

FOWEY PRIMARY SCHOOL

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Autumn Newsletter 2

14 September 2018

Dear Parents and Carers

We've had a very busy first full week back with lots of things going on, including finishing the works planned for the summer which (as always!) have overrun slightly.

I would like to say an enormous personal thanks from myself and my family for all the support we have received this week from the Fowey community. My daughter, Izzy, is now home and is making a far better recovery than anyone could have foreseen which is fantastic news. She will need some more surgery in London in October but we hope that these operations will have significantly improved her long term health. I would also like to thank everyone for the support you gave to the wider staff team during this time.

Next week is going to be a very exciting one for us with the launch days for our new topics. EYFS/KS1 will be enjoying a beach day on Wednesday with a surprise performance, fish and chips and lots of beach activities. Lower KS2 (Year 3 and Year 4) will be camping out in the school hall on Thursday night as they explore the night sky, planets and stars. Upper KS2 will be joined by professional chefs and food producers from the surrounding area on Friday for a day of cooking as they begin their journey to be a Cornish Masterchef.

Please remember to make sure you have returned all permission slips for these days by Monday at the very latest.

We look forward to sharing lots of pictures of the events with you!

Kate

Kate Sicolo
Headteacher

Diary dates 2018



- 17th Sep - Afterschool Clubs start
- 17th Sep - Guitar, Keyboard and Woodwind lessons start
- 18th Sep - Drum lessons start
- 19th Sep - EYFS and KS1 Topic Launch: Why is the sea salty? (Beach day)
- 20th Sep - Brass and Violin lessons start
- 20th Sep - Y3 and Y4 Topic Launch: Is the sky the same at the South Pole? (Including sleep over)
- 21st Sep - Y5 and Y6 Topic Launch: Can you be the next Cornish Masterchef?

Coombe (Year 3)

Unfortunately Mrs Counter has not been with us this week due to a family bereavement. We would like to wish her well at this difficult time and also thank Ms Meade for stepping in and working with our Year 3 children in Pippa's absence.

Mrs Bingley

Bridget has been offered a role with Cornwall Council as an SEN Caseworker and so will be finishing at Fowey next week. We wish her all the best in her new role!

Mrs Callaway will no longer be working in Oceans after school as she is no longer able to work after school hours; Mrs Bayes is very excited to be joining the Oceans team.

New Curriculum

As you should be aware, we have made lots of changes to the curriculum this year and we are now using a project based approach. We held four parent information sessions last term and sent you links to a series of videos explaining the approach. If you missed this, they are available here <https://www.useloom.com/share/Of79094cb39141f5aea83c5d45b2704d/>

We also wrote to all families last term to introduce your child's new projects and to explain how, to make things easier for families to budget, we will be grouping all costs for trips, visits and special activities into one cost for the term and sending this out to you with at least six weeks' notice. This is because we know that some families find it difficult when they suddenly get letters asking for contributions to a trip next week. If this is a problem for you, please do speak to your child's teacher as we can arrange to support some families through pupil premium money. No child will be excluded from any activity as a result of their family being unable to contribute and children will have no awareness of who has/hasn't contributed.

As we also explained, we are hoping to significantly increase the amount of learning taking place outside of the school with at least one external activity every half term. This is happening because we have had many many requests from parents to do more trips and outdoor learning. We are very keen to do this, but we also know that this will significantly increase our costs and so we do need families who can support the school by making their contribution.

We are very excited about the changes we have made and we hope that the children will love their new, more practical and rounded way of learning together.

London and INSET day - 28 June 2019

This academic year we plan to take Year 5 and Year 6 to London for a week at the end of June. We are planning to stay on a boat moored at the West India docks as we will then have exclusive use for our school and the children will enjoy sleeping in cabins with their friends. The only availability for this year is 24th-28th June. We had previously advised that we would have an inset day on 28th but this will need to be moved. We will let you know the new date next week and we apologise for any inconvenience this may cause.

More details about the London trip in the next few weeks!

House Captains

A huge thanks to all children who applied to be house captains. It was a very difficult choice!

House Captains for 2018-2019 are:

Rashleigh—Henry and Nacey

Hanson—Ewan and Hannah

Treffry—Alfie and Mae

We will hold school council elections next week.

Our Memory Tree

This week, we have created a memory tree to help the children express their feelings about loss and to remember those who have died. We will continue to use the tree over the next few weeks and would encourage parents and carers to visit it with your children and talk about it. If you would like to add your own memory to the tree please ask in the office for a special tag.

Earrings

Just a reminder that our uniform policy has always said that children must remove their earrings for PE. Please let your child's class teacher know if ears are newly pierced and send some tape in so your child can cover them. If not, class teachers will expect children to remove their earrings themselves. Some parents have expressed that they are uncomfortable with staff helping children to remove earrings so children will need to be able to do this themselves.

New Minibus

We have ordered our new minibus which will mostly be funded through our Sports Premium grant. We hope that it will save costs in the long run for the school as we spent over £7000 on coach hire last year. It will arrive at the end of September.

We will urgently need volunteers who are able to drive the minibus (it can be anyone, not just people with a minibus symbol on their licence) so please do come and talk to us if you'd like to be involved so we can get your checks done ready.

It would be such a tremendous shame to have a minibus in the car park with no drivers!

Improvements to our school

I'm sure you will have noticed many changes to our school over the summer. We have had 5 tonnes of greenery and soil removed from the roof and many repairs carried out on the drainage system and flashing. Currently (fingers crossed) the roof isn't leaking!

We hope that by having a very thorough clean of the roof every year that we will be able to keep our existing tiles for another 5-10 years.

The staff room has been redesigned so that staff have somewhere comfortable to relax and a table at which to eat! Fowey staff work exceptionally hard and it is important to us that they have a calm place to call their own.

We have relocated the music room to the old headteacher's office and built a new wall in the old music/ IT room to create a small PPA room for staff to work quietly. This will also become Miss Barnes' SEN office when she isn't in class and a space for our IT and Site staff to work.

The other half of the old music room has become the new head's office, shared with a big meeting table and sofa area to hold more informal meetings. We felt that it was increasingly inappropriate to hold confidential meetings in the staff room and I know that some parents felt uncomfortable at being interrupted by staff on breaks. Similarly, staff need a place to go on their breaks so it felt unfair for their space to be so regularly out of use. We will use the new meeting room for staff briefings and training, student council meetings and governor meetings, as well as meetings with parents/carers and external professionals.

The library has been divided into two, with the back half of the room remaining a library space and the front half becoming a studio space. This space will be used for Art, music, drama and performance. Last year, we found that we were limited in our ability to do these things as the hall is used so often for PE and lunch/assembly. We have painted the room white so that we are able to hold exhibitions of children's work at the end of each term.

We have removed the pine trees at the front which were deemed to be unsafe in our tree survey, removed the roots and resurfaced the ground so it is safe and accessible.

The blue room will be finished next week and is becoming a nurture space for children who need extra support or a quiet place to be calm.

New fencing has been erected around the edges of the site to keep the children more secure.

Cannis classroom will have new furniture from next week, to make the most of the available space.

We have installed a completely new IT system and infrastructure which will ensure that the school IT system is able to support all the technology we want our children to be using in their new projects. This has included 40 new MS Surface devices for children to use every day. We are so delighted to have been able to purchase such new technology for our children.

We have also been able to purchase lots of new software including clicker 7 for SEND children, Language link to assess all EYFS children's speech development and Lego WeDo (so we can build robots!)

Over the next few months we will be:-

Sanding, painting and treating all external windows replacing any damaged ones ready for winter.

Painting all classrooms, the hall and all shared spaces.

Removing old noticeboards and unnecessary furniture from classrooms.

Replacing the ceiling in any places where it is damaged and replacing any old lighting with new LED lighting.

We hope to be able to replace all the chairs and tables in all classrooms by the end of the year, with support from the Fowey Grammar School Trust.

We have applied to the Foyle foundation for a grant to buy new library furniture and many new books. We will hear if we have been successful at the end of October and will keep you updated.