

FOWEY PRIMARY SCHOOL

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Autumn Newsletter 1

13 September 2019

Dear Parents and Carers

Welcome Back!

It's been lovely to see all the smiling children this week - how they've grown over the summer! The teachers and I have been very busy working away on new handwriting, spelling and maths resources and teaching strategies which we're very excited to share with you over the coming weeks.

We have welcomed Miss Ball (covering Mrs Warnham's maternity leave in Coombe) and Miss Atherton in Cannis. Sadly, Mrs Mitchell has decided not to return to Fowey. We have recruited a replacement TA who will start in the next couple of weeks.

We've also booked trips for all the classes throughout the year; look out for more information on these soon.

Have a lovely weekend,

Kate

Diary dates 2019



19 September - Chartwells Parent Launch

24 September - Lunch and Learn - Carne

25 September - 9.00am - Parent Forum Meeting

26 September - Lunch and Learn - Readymoney

1 October - Open Day at Fowey River Academy

1 October - Lunch and Learn - Coombe

3 October - Lunch and Learn - Gribben

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

20 December - End of Autumn Term

6 January 2020 - Inset Day

7 January 2020 - Start of Spring Term

Parent Forum

The next parent forum meeting is on 25th September at 9am. Please send any suggested agenda items to admin@fowey.sch.org by Monday.

Jeans for Genes Day

We will be fundraising for Genetic Disorders UK on Friday 20th September by celebrating Jeans for Genes day.



Children can come to school wearing their jeans for a minimum donation of £1 (in cash on the day please).

Monday 16 September

We have been asked by Cornwall Council to let you all know that they cannot provide a traffic warden on Monday 16th. This means there will be no-one supervising children crossing the road.

Please do everything you can to ensure that everyone crosses safely on this day and support children who walk to and fro school alone.

We have raised our concerns about this but we have been told that they currently have no capacity to offer any cover at all in Fowey, should Helen not be available.

Photo Consent

We have sent a link out to all parents/carers to update your photo preferences. Please ensure that you complete this form. If we do not receive a response from you by Friday 20th September, we will assume that you give consent.

Netball

Netball practice will be on Wednesday each week, not Monday as previously stated. We're sorry for any confusion this causes.



This does, however, mean that children can do Netball as well as Football each week.

If you have already completed the clubs form and would like to do Netball on a Wednesday please just submit another form with only this ticked.

If you have signed up for Netball on Monday you will automatically be allocated a place in Netball on Wednesday instead.

Toys

A reminder please that children should not be bringing any toys into school. This includes Rubix cubes and fidget spinners (unless, of course, they are part of an agreed plan for SEND children and recommended by a professional). This is because children get extremely upset when they get broken or lost and we cannot take responsibility for keeping them safe. It also causes lots of falling out on the playground when one child has a toy and others do not.

ALDI Vouchers

We are collecting ALDI Vouchers. We need at least 300 in order to be able to enter and receive sports equipment. If we enter, we could also win £20,000 which would be a tremendous investment in sports at our little school. Please help by sending in any stickers and asking your friends/family to collect for us too. There is a box in the main office or children can bring them in and put them on the chart.

Fixed Penalty Notices

Just a reminder that we cannot authorise any holiday during term time and that Fixed Penalty notices are issued by Cornwall Council once children accrue 10 sessions of unauthorised absence (for whatever reason).

If you decide to take your child out of school, without permission, you will be committing an offence under the Education Act 1996. We will refer the matter to Cornwall Council who as the issuing officer who may decide to take legal action against you. A penalty notice can be issued under Section 444A and 444B of the Education Act 1996. This carries a fine of £60 if paid within 21 days or £120 if paid after this but within 28 days. Fines are issued per parent/carer, per child. Failure to pay the penalty notice may result in Court action. Persistent absences not authorised by the school may result in a prosecution in the Magistrates Court, leading to fines up to £2,500 and/or custodial sentences.

Forest School and Yoga

We are delighted to announce that we have appointed two local people to teach Forest School and Yoga regularly in school. Lantic and Cannis children will have Forest School every Tuesday and all children across the school will have a 30 minute Yoga session every Wednesday.



Lantic and Cannis will be outside in all weathers on a Tuesday so please ensure they bring a change of clothes in a named bag (if you like they can leave this on their peg), a waterproof coat with a hood, waterproof trousers and wellies.



Book Trust Packs

All children in Lantic will receive a Book Trust pack today. We hope you enjoy reading The Cave.

Home Reading

Reading at home, every single day, is the most important thing you can do to help your child with their learning. Children who read regularly find it so much easier to access all other areas of learning and a child's reading age directly correlates with their outcomes in all areas of the curriculum.

We would love to read individually with every child every day at school but we simply don't have the staff or the time to physically do this. It is absolutely essential that parents and other adults take on this responsibility at home.

We are beginning our new home reading systems on Monday so all children should come home with a new reading record and book.

Children who are still accessing phonics will bring home a Read Write Inc book which matches their phonics level. Please bear in mind that these are colour coded differently to our previous books so you shouldn't be concerned if your child's colour has changed. You should find that the books coming home are much more closely matched to your child's learning in school which we hope will accelerate children's progress in reading. It is important to remember that your child needs to continue to read the same book until they are very fluent reading it and are no longer needing to 'sound out' the words. At school, this takes children 4 days so we would anticipate that most children at home will only need to change their book twice a week and you should expect to re-read the same book at least four times before it is ready to be changed.

Children are re-assessed in phonics every six weeks so you shouldn't expect your child's book colour to change any more frequently than this. It is common for children to move back and forth as they gain a secure understanding of the sounds in each set so please don't worry if your child returns to the same book colour more than once (although we are sorry that you'll have to listen to that set of stories again!)

Children who have finished phonics (who are secure in a grey book) will move on to reading from their class library. This is a collection of brand new books, kept in their classroom and from which children can choose freely. Your child will bring home a special journal of reading activities. They should write the title of their book on the front so won't have a conventional reading record. In order to change their book they must read it and then complete at least three activities in their journal. They can complete one journal per book if they would prefer.

Spellings

We will also send home weekly spellings (they will come home on a Monday in the pouch in the front of your child's reading record or journal). Please support your child to learn these spellings ready for their test on Friday. If your child has struggled in that test, they will bring home some additional spelling practice to do over the weekend so they are ready for Monday.

We teach spelling by teaching a different spelling rule each week. This may mean that some of the spellings appear too easy- this will be because the simpler words will be key to learning that rule (so- a Carne child might have the word 'attack' in their spellings because they are learning the a + double consonant rule, so will start with attack and move on to words like assistant and anniversary).

Maths

Last year we trialled an online maths platform called Doodle Maths, which was very popular with children and parents. We have purchased a whole school subscription for this and children will be set a weekly maths activity which they must complete online. We will send more details and log in information for your child over the next week.

They can also use Doodle Maths at other times to access a whole range of maths games, lessons and activities if they would like.

If accessing the internet is difficult for you, please speak to your child's teacher and we can make arrangements for your child to access Doodle Maths in school so they don't miss out.

Homework

Following feedback from parents, children and staff we have streamlined our homework approach this year to reflect the evidence that reading is the most important activity a parent can undertake at home.

To support this, we will no longer be sending weekly Maths and English activities home and instead ask everyone to commit to daily reading.

Project Homework

We will continue to send home a termly project based active task during the holidays, which is optional.