

Tintagel Primary School Newsletter

September 2020

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



Dear Parents and Carers

Firstly, we would like to wish you a very warm welcome back after the longest time away from school. Never before have we been so glad – and so relieved – to welcome our children back and pick up the threads of learning together. It is especially important to extend a heartfelt welcome to those parents and children who have joined the school for the first time and under such strange circumstances. You have all done a fantastic job in supporting your children who have returned with open hearts and a willingness to reconnect with learning.

This welcome has to go hand in hand with a huge thank you for the trust you have placed in us. Average attendance this week has hovered around 97% which tells us that you want your children to be in school with their friends and you understand the critical importance of now settling them, making sure they feel safe and then rebuilding their progress. There is a great deal to do this year and although none of us can know what lies ahead, we definitely need your help to get them back on track.



Staff have very much focused their energies on shaping a safe environment with all the hygiene protocols you would expect, but also sitting alongside this is a wholehearted return to full educational provision. Our core business is learning, and we do this through creative approaches and a genuine hunger for innovation. This is because we believe that children learn best when their experiences are enticing, rich and meaningful. Much of our learning this term will be based in nature and a love of the great outdoors. This is because we know that being in nature is good for children's emotional wellbeing, and because it provides us with so much wonder and inspiration. It is the beginning of what I hope will be some great adventures in learning.

So now our work begins again...

Everything we do depends on Trust and Collaboration.

As we start a new autumn term here at Tintagel Primary School, the staff and pupils have begun to explore the theme of 'Trust and Collaboration'. Under this whole school value sits our Enquiry Question 'How are we stronger together?' Our shared INSET Days were spent considering how we can build an unshakeable culture for learning, and our responsibilities in making sure our children feel safe and reach their best potential, as we prepare them for life in a future we can hardly imagine. It goes without saying that at the heart of this vision is partnership with our community.

Class Organisation from September 2020

Those parents of children in Class 1 will have begun to get to know Miss Wheldon and will see that she has settled into her new role at Tintagel so swiftly that the children have had a fantastic first few days. It feels like she has always been with us already.

Improvements To The School Environment

The relentless drive to improve our school environments has kept up its momentum over the summer break. In Tintagel, we have had a new carpet laid in the EYFS/Yr 1 classroom and new, more hygienic floor and wall coverings installed in the kitchen. There are further works planned to the exterior of the building over the coming months.

Important information about drop off and pick up.

In our absolute commitment to the highest standards of safeguarding, could we please remind parents that we are unable to hand children over to adults at the end of the day, unless they are named on the contact sheet or we have had a message directly from a parent giving permission for a last minute change. Children will always be handed to an adult when eye contact is made. It helps us if parents can stand back a little so we can see who is who. Clubs are released from the front of the school, please wait behind the school gate.



Drop-off and Pick-up Protocols

A huge thank you to all our parents for helping us to run these staggered starts and ends to the school day so smoothly. We have tweaked them slightly throughout the week to make sure children are safe and parents feel confident. They are now running really well. If children arrive late, the various gates will now be closed from 9:00am so they will only be able to enter the school via the front entrance. Late arrivals must be recorded on our system for statutory safeguarding responsibilities and are monitored by the Education Welfare Officer so please do encourage children to arrive on time. Early morning learning is often focused on Reading, Phonics our fundamental number work as part of our Recovery Curriculum. Your child is missing vital learning if they are even 5 minutes late!

Meet and Greet and Parent Workshops.

The staff have a strong commitment to working in partnership with parents and we absolutely know that this dialogue around each child helps us to personalise provision and therefore shape a more positive school experience for them. For that reason, we would like to welcome you into school at this early stage of the year so that each teacher can share routines, key messages and give you a flavour of expectations. You will also have the opportunity to ask general questions so we can clarify any concerns you may have from the outset. No concern is too small. A sequence of early Meet and Greet sessions will be held this term at the end of the day before pick-up and a letter will be sent home detailing these next week. Due to social distancing, they will be held in the school hall rather than the classrooms. We have important information to share so we hope that as many parents as possible will attend. There will be Tapestry, Seesaw, Phonics and Maths sessions during the autumn term but unfortunately no Book Snuggle.

School Uniform

The children look fantastic in their smart new uniform this week. Thank you. To help us keep control of lost property, please name everything. We will check for named clothing next week. A particular thank you to all those parents who have ensured their children have the correct PE kit and have brought wellies into school.



Water Bottles

We really encourage all children to have access to a school water bottle. The links between good hydration and better learning have been confirmed for many years now. Our school water bottles are available from the school office for £1.75. It is imperative that staff can monitor what and how much is being drunk in class. The posh metal containers are unsuitable for this and also are a hazard if they fall off surfaces. Any questions about this, please just contact the office to talk to Mrs Cox. We appreciate your support for this policy.

Digital Learning Strategy

Never before has it been more vital that schools have a sustainable online option for learning. If children cannot come in to school for any length of time, we are committed to ensuring they can continue learning from home. For many children, the gap in progress has widened because of the lost months in school since March. For that reason, there will be an expectation that all children complete home learning using our Tapestry and Seesaw platforms.

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Home learning is a vital opportunity to nurture independent learning, gives you regular insights into what your child is learning and enables children to approach learning in their preferred learning style. As always, we aim to balance creativity with the more formal overlearning and practising of skills. This will all be clarified at the Meet and Greets. Some parents have expressed concerns that home learning can become a burden at home. If you are experiencing difficulties, just contact your child's class teacher. Together we can sort it out.

Clubs

Our club list is hot off the press and should have reached you electronically. I am delighted with the range and breadth of opportunities on offer for such a small school team – and especially under the current Covid restrictions. Each club is linked to the class 'bubble' so there is no transition of children from one class to another. This does restrict us a little but over the year, we intend to ensure that children get a range of choices so that there is something for everyone.

Additional INSET Days

Schools are allocated 5 training days each year and we use these primarily for important school review opportunities, or to update our knowledge and delivery of core subjects. This year a significant amount of our time during the September INSET days was spent finalising Risk Assessments and checking hygiene/safety protocols for our reopening. For this reason, the Aspire Board of Trustees have granted all Aspire schools two additional training days. These will take place on 11th June which is traditionally the Royal Cornwall Show day. Teachers will use this day for report writing. The other additional day will be Thursday 11th February and will be off-set against twilight Phonics Training. The term dates can be viewed on our website.

Permissions & Information

We will continue to use last year's permissions regarding photo consents, walk home alone authority and collection arrangements. If you would like to make any changes, please contact the office via email on hello@tintagelschool.org.

This year we will not be sending out the Data Collection sheets for you to check and return. Therefore, please could you log in to Arbor and check the information we have on file is up-to-date, if you need to make any amendments please do so. You should be in receipt of the Annual Medical Declaration form via email, this is an important document that needs to be returned even if it is to show a nil return.

Communication

Schools are under huge financial pressure at the moment and we are constantly seeking out ways to save money and work in a more sustainable way. For that reason, in order to be more environmentally friendly and to reduce paper usage, our main method of communication moving forward will be via the Arbor App and email. Therefore please ensure that you check your emails regularly for really vital updates. Texts will only be used for urgent short-term messages not for prompts to check emails.

School Photography

The School Photographer will be coming in to take our annual individual photographs in the afternoon of Thursday 24th September. Due to current restrictions we will not be offering a family photograph for siblings that do not attend our school, however, siblings within our school will still have a photograph together.

Diary Dates

An overview of term date is available on our website. We will publish a list of dates till Christmas in the next newsletter. Please be aware that current guidance says KS2 SATs dates for 2020 are the week commencing 10th May. It is vital that all Year 6 children are in school for these end of Key Stage assessments.



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Best wishes

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Sue Cox', written in a cursive style.

Sue Cox and the team
