

FOWEY PRIMARY SCHOOL

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Autumn Newsletter 3

4 October 2019

Dear Parents and Carers

This week we have been busily preparing to launch Doodle Maths with you all. We are sending home each child with their own unique password and login details. You'll find more information below about Doodle Maths and we have put a short video on the school Facebook page which you may also find useful.

Doodle Maths have a dedicated parental support team so if you have any logistical issues (e.g. logging in) or you wish to ask further questions, please e-mail them directly on hello@doodlemaths.co.uk. You should also be able to live chat with them once you have set up your parent portal.

We hope you all have a great weekend and we look forward to seeing you on Monday!

Mrs Sicolo

Diary dates 2019



8 October - Lunch and Learn - Cannis

18 October - Individual and Family Photographs

21-25 October - Half Term

29 October - Parents Evening

31 October - Parents Evening

9 December - Inset Day (School Closed)

12 December - Lunch and Learn - Lantic

20 December - End of Autumn Term

6 January 2020 - Inset Day

7 January 2020 - Start of Spring Term

Car Park

I understand that some parents and children are opening the wooden gate (the fire access gate in the middle of the car park) and that children are then running across the car park to get to school. Please keep this gate closed and ask children to use the path as this is the safest way for them to get in to school.

Jacket Potatoes

At our last Parent Forum meeting concern was raised that Jacket Potatoes every day are not a healthy lunch option. The parents present voted unanimously to limit Jacket Potatoes to twice a week only and so, from Monday 7th, they will only be available on Tuesday and Thursday.

Home Reading Journals

We have listened to feedback from parents and children about our new, blue reading journals which we have begun to use with children who have finished phonics.

We have now designed our own version which has space for you to record daily reading (or for older children to record themselves) as well as a range of book activities suitable for fiction and non-fiction texts. You will start to see this new design come home as children finish their existing book.

Please do send any feedback on the new design to admin@fowey.sch.org

ALDI Vouchers

Please keep collecting and sending in the vouchers! We are nearly half way.



Forest School

Mrs Jones would be hugely thankful if Lantic children could arrive at school on Tuesdays in their Forest School clothes and waterproofs. It is currently taking them over half an hour to get ready which is really eating into their time.



Please ensure that your child has their uniform in a named bag so we can get them changed after they have finished.

Camp Meeting

A letter will go out today to Year 6 and Year 5 parents regarding next year's camp. We are very excited to announce that this will be a watersports camp on the Isle of Wight (our first adventure via ferry!)

Mr Trudgeon and Miss Barnes will hold an initial information session for all Y5/Y6 parents on Wednesday 9th October straight after school. Please do come along and find out more! As last year, residential trips are an integral part of our school curriculum and we do expect all children to attend. If this is problematic for you financially, please do come and have a very confidential conversation with us and we will do everything we can to support.

Doodle Maths

Today we launch our new online maths platform, Doodle Maths which we trialled in some year groups last year. Your child will bring home their own personalised log in today and will already have begun to access the system at school.

Doodle Maths is cloud based so you can access it via any internet enabled device or you can download an app. There is also a parent portal which you can use to view your child's progress.

The app comes with a social messaging function where children can send messages to each other, securely within Doodle Maths. There is no facility for them to contact anyone outside of our school. For the time being, we have switched this off. We have been told that it is a great way of getting children to engage with the app and therefore do their maths but we feel that we need to know the system much better if/when we are to use this function.

Doodle Maths will work best for your child if they access it very regularly for short bursts. Ideally your child should log on and do about ten minutes every day. As a minimum, children must be accessing Doodle Maths at home three times a week. The system will send statistics directly to teachers so we will be able to monitor this from school.

Once the system is embedded, teachers will begin to set specific homework tasks using it. This learning will appear first when your child logs in and they won't be able to do anything else within the system until they have completed this.

Before this can happen, the system needs to calibrate to your child's specific maths level. It will do this by setting them a range of tasks and assessing where their strengths and weaknesses are. Initially, this will mean your child won't have full functionality of the site but the more you use it the quicker your child will finish this process. We will recalibrate all children termly so that we ensure they are always working at the right level.

We hope that you really enjoy using Doodle Maths and that it will allow you to work much more closely with your child at home on their maths. Please remember, however, that it is a learning system so it's very important that you allow your child to make mistakes if they are finding something difficult. If you do an activity 'for' your child, it will think they can do that independently and it won't offer them any more activities of that kind- meaning your child won't fill that gap... it will also move them up to the next level of maths in that area, which your child may not be ready for.

Fowey Parish Church

We were delighted to welcome our new vicar, Ian Gulland, into school last week to meet with the staff and have lunch with the children.

We are hoping to be able to work together over the coming year to build the relationship between the school and the church.

As Ian is so new to post, we won't be having a specific school Harvest Festival this year but all members of our local community (young and old!) are welcome to join the Harvest Celebration on Sunday 13th October from 10:30.

We hope to see lots of Fowey Primary children there!

Parents Evenings

A reminder that Parents Evenings are the 29th and 31st October. Appointments will go live on eSchools next week.

We do expect all parents to meet with their child's teacher three times a year. If you are unable to make parents evening, please make an alternative appointment with the teacher.