

FOWEY PRIMARY SCHOOL

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Autumn Newsletter 3

21 September 2018

Dear Parents and Carers

It's been a very exciting week at Fowey with the launch of our first 'hook days'. These will happen at the beginning of every term and are designed to get children really engaged and enthused about their coming topic.

We have included lots of photos (attached) so you can see the great things that are going on.

Kate

Kate Sicolo
Headteacher

Diary dates 2018



25 Sep - Y1 Hearing Screening

4 Oct - NO Violin Lessons

11 Oct - Individual and Families Photographs

18 Oct - Nasal Flu Vaccination - More Information to follow

22-26 Oct - Half Term

19 Dec - INSET Day - School closed

20 Dec - INSET Day - School closed

7 Jan 2019 - Spring Term Starts

Volunteers for Fundraising

Our FUNdraising group make a tremendous contribution to our school, fundraising for books, play equipment and key resources for the school. They have lots of exciting things planned for the next year but urgently need more parents, carers, relatives and family friends to help out at events or with organising.

Please do let the office know if you can help and we will pass your details on to them. Alternatively, please do catch one of the FUNdraising group and they can tell you all about it!

London and INSET day - 28 June 2019 - Reminder

This 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!

Oceans Pick Up

Oceans staff are only paid to be on school site until 5:30. It is very important that children are collected on time as we can't expect staff to stay here waiting with children beyond 5:30. Many thanks for your co-operation.

Class Contributions

I understand that there is some confusion among parents about the changes to the curriculum and associated costs.

If you have yet to do so, we would really encourage you to watch our videos, which explain all about the new curriculum. We also held three open sessions for parents last term, to explain this to you. We would encourage parents and carers to attend such sessions when we hold them as this gives you the best opportunity to understand changes in advance, to ask any questions and to help us make improvements before things come into place. The videos are available here <https://www.useloom.com/share/0f79094cb39141f5aea83c5d45b2704d/>

The class contributions this term are contributions towards (but nowhere near the complete cost of the following):

EYFS Lantic (£10) to cover Punch and Judy Performance, professional Storyteller visit and at least two trips to beaches and rivers in the local area.

Yr 1 Cannis and Y2 Gribben (£25) to cover Punch and Judy Performance, professional Storyteller visit, trip to Plymouth Aquarium and at least two trips to beaches and rivers in the local area.

Y3 Coombe and Y4 Polridmouth (£25) to cover Overnight space camp at school with dinner and breakfast, space dome experience <http://www.spaceodyssey.co.uk/newsite/home/> and trip to Porthcurno Telegraph Museum.

Y5 Readymoney and Y6 Carne (£20) to cover ingredients for running their own pop-up restaurant, visits from the Royal Cornwall Show, Food for Thought, Yummy Scrummy bakery and other local restaurants to teach the children the practicalities of running their own business, Pop-up cookery school <http://www.littlekitchenmagicians.com/>, trip to a large commercial farm in North Cornwall and trips to food producers in the local area.

If you would like more details of what the class contributions are for, please speak to your child's class teacher. We will send a letter out just before each trip, outlining more details for you.

We didn't want to announce things like Punch and Judy in advance as we wanted it to be a surprise for the children!

Class contributions are a donation towards trips, extra special visitors and activities which the school wouldn't normally be able to afford. We have made this change because parents and the PVG group are very regularly asking for more trips and more experiences for children beyond the classroom. They will be retained in a specific budget line for that class (so any donations made to pupils in Y6 Carne remain within the Y6 budget). Any monies donated above and beyond those spent on the specific project that term will be retained by that class and used for trips in their next project (hence reducing that cost).

We have allowed parents to pay this as an 'upfront' cost following concerns raised by parents that it is difficult for people to budget when they get regular letters home asking for contributions. This way, everyone is clear as to what the contributions for any particular term might be. Things like swimming will be included within this cost later in the year and you can either pay it as a lump sum or pay small amounts each week, as you choose.

Donations are of course voluntary, but without sufficient donations, some activities will not be able to take place. Just as an example, the cost of the Little Kitchen Magicians pop up cookery school is £475 for one day and a coach from Fowey to Helston is £650.

Earrings - Reminder

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.

Financial Practices at Fowey Primary

Just to reassure all parents, the governors at Fowey Primary are fully updated as to the financial position of the school. There are regular finance updates at all governors meetings and governors regularly challenge financial spending (as you can see from the minutes which are published on our website following each meeting). There are two allocated finance governors (Chris Price and Chris Williams) and I meet with them once a term to discuss the budget, any shortcomings and allocated spending.

Fowey Primary receives all monies allocated to us from the Department for Education (less a very small contribution made to the trust for central services e.g. IT, HR and legal insurance/ support). It is for the senior team and governors to make decisions as to how this is spent. We have also been allocated additional funds from the trust this year to spend on IT, roof repairs, lighting, health and safety outside and bringing the inside of the school up to a good standard (e.g. painting and new furniture). This money is allocated by the Department for Education as 'capital funding' and is ring-fenced for improvements to the school building and infrastructure. The Department for Education set very clear parameters around this funding and we are not allowed to spend it on trips, staffing or activities for the children.

PPA Cover

Mrs Bingley has now moved on to her exciting new role. Unfortunately, we haven't yet been able to recruit the right person for our HLTA role so we are advertising this role again.

As an interim measure PPA (teachers legally have to be given at least 10% of their time each week for planning, preparation and assessment) will be covered by Mrs Geach in EYFS/KS1 and Mrs Butler in KS2. We are hugely thankful to them for their flexibility.

Mrs Barnes has one whole day out of class per week, which enables her to do some of her deputy head and SENCO work as well as having her PPA. This will be covered by a supply teacher until October half term. Miss Bird (who is joining us in October as our new Y4 teacher) will then cover Tuesdays in Y2 for Mrs Barnes.

New Minibus - Reminder

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!