

Tintagel Primary School Newsletter

January 2019

See this newsletter and more on our school website www.tintagel.cornwall.sch.uk



Dear Parents and Carers

Happy New Year and a warm welcome to Term 3. We will now be publishing a monthly newsletter. Weekly information will be by text, website and twitter feed plus class letters.

This term our Value is

Honesty

Through our leadership assemblies, our approaches to pupil development and wellbeing and our PSHE curriculum we will be thinking about how reflecting honestly on the choices we make enables us to 'catch mistakes', take responsibility for them and put them right. We will also be taking an honest look at what kind of 'mind set' we have as learners, and how positive attitudes build self-belief and resilience when we are challenged. Being honest with ourselves and each other is the first step towards achieving great things.

Linked to our Value, our term 3 Enquiry Question is:

'How Are There Two Sides To Every Story?'

Curriculum



In so many interesting ways, each class will be exploring this thought provoking question and discovering new learning, including: A journey into the land of Fairy Tales and some important questions about how some Fairy Tale characters get a bad press!

'How old is really old?' Our younger children will be exploring archaeology and looking for clues in order to track back through time. They will be thinking about early man and exploring life in the Stone Age.

Class 3 children will be immersed in a fantastic local study which compares the archaeology of Tintagel Island with the mythical stories of King Arthur and his Knights of the Round Table. Alongside this they will have the privileged opportunity to go behind the scenes of the new bridge construction which links The Island to the mainland, and observe engineering in action! Modern day history in the making.

Class 4 have already travelled back in time to enter the study of Charles Darwin. They will soon be following his momentous voyage on The Beagle and thinking about how Darwin's theories on evolution have changed the

history of our understanding about who we are and what we might become as we evolve.



Of course, each step of our Enquiry learning will be supported by a really enticing selection of wonderful children's texts, opportunities to explore the arts, and invitations for the children to challenge themselves with new learning. We are truly in the business of growing our brains!



Achievement – Something to Be Proud Of

In 2018, Tintagel School was:

- The fourth highest performing school in Cornwall in terms of the percentage of pupils meeting the expected standard in reading, writing and maths at end of KS2
- The fifth highest performing school for overall performance of all pupils at end KS2
- The highest performing primary school for average scores in Reading and Maths at KS2

The School Performance Tables for 2018 were published just before Christmas and it is clear that Tintagel School has done extremely well in comparison to other schools both in Cornwall and nationally. Go to <https://www.compare-school-performance.service.gov.uk> – for a more in depth look. This is as a result of a great deal of hard work by staff and pupils. We pull out all the stops and aim high for our children. Please encourage and support your child so that they can achieve their absolute best. Parents play such a vital role in these achievements and so the work continues this year...

Achieve and Mastery Workshops

For 2019, the leadership team and staff have once again coordinated a really focused drive to further raise standards in Maths and Writing. This is for those children who have the potential to make improved progress with the right attitude for learning, and a little support from staff. Some children have the potential to work above Age Related Expectations and we would like to offer them the opportunity to reach this potential. Other children need a little extra nurture in a small group situation and some learning gaps to be consolidated so they have the confidence to reach Age Related Expectations. The first priority will be pupils in Year 2 and Year 6 who have statutory assessments this year. As with last year, members of the teaching and TA team across both schools will be running **Achievement and Mastery groups** throughout the Spring Term.

We strongly advise that parents support these clubs and ensure pupils attend. Some of them offer an early start, but our experience shows us that children are often more sharply focused first thing in the morning. These early clubs also mean that children are not withdrawn from other lessons that they may enjoy during the day. Parents of selected children will receive a letter detailing the workshops and the date they will commence. If you have any questions or concerns, please just come and talk to us.

Year 2 and Year 6 Learning Conversations

In order to keep parents really informed about the forthcoming statutory assessments for Yr2 and Yr6 (SATs), teachers would like to share learning conversations with the parents of Year 2 and Year 6 children in order to ensure children and parents are well prepared and confident about their progress towards individual targets for the end of Key Stage tests in May. We will also share important information about how you can best support your child. These will take place next week, week beginning 14th January, please sign up on the class sheets in the front entrance.

Driving Aspiration for our Staff and Pupils

Teachers and TAs across our school are currently involved in a number of high profile projects which will enable our school to be at the cutting edge of school improvement nationally – much of it drawing on important research into aspects of curriculum and learning, as well as using action research to support pupil wellbeing. A brief snapshot here will give you just a glimpse of some of our training and research over the coming months which will benefit every child:

- Early Excellence Writing Action Research Project – early acquisition of writing in Reception
- Education Endowment Foundation project linked to maximising achievement of Pupil Premium children.

11th January 2019

- Kingsbridge Maths Hub – development of Maths Mastery and observing the world class Shanghai Maths approach
- Trenance English Hub - developing excellence in Reading
- Royal Shakespeare Company affiliation focusing on Othello this year
- Mental Health Awareness and Understanding – how can we ensure that children have the personal resilience to reach their best potential?
- International STEM (Science, Technology, Engineering and Maths) Conference – exploring brain development, questioning and creative approaches to learning
- Aspire Standards of Excellence – a core project to develop aspects of Safeguarding, Sex and Relationships Education, Health and Wellbeing for young people.

We hope you will agree that the above opportunities will bring a wealth of expertise back into our schools and will ensure we continue to strive for the very best for our children and families.

Census Day and School Finance

Next Thursday, 17th January 2019, is a National School Census Day. This is when the Department for Education (DfE) collects information about each school to help them plan for the future and, **most importantly, the data is used to set future school budgets.** One of the figures we have to report is the number of Reception and Years 1 & 2 children who are having a Universal Infant Free School Meal (UIFSM) on this day.

The census data is then used to decide how much funding for the year we get for our hot meals. This means that if your child does not have a meal on Thursday, we will not receive any further funding for the rest of the year. If your child chooses to have a meal on another day, we will have to fund this from our school budget.

We do not receive funding for the amount of hot meals we supply, only the number of meals eaten on the two census days in October and January each year.

Our solution to this problem is to ask every child in Reception, Year 1 and Year 2 to try the hot meal on Census Day. Then your child will be fully funded to have hot meals during the year thus saving the school any additional costs. Thank you for your support. To encourage children to have a school meal we have chosen one of their favourites, so therefore, the meal for next Thursday 17th January has been changed to the All Day Breakfast.

A Warm Welcome to New Staff

I am sure you will join me in welcoming some new staff for 2019. Mrs Jess Campbell is joining us as an intervention teacher whilst Mrs Ubly is away, and she will support children in both Delabole and Tintagel throughout the week.

Our new Class 4 teacher at Tintagel is looking forward to joining the team straight after half term but will be involved in the planning process alongside Mrs Kirkman this term. Unfortunately, I am not in a position to disclose her identity to parents until next week but will release this asap.

I'm sure you will join me in congratulating Miss Binney - who gave birth to another little boy just before Christmas, and Mrs Ubly who has had a baby boy just this week. We send them our best wishes and hope they will be in to see us soon.

Some of you may have noticed that Mrs Lowe has been spending a little more time in the Tintagel office this week. We are delighted to now have her full time as part of a wider plan to use the talents of Mrs Bosley to support a wider network of local schools whilst still based in Tintagel and Delabole.

Mastering Mindfulness using Art and Nature – A Parent Workshop

This new opportunity is the brainchild of Nia Thorpe – our Class 2 teacher at Tintagel. Nia is a qualified yoga teacher who has a passion for the development of yoga and mindfulness in schools. She will be supported by Nicky Sanderson (our lead TA on pupil wellbeing and mental health at Delabole who has a passion for the power of outdoor learning, and is a qualified Forest School and Trauma Informed School practitioner). We will also draw on the talents of other local experts such as art therapists.

When? We aim to facilitate this programme of workshops through the Spring and Summer Terms. The first session will be on Thursday 14th February. This will take place from 2.30pm till 4.00pm with a parallel club offering child care at school. Further dates for the next sessions will follow.

Where? Kudhva, a unique location on Sanding Road, just above Trebarwith Strand

Who? Parents and grandparents are welcome.

When someone is practising mindfulness, they are completely present in the moment they are experiencing. In our workshop we will be exploring this skill through art and nature based activities which can be shared with children and which can hugely build personal resilience, instil calm and a sense of wellbeing. Please go to our website and follow this link for further information.

<https://forms.office.com/Pages/ResponsePage.aspx?id=rVOWGVbBBUq60whMGjC2GAfllLxo5whMpYJ0ex9H5IpUOEM5SzRVM041SDcySDQzVjhLTUJKTUpVNy4u>

A Few Gentle Reminders

- Just a reminder that our school policy is to not accept any medication in school unless it has been prescribed by a doctor and has the child's name and dosage clearly on it. This means that the school is not able to administer Calpol. That said, parents are welcome to drop in and administer a dose if it is needed at lunchtime.
- Inhalers – Please can you ensure that if your child is on our asthma register then we need to have an inhaler in school. If medical circumstances have changed please inform the office.
- It is important that all pupils have their own water bottle which they bring to school daily. Children are encouraged to drink water regularly during the school day. At lunchtime they are allowed to have juice, but anything fizzy or sparkling is not permitted. We appreciate your support in this. We do not permit the drinking of juice in class throughout the day. Water is best for rehydration.
- On occasions when your child is unable to attend school due to illness, please would you contact the office on the first day as soon as possible in the morning. This will prevent unnecessary phone calls. We also require a brief call on every subsequent day of absence since we must input specific codes each day.

Bikeability Balance and Learn to Ride

We are again able to participate in the Bikeability Balance programme for our Reception children. This is an initiative to inspire children in Reception to take to two wheels. Bikeability Balance is a series of school-based sessions that aims to give children the basic balance and co-ordination skills they will need to learn to ride a bike. These will take place in March and a letter with further information will follow.

We have also been given the opportunity to provide a Learn to Ride programme which is for children in Year 2 and above who are unable to ride a bike. If you would like to your child to participate in this, please contact the office.

Closure Due to Bad Weather

In the extreme circumstances of the school being closed for bad weather you will be notified via text, this will also be confirmed on our website and via Pirate FM.

Key Dates

Because we are publishing a monthly newsletter, we have tried to plan any class-based enrichment activities and events well in advance in order to help parents 'save the date'. Further details for each event will be sent home via a class flier or text to confirm details nearer the time.

Key Dates this Term

Wednesday 30 th January	Class 4 Eden Project visit
Friday 1 st February	Class 2 visit to The Delabole Giant
Tuesday 12 th February	Class 2 Celebration of Learning Assembly 2:30pm
Wednesday 13 th February	Final Cross Country at Wadebridge
Thursday 14 th February	Last day of term 3
Monday 25 th February	First day of term 4
Monday 25 th Feb – Friday 8 th March	Swimming Class 3 and Class 4
Monday 11 th – 22 nd March	Swimming Class 1 and Class 2
11 th , 18 th , 25 th March and 1 st April	Bikeability Balance for Reception
Thursday 14 th March	Class 3 visit to Tintagel Castle
Friday 5 th April	Last day of term 4
Tuesday 23 rd April	First day of term 5
Monday 6 th May	Bank Holiday
Tuesday 21 st May – Friday 24 th May	Y6 London Residential
Friday 24 th May	Last day of term 5
Monday 3 rd June	First day of term 6
Friday 7 th June	Community Cohesion Day – School Closed
Monday 17 th – Wednesday 19 th June	Y4/5 Porthpean Residential
Thursday 24 th July	Last day of term 6


Sue Cox and the Team