £12.00 per day. Sign up forms are in bookbags today.

### **Sporting News**

Well done to the Basketball team. They played an excellent game against Marlborough School and won 12-4.

**Peninsula Finals at Pool School** - Armel, Josh, Chloe, Izzy, Sharvarthaa all qualified for this round. Well done to Armel for then qualifying for the finals at Newquay.

### **Captain's Table**

	<b>Class 3</b>		<b>Class 4</b>
 St Mary's Super Stars	Harrison	 St Mary's Super Stars	Aubrey
	Charlie		Kaia
	Sophia		Alex
	Ruby W		Holly
	Wiktor		Freddie
	Ethan		Aiden
	Ella-Rae		Jasmine

### **New Chief Executive Officer for Plymouth CAST**

Mr Raymond Friel has been appointed as the new CEO of Plymouth CAST. He takes up his post on the 1<sup>st</sup> July, but is coming to visit our school on 2<sup>nd</sup> May. We look forward to welcoming to our school.

### **Attendance Clinic - 28<sup>th</sup> March 2018**

Our Education Welfare Officer will be running an Attendance Clinic on the 28<sup>th</sup> March from 9:00am. Families whose child's attendance have dropped below 90% or consistently have poor punctuality will be invited to meetings during the morning.

I would like to remind parents that holidays during term time will not be authorised. In addition absence during the month of May or June will not be authorised due to SATS taking place sat in May and the Phonics Screening Check for Year 1 in June. Any absences during these times will automatically be

referred to the Education Welfare Officer for action.

### **SATs Tests- Class 6 and Class 2**

National SATs week for Year 6 pupils across the country begins on the 14<sup>th</sup> May. Class 6 have worked extremely hard throughout the year and it is really important that they are in school every day during this week and prior to this week as they prepare for the tests.

Class 2 will also be completing tests this year during the week beginning the 14<sup>th</sup> May, which will contribute to their teacher assessment. Again, it is important that they are in school every day during this week.

### **Class 1**

The Phonics Screening check takes place in June and it is important that your child is in school every day during this month. Many thanks for your co-operation in this matter.

### **Adverse Weather**

Just in case we do get snow as forecast, I thought it would be good to remind you of our procedures. In the event of snow, our intention is always for the school to remain open and to minimise disruption.

However, on occasions, the safety risk imposed by adverse weather conditions does mean that closure is unavoidable. For example, at St Mary's some of our teaching staff live outside of the Falmouth locality, and therefore we have an increased risk of staff not being able to get to school on a snowy morning, and therefore an increased risk of the school not being able to open.

If the school does have to close, please take note of the following:

- Parents will be notified by text and the school website, as soon as possible (before 8.30am in the case of adverse conditions before the start of the school day)
- Local radio stations will broadcast the list of schools who are not opening or are having to close or have a late opening
- Any children who do arrive at school or who are not collected in the event of the school having to close during the school day, will always be looked after by staff until parents are able to reach the school. The children's wellbeing and safety are always our top priority.
- In the event for example of heavy snow during the school day, you the parents are in the best position to assess the road conditions etc. where you live. If you need to collect your child early, then this is acceptable

Thank you for your support and please take this opportunity to check that our school office has your up to date contact details.

### **House Point Winners**

Well done to the Red House, who were winners of the most House Points for last term. As their prize all children in the Red House are invited to wear home clothes on Monday 19<sup>th</sup> March.