

FOWEY PRIMARY SCHOOL

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Autumn Newsletter 7

9 November 2018

Dear Parents and Carers

What a busy few weeks we've had at Fowey! Our new minibus is here (and driver training is booked for the 19th November), we've had new deliveries of chairs and tables for all our classrooms, we've held our first open afternoon for our September 2019 intake and we've had lots of lunch and learn sessions!

We shall all need to have a good rest this weekend, ready for more adventures next week!

Kate

Kate Sicolo
Headteacher

Remembrance Services



A huge thanks to Andy Virr who has been rehearsing regularly with our choir ready to perform in the Remembrance concert in church on Saturday 10th. We are delighted that our choir has now grown to over 30 children! Some Lantic and Y6 children will also be planting a special tree with the mayor on Sunday and sharing their own writing inspired by stories from the First World War. We will also be marking this occasion on Monday with a special Remembrance assembly at school.

Diary dates 2018



- 10 November - Armistice Concert at Fowey Parish Church
- 11 November - Tree Planting at Squires Field
- 13 November - Lunch and Learn - Yr 5 (Readymoney)
- 13 November - Year 6 music workshop
- 13 November - Skypeathon!
- 15 November - Open Morning for September 2019 intake
- 16 November - Lunch and Learn - Yr 6 (Carne)
- 23 November - Whole School lantern making
- 26 November - Porthcurno Trip (Year 4)
- 28 November - Plymouth Aquarium Trip for Year 1/Year 2
- 29 November - Year 6 Event at Wheal Martyn Museum
- 30 November - Non-uniform day
- 30 November - Fowey Christmas Parade
- 6 December - Lunch and Learn - EYFS (Lantic)
- 7 December - Astronomer visit for Year 3 and Year 4
- 11 December - Year 6 Pop up Restaurant
- 12 December - Lantic Nativity-Fowey Parish Church 10.00 am
- 14 December - Christmas Gift Room and Christmas Jumper Day!
- 17 December - Porthcurno Trip (Year 3)
- 17 December - Christmas Service - Fowey Parish Church 6.00pm
- 19 December - INSET Day - School closed
- 20 December - INSET Day - School closed
- 7 January 2019 - Spring Term Starts



Communication

Parents at PVG raised that it can be hard to keep up with school communications when they come via different formats (e.g. texts, e-mails, letters in book bags, Facebook updates). To make this less confusing, we will go to e-mail as our primary method of communication, with online forms to be completed where needed. Please do ensure that the Office have up to date e-mail addresses for you. The easiest way to manage this is with the eSchools App, which is very simple to use and free to download. Catherine in the Office is our resident E-Schools Guru so please do speak to her if you'd like her to help you set it up.

Lunch and Learn Dates

We realise we have caused problems for some parents, and poor Dan!, by putting the lunch and learn dates so close together. We did this at the request of one family who found it hard to take time off in different weeks, however, we have discovered that this has been very difficult for lots of others. We will make sure that lunch and learn dates are spread out across a number of weeks next term. Sorry for any inconvenience this has caused.

13 November - Year Five

16 November - Year Six

6 December - EYFS Christmas Special

Letters will come out from the class teacher's nearer to the time.

Lantern Making

We've been asked by the Fowey Christmas Market team to prepare lanterns with children who want to walk in the parade on Friday 30th. Every child in school will make a lantern on Friday 23rd and bring them home the following week ready for you to take them to the parade, if you wish. Please do send in any bamboos, green garden canes or willow we could use as supports for the lanterns.

We will also need as much help as possible on the 23rd so if you are registered to volunteer with us and can help, please let the office know.

Attendance

Welcome to the weekly attendance awards. We have been set a target of more than 97% attendance.

This week the following classes have reached their target:-

Lantic	100%
Coombe	99.23%
Cannis	98.28%
Readymoney	98.08%



The following classes missed out this week - good luck for next week:-

Polridmouth	96.36%
Gribben	94.58%
Carne	93.33%

Class Contributions

A huge thank-you to all families who have made their class contributions, which has enabled the children to have so many exciting trips and visitors this term. Just a reminder that, if you wish to, you can pay the class contribution in little chunks... you don't have to pay it all in one go. The reason for putting it onto ParentPay early was to allow families (especially those with many children) to budget and pay it slowly across the term. Any contribution towards your child's class contribution is very gratefully received, even if this isn't the full amount.

The teachers will be making videos over the next few weeks to share the next project for January with you, including details of the class contribution for next term.

We've attached a sheet of FAQ about Class Contributions to the bottom of this newsletter.

Non-Uniform Day

Just a reminder that the 30th November is non-uniform day (teachers are always very excited to be allowed to wear our jeans). There is no need to send any money but please do send some presents which could be given to other parents for our Gift Room.

Porthcurno Trip Year 3 and Year 4

We've had to reshuffle the Porthcurno trips due to the availability of a second minibus. We'll now be going on the 26th November (Year 4 - Polridmouth) and the 17th December (Year 3 - Coombe) instead.

Cauliflower Cards

The FUNdraisers have had a brilliant idea of designing cards and then offering them to parents for sale as packs of Christmas cards. This is a great idea but (because the idea has only come to us when thinking about Christmas) we are rather late to join and there is a very tight turn around for parents to make orders. We are completing the cards this week and early next but parents will need to get their orders in via the Cauliflower Cards website by the 19th November. We will send a form home for you to complete once your child has completed their design and we'll send a separate e-mail so that you all know to check those bookbags!

Development of the Outdoor space

We were very excited to share our plans for the outdoor area with children (and parents) this week. The first stage of our new equipment should be installed by Christmas with the second stage following as soon as we have raised enough money. All FUNdraisers activities this year (e.g. disco, Christmas present room, raffles) will go towards this project so we would ask that you support our brilliant FUNdraisers whenever you can.

Poppies



We are very sorry that we have not had poppies for sale this year, particularly as it is such an important year. We were forgotten by the Poppy delivery people who usually drop them into us. We have chased it with them but, as you might expect, they are very busy at this time of year! We will make sure we have poppies for sale next year.

Actions from PVG

We held our first PVG meeting of the year last week. Thank-you to all the parents who support our school by acting as their class reps. We have had some great feedback and some very useful actions for us to take forward as a school. We have had some nominations for Lantic so we hope to have every class represented at our next meeting.

The PVG have asked that we trial 2 new initiatives:

1) one way drop off and pick up

Parents have raised concerns that the area by Lantic becomes very congested and is difficult for people to access when in wheelchairs or pushing buggies. Parents have asked if we could trial a one way system (so everyone would enter school in the morning and afternoon via the side gate by Polridmouth and leave via the gate by the kitchen). We are going to try this from Tuesday 13th November and see how we get on. We will review the system in a couple of weeks and let you all know whether we are continuing with it.

Of course, we understand that some parents and children in our community have additional mobility needs. If this applies to you, please feel free to use whichever gate makes your route easier when you need to. We would ask that all parents respect this exception and only use the 'other' gate if they really need to.

2) Birthday Sweets

Some parents have raised concerns that they don't want their child to be given birthday sweets and we did have an incident where a child choked on the way home on a sweet a parent was unaware was in their bookbag. We have been asked by PVG to not have birthday sweets and we have agreed to give this a go. I understand that some children may already have brought Birthday sweets or may be expecting to give them out so we will ask that no more are sent in from 1st December. We'll review this in January and let you know how it's been.

If you have any questions about these changes, please do speak to your class PVG rep or to Kate.

Class Contributions FAQ

What is the 'class contribution' and what is it for?

The class contribution is all the costs you would usually be asked to contribute towards in a term, but put together into one payment. You will be asked to make the class contribution three times a year but other than fundraising events (e.g. non-uniform for gift room days) this will be it!

Why is it more than we normally pay for trips etc?

As part of our curriculum review, parents and children told us that they want to see lots more trips and exciting learning opportunities, which sadly all costs money. Last year, every class went on one trip for the year. This year, children are going on at least a trip a term with additional visitors into school like the Punch and Judy show for Lantic, Space Dome for Coombe and Polridmouth and Cooking Day for Carne and Readymoney. Last year, we were frequently being told by parents that they wanted more trips and this has been raised many times at PVG.

What does it pay for?

It covers all the trips and special visitors/events your child has in a term.

Why does it go on Parent Pay in advance?

We've been asked by parents to let you know how much it will be and to put it onto ParentPay so that people can budget and pay small amounts off each week if they prefer.

The contribution for the next term will go on parent pay about five weeks before the new term and you'll be sent a letter by the teacher explaining what it's for. We hope to do this with videos next time so it's even clearer. It isn't actually 'due' until the end of the term but it does help the teacher's budget if you can pay it sooner.

It's a voluntary contribution isn't it? Does what I pay subsidise other children whose parents don't pay?

We have given you the cost based on estimated costs for your child only. The school will make the contribution for pupil premium children whose families are unable to contribute the whole amount from their pupil premium allocation. All money given through class contributions goes straight to that class' budget and can't be used for other classes or other trips so it can only directly benefit your child.

Any left over money from a term will roll over into the next term/year so it will stay with those children.

The class contribution is a voluntary contribution so we can't insist that everyone contributes but we believe having lots more trips and experiences in and out of school has been of huge benefit to our children this term. If we do not receive at least 80% of class contributions for a class, we will be unable to add these things and classes where the families are not willing to contribute will be unable to participate in trips and special events. We would never exclude individual children as this would make them feel very left out so we would have to do this on a class by class basis, if needed.