

FOWEY PRIMARY SCHOOL

Windmill, Fowey, Cornwall PL23 1HH

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

Head Teacher - Kate Sicolo

Proud to be part of Peninsula Learning Trust, a company limited by guarantee
Registered in England and Wales at Charlestown Road, St Austell PL25 3NR
Number 07565242. An exempt charity



Summer Newsletter 6

5 July 2019

Dear Parents and Carers

It is so busy here at the moment! The school feels so happy and excited all the time, which we love 😊

Thank-you to all the families who came along and supported the children at Sports Day, they are so thankful to have you here and it is wonderful for them to see us all working together.

We are just about recovered from our London trip. The children were an absolute delight and it was a pleasure to take them. We look forward to many more residential adventures with children in different classes next year.

Next week we have a half day for all our new starters, Year Six Art day at Penrice and a second transition day here. We are looking forward to another sunny week!

Kate and the Team at Fowey

Uniform Supplier

Following parental requests, our uniform is now supplied by Cornwall Screenprint. They are hoping to attend both Parent's Evenings this term so this is a good opportunity to speak with staff from Screenprint or you can pop into their shop in St Austell.

Wovina will, of course, honour any orders you may have placed recently.

Lunch and Learn for Coombe

Unfortunately we will need to cancel the Lunch'n'Learn for Coombe this term. An extra session will be arranged next term. Apologies for any inconvenience.

Diary dates 2019



5th July - Year Six leaver's party

6th July - Summer Fayre

15th and 17th July - Parents Evenings

17th July - 2.00pm - Leavers Assembly

23rd and 24th July - Lion King at Fowey River Academy

25th July - KS2 Cinema Trip

25th July - End of Summer Term

4th September - Inset Day

5th September - Start of Autumn Term

21st-25th October - Half Term

9th December - School Closed - Inset Day

20th December - End of Term

School Fete on 6th July

Don't forget to join us on Saturday for our Summer Fete. The FUNdraisers have done a terrific job and there is a huge range of exciting activities planned including Forest Schools, raffle, tombola, cake stall, BBQ, many different bouncy options and some very special visitors. Please spread the word, share our Facebook posts about it and encourage as many local people as possible to come along and support our school.

All children attending must be accompanied by an adult and the site remains 'no dogs' please.

Leavers' Assembly

All parents are welcome to join us as we say farewell to our wonderful Year Six children on Wednesday 17th July at 2pm.

KS2 Cinema Trip

Following overwhelming support on Facebook, we have booked St Austell Cinema to take KS2 to see the Lion King on Thursday 25th July. Letters and consent forms will come home for this next week. The cost will be £9 which should be paid via ParentPay.

In order to be able to go, we need at least 80% of parents to pay for this trip. If less than 80% have paid by Monday 22nd we will need to cancel (this isn't because the 80% are subsidising the 20%, rather that 20% is the absolute maximum the school can put in to 'top-up' the cost of a trip at this point in the year).

Lion King

KS2 children will be performing the Lion King at Fowey River Academy on 23rd and 24th July. Tickets will be available on Parent Pay for KS2 families on Monday 8th July with any spare tickets going on sale for all families on 15th July. There will be no allocated seats so all you need do is pay via ParentPay and we will send your tickets home.

Tickets will be £5 this year to cover the cost of licensing the Lion King, which is £595.

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:-

Lantic	100%
Polridmouth	100%
Gribben	98.96%
Readymoney	98.61%



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

Coombe	96.00%
Cannis	95.69%
Carne	93.06%

Parents Evenings - 15th and 17th July

Appointments are still available if you have not yet booked to meet with your child's class teacher. The booking system will close at 9.00am on Monday 15 July so please ensure you book appointments prior to this date.

Parent Forum

Thank-you to all those parents who attended our forum this week.

We discussed:

Catering

Chartwells have been successful in winning the tender for our school lunches from September. They will come along in the next few weeks to do a special session for parents/carers where you can trial their lunches and ask any questions you may have.

Homework

Staff are currently reviewing homework options for next year as we know Homework isn't always consistent at the moment and isn't always completed/reviewed. We are looking at several options including an online platform for children to complete maths homework. Although some parents really like that homework is currently optional, we discussed the problems this causes across the wider school and how this perception is leading to some children not completing anything at all at home, which is problematic.

We will complete our review of this and feedback to all parents about how homework will look in September, in the next couple of weeks.

Residential Visits

We all agree that the London residential was an outstanding opportunity for the Year 5 and Year 6 children to learn beyond the walls of our school. We would like to expand this next year to include very short (overnight) residentials for children in Y1/Y2 (somewhere in Cornwall) and Y3/Y4 (somewhere slightly further but still locally e.g. Devon or Plymouth). We will continue to explore this and come back to you with options next year.

Home Reading

From September, you will see a very significant change in the way we do home reading. This is because we currently have a very significant gap in outcomes for pupils in reading across the school. We are seeing a far greater number of children achieving greater depth in reading generally (which is fantastic news!) but we are not seeing this improvement in all children (so pupil premium children and boys are currently much less likely to achieve greater depth in their reading than non-pupil premium girls. To ensure that all our children have the same chance of getting greater depth and being absolutely outstanding readers we are making the following changes:

EYFS/KS1

Children in EYFS and KS1 will read the same coloured book as their phonics group. We reassess the children every six weeks; some will remain in the same group, some will move along (forwards or backwards) as needed. Children's books will remain at the same colour while they remain in that group.

When children first start to read, they will read Sound books like these:-

These are small books, which have one decodable word (a word which can easily be broken into common sounds like 'cat') per page. They will be the first introduction to a home reading book and are designed so that all children can experience success with a book from the very beginning.



Once children are confident with these, they will bring home Read Write Inc books like these:-



These books will be matched specifically to the phonics group your child is working in. They are coloured differently so you cannot make a comparison between your child's current book band and the colour they bring home in September. You should also expect your child to move between colours and they may return to a colour if they return to that phonics group which is common.

It may appear that your child's books are very easy for them. This isn't the case; it is just that the children should now experience the same sounds in their home books as they do in their school books- which should make their reading more fluent.

Children will continue to read these Read, Write, Inc books until they can confidently read grey books (which is the expected standard for Year 2). Because children will read the level which is appropriate for their need, rather than their age, you should expect Year 2 children to reach grey at different points and some Year 3 or Year 4 children may continue to read at this level.

As Read Write Inc don't currently produce non-fiction books to go home, we have also bought a new range of non-fiction texts called Explore.

Once Children have completed Grey books (usually at the start of Year 3)

Each classroom will have its own class library. This library will be made up of high quality texts; novels, poetry and non-fiction as well as magazines in some rooms. Children will be encouraged to select their own book from the class library which will then be their home reading book (as well as their school reading book when they have a moment!) These books will be recorded in the reading record and children will need to complete two book activities (e.g. a book review and a summary paragraph) before moving on to their next book. This is so we can assess their understanding of that text.

Some of the books are very long (or very interesting!) so you should expect your child to change their book less frequently. Every child should have a book at all times.

Why do we think this is such a positive move?

We have been able to invest £4,500 in new books; which has generated huge excitement with the children. They will be reading new texts which look like real books and are in much better condition.

Children's reading at home in KS1 and EYFS will much more closely match their phonics learning in school. This should mean that children learn faster and that their phonics knowledge is solidified at home.

It also gives you a good idea of your child's phonics learning in school and you will be able to see any sounds which they find trickier.

All children should be able to find books which appeal to them. There will be a greater range and we hope this will incentivise and interest children who are not automatic readers.

We will have a range of books available at Parents' Evening for you to look at so please do feel free to come along and chat to us more about this exciting change.

Uncompleted Work

Occasionally, children choose not to complete their learning in the class-time. This isn't because they are unable to access the work but happens sometimes when children refuse to complete their learning or when children choose to leave the classroom. Fortunately, this is rare at Fowey but at the moment, we keep these children in at break or lunch to catch up this missed learning. We have to do this so they are not behind for the next day.

We know that parents do not like this system as they believe, and we agree, that children who have had a tricky morning need time outside to run off steam and start afresh in their afternoon. I also believe that teachers need their limited lunch and break time to give themselves a moment in the day to catch their breath.

However, the fact remains that children need to complete this missed work so that they do not fall behind. From Monday we will send this work home on the day it has been missed. Attached to it you will find a slip explaining what happened and any notes the teacher thinks you might need. It will need to be completed that night and returned to school (there is a space for you to sign so we know you have received it and been told what happened by your child). If it isn't completed at home, we will give your child time to do it at break or lunchtime.

If your child walks home the class teacher will text you so you know to expect some work.

Thank-you for your support with this.