

# FOWEY PRIMARY SCHOOL

Windmill, Fowey, Cornwall PL23 1HH

Tel (01726) 832542 email: admin@fowey.sch.org

**Head Teacher - Kate Sicolo**

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## Spring Newsletter 7

29 March 2019

### Dear Parents and Carers

It has been all about the guinea pigs this week at Fowey! The indoor and outdoor cages have arrived, we have bought a lovely run so they can have lots of space and the children are so excited for them to be here.

Lots of children have made name suggestions. We will narrow down the options and hold a whole school vote next week with all the children across the school.

Thank-you to all the families who have volunteered to look after our new friends in holidays and at weekends. We will send a rota round to you all in the next couple of days so you can see when you need to help.

*Kate and the Team at Fowey*

Kate Sicolo  
Headteacher

### Diary dates 2019



4 April - Invisible World Event at Eden  
4 April - Yr 5/6 Celebration of Work  
5 April - 1.15pm Easter Egg Hunt  
5 April - 2.00pm Easter Bonnet Parade  
5 April - End of Spring Term  
23 April - Start of Summer Term  
29 April - 2.00pm Parent Forum  
6 May - Bank Holiday  
13-17 May - Yr 6 SATs Week  
24 May - 2.00pm Parent Forum  
27-31 May - Half Term  
1 July - School Closed - Inset Day  
3 July - 9.00am Parent Forum  
25 July - End of Summer Term

### Swimming Gala

We were delighted that our swimming team came third at the Swimming Gala at the Dragon Centre this week. Congratulations to all the brilliant swimmers who took part and thanks to the parents who helped by volunteering to support this trip.



### Mrs Truscott

We are delighted to announce that Mrs Truscott is pregnant again! She will be with us until July, teaching in Year 3, but will be on maternity leave next year. We wish Talyn, Matt and Ben great congratulations!

### Easter Bonnets and Egg Hunt

We hold an Easter Egg Hunt every year; this year it'll be at 1.15pm on Friday 5th April, just before the Easter Bonnet Parade at 2.00pm. Siblings are welcome to come along at 1.15pm if they'd like to join in with the Hunt. We'll send an online form out today so you can sign up siblings. We ask for a £1 donation for any sibling, just to cover Egg cost.



Join us on the field for our Easter Bonnet parade at 2.00pm. Children can make a Bonnet at home, bring it in on Friday and join in with the parade. We are asking for a £1.50 donation (in cash) per child.

## Saturday Morning Girls Football

### Biscovey Blues'

One of our parents is now running a Saturday morning football session, just for primary age girls. It is a fun, friendly way for girls to learn football skills and play matches. They train every Saturday 10-11 am at Biscovey School (except tomorrow 30 March), run by Simon Miller (Isabelle and Freddie's dad).

[Simonmiller33@hotmail.com](mailto:Simonmiller33@hotmail.com) or see Biscovey Blues on Facebook

## Year 5 & Year 6 End of Project Celebration

On Thursday 4 April Parents/Carers from Readymoney and Carne are invited to the Hall from 2.00pm to celebrate the children's work this term around their project 'Can Fowey lead the energy revolution?'

## Access Ramps

Thank-you all for your patience while we construct the new ramps, which are essential for some of our children. We know it is inconvenient to have them fitted during term time, they were scheduled for last summer holiday but due to problems with procurement at Cornwall Council this is the soonest they could be installed.



## Parent Forum

We held our first parent forum meeting yesterday. There was a very good turn out and we thank all the parents who came along for ensuring it was a very positive and productive meeting. We will continue with one parent forum meeting a month (held on different days as some parents have requested).

The next meetings will be:

Monday 29 April at 2pm

Friday 24 May at 2pm

Wednesday 3 July at 9am (as we're on camp in the last week of June)

### Today, we discussed...

#### Parking

We all agree that parking around the school isn't good and that we are worried about the risks to the children of the buses and parked cars.

*Continued .....*

## Attendance

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

This week, the following classes reached their target:-

|                |             |
|----------------|-------------|
| <b>Carne</b>   | <b>100%</b> |
| <b>Coombe</b>  | <b>100%</b> |
| <b>Lantic</b>  | 98.54%      |
| <b>Gribben</b> | 98.33%      |



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

|                    |        |
|--------------------|--------|
| <b>Readymoney</b>  | 96.13% |
| <b>Cannis</b>      | 95.86% |
| <b>Polridmouth</b> | 92.73% |

**Well done to Carne (Year 6) and Coombe (Year 3) who achieved 100% attendance this week.**

## HLTA Recruitment

We are delighted to have recruited a new HLTA, Miss Elliott, who will join us from Bishop Bronscombe School straight after Easter. She will lead PPA sessions in all the classes, including PE. She has lots of experience leading PE and currently leads swimming and netball after school at her current school. She is also a qualified paediatric first aider and life-guard. Miss Elliott will also be running Oceans sessions on Monday-Wednesday each week.

## **Parent Forum continued ...**

It is causing a problem when more than one car parks in the disabled bay as there isn't then space for a wheelchair to use the lowered pavement.

Concerns were raised that there isn't enough parking locally (in Squires Field) and that, even though, parking in the main car park is free before 9am this isn't regularly used.

Some parents raised that Cornwall Council offer a 30 minute parking pass for school parents in other areas of the county but other parents felt this wouldn't actually help as it's free at the moment and isn't much used.

We also discussed the positioning of the lollipop lady and whether this is in the best place.

We agreed that we would:

Include the idea of a walking bus in the next newsletter and see if there are sufficient parents to lead this to school and home each day.

Contact Cornwall Council and ask if they could send a representative to our next meeting to listen to our concerns.

Discuss with Cornwall Council why the lollipop lady is asked to stand where she is and to consider whether a second person is needed.

## **School Meals**

We are currently at the beginning of a process to see if school meals can be contracted out. This is because the school is losing a very significant amount of money each term subsidising meals which cannot continue.

We explained the procurement process and asked parents to tell us what their priorities would be.

Priorities were:

Always a hot meal, not sandwiches

Good quality ingredients and a proper meal cooked from scratch

Made on our site in our kitchen (not a reheated meal made elsewhere)

Continues to offer the very best nutritional meal for the children, while meeting all government requirements.

We explained that a number of these things had already been included in the pre-requirements for the contractors and that things like hot meals and it being made here from fresh ingredients are already non-negotiable.

We will calculate the per meal cost increase we would need to have in order to keep school meals 'in-house' but as the government provides a per meal set amount for KS1 children this is likely to be very high for KS2 children as they would effectively have to subsidise the younger children.

We looked at a possible menu for the summer term and agreed a number of changes, which I will discuss with their manager on Monday. We also agreed to ask the children what their favourite school dinners are and to try and include these, which we will do in assembly on Monday.

## **Extended Schools/Cross Country etc**

Parents raised concerns that we hadn't participated in local events e.g. athletics at Par or the Speech festival in St Austell. When we talked about these things, parents realised that the school had taken part in all of these events.

We asked parents to let us know if there are local events so that we can decide whether it is worth the children participating. We also asked that parents volunteer to support with these things as we do have a limited number of teachers.

*Continued .....*

## **Parent Forum continued ...**

### **Wednesday Workshops**

We explained the staff reasons for not continuing with Wednesday Workshops, which are:

They were only ever a 55 minute session and the quality of those sessions was not always strong

Qualities taught at Wednesday Workshops (e.g. sports, collaboration, art and drama) should be central to the curriculum and taught continuously not just on a Wednesday afternoon!

They are a very significant cost (as an indicator, we are charged between £120 and £150 by the professionals who come in to lead Wednesday Workshops per 55 minute session) and in 2016-2017 we spent over £10,000 on Wednesday Workshop sessions.

It was agreed that we won't continue with Wednesday Workshops and staff will discuss this with classes this week.

We also agreed that we really don't want to lose the opportunity for children to work collaboratively across the whole school, not just in phases. Parents suggested we did this on collapsed curriculum days. I will speak to teachers about whether this could work and update you all at our next meeting.

### **School Funding**

Like all schools, we are in a very difficult financial position and are projecting a deficit of £38,000 next year. As an academy, we are not allowed to set a deficit budget and so difficult decisions are having to be made to ensure that we can set a balanced budget.

We will talk about this in more detail in our April meeting but things parents can currently do to help are:

Sign up to volunteer! We are increasingly short of support staff and teachers are hugely grateful for someone who can come in a morning/afternoon a week and change bookbags/stick sheets in books and generally help out in the classroom. We do ask that you don't do this in your own child's class (as they'll find you being there very distracting!). We also really need creative people to help with displays.

Don't allow your parent pay debt to build up. Unlike other schools, we continue to offer a hot lunch even when an account is in very significant debt. Some parents owe hundreds of pounds. If you are in significant financial difficulties, please do speak to us as we can pay some things from pupil premium but this level of debt is causing a significant financial burden on the school. Similarly, we ran a significant debt for camps last year as people signed up but then didn't pay. The school can't continue to do this.

Pay your class contribution if you possibly can. We know it's difficult for everyone to find extra money but it really is essential that class contributions are paid if we want to continue to run trips and special activities (like the space dome, Punch and Judy and astronomer visits) in our school. 47% of parents have currently paid. If this situation doesn't improve significantly, some classes will have no trips next term at all.

Support the FUNdraising Team and their events both financially and by helping out.

We are keen to work with any local business who might like to sponsor us. If you have any contacts like this, please do let us know.