

Otterham C P School

Headteacher : Helen Ward
Email: head@otterham.cornwall.sch.uk
Tel. 01840 261344
www.otterhamschool.co.uk



Marshgate
Camelford
Cornwall
PL32 9YW

Dear Parents

20th September 2018

A very warm, belated welcome to any new families that have joined us this September and an equally warm welcome back to the new school year, for families that know us well. Now that we are within our second full week it seems a good time to send an initial newsletter pointing everyone in the right direction for the way ahead.

Communication

As we move towards the formation of the North Cornwall Multi Academy Trust, schools are working together and sharing knowledge regarding how we can save money. One such way is how we communicate with you on a day to day basis. The Teachers to Parents messaging service which we have used for a number of years has a cost implication every time a message is sent, which I'm sure you can appreciate, adds up over time. All schools within the MAT are moving to a new service called 'Xpressions' which is free.

As many of you are aware, we are experiencing teething problems with Xpressions and we do appreciate the parents who are talking to us about the difficulties they are having. Please be assured that Kerry especially is working very hard to iron out any issues but this appears to be easier said than done! There are a couple of things you can do to help yourself however.

- Firstly, please sign up! There are 16 parents who are yet to sign up to Xpressions. The appropriate paperwork has been sent out twice.
- Secondly, a trouble shooting sheet has also been sent out giving instructions on how to make sure you receive notifications. Having spoken to the company myself I have been assured that they have checked the systems their end and so it is down to people's individual phone settings. Please follow the instructions on the sheet (copy in foyer) and if all else fails contact the company directly. Kerry is gaining an increased knowledge of the application on our system but really doesn't know about your phones.
- Finally, whilst we all get to grips with Xpressions, (and maybe beyond), any messages will also be sent to your email addresses. This is also free and you should get a notification on your phone, depending on your settings.

Fingers crossed on that one!

Aspens Select

A small number of you attended a meeting held by Aspens last week, explaining their new online ordering and payment system. This is another change that we will all need to get our heads around but we have been assured it will make life easier for everyone, when given feedback from schools already using it. The paperwork is attached and you will see that it is to start on Friday 12th October. We strongly advise that you sign up as soon as possible so that any difficulties can be dealt with before the 'switchover'. In a nut shell, you will pay for and order your child's meal (i.e. meat option, vegetarian option, jacket potato, packed lunch and dessert), before 9:30am on the day in question. If you are very organised, and your child's meal choices are unlikely to change, you could order for the week ahead on a Sunday or even before. If your child is Free School Meals or in Rec, Y1 & Y2, meaning you don't pay for meals, you will still need to log on and choose your child's meal. We live in hope that this is more straight forward than Xpressions!

Breakfast Club

We are increasing the daily charge as stated in the July Newsletter with effect from Monday 24th September. If we are in receipt of Pupil Premium for your child the cost will now be 50p per session. If not, the charge will be £2:00 per child per session. If this affects your child being able to attend, please talk to us. We are confident it still represents excellent value for money.

Request for old kit

Could we please ask that any unwanted football kit (boots, shin pads, socks), is donated to school so that children who forget kit have access to a school reserve of necessary items. We have a few smaller sized boots and so are particularly looking for sizes 3 +. This will be much appreciated and used. Thank you in advance.

Friends

The first Friends meeting of the new school year will be on Thursday 27th September, 9:00am. EVERYBODY is welcome and new faces desperately needed to spread responsibilities and divide the workload. It really is, 'the more the merrier'. If you would like to support but are unable to make the date, please let school know and we can pass your name on for future reference. Miss Forbes is a good point of contact within the school.

Enterprise Challenge Day

All children will be embarking on an enterprise challenge day on Monday 24th September which will have an emphasis on building skills for life. Listening effectively and working as a team will be key to success during the day and the activities planned will be different from the normal school day. Without giving too much away, we do need to ask for your help.

WE NEED DONATIONS OF 'JUNK' – PLASTIC BOTTLES, TUBES, BOXES, CLEAN AND SAFE TIN CANS

The children will be building and so you may have other items that are suitable for such a project.

Again, thank you in advance!

Coffee Morning

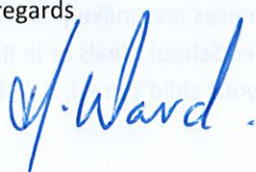
Thursday 11th October, 9:00am – school hall. You are all very welcome to come along for a relaxed, informal gathering where Mrs Burke (SEND/CO), Mrs Blackburn and I will be available to chat.

Parking

It has been brought to our attention that cars are being parked dangerously, particularly outside the entrance to the staff car park. This area needs to be left completely clear, as indicated by the markings placed by Cornwall Council. It is illegal to park here as it causes a danger to children crossing from the walkway to the village hall and also the obvious obstruction to staff and visitors being able to enter or leave the car park. Please park sensibly, most importantly for the safety of our children. The advice from the police is that should you see a car parked illegally, you can take a photograph (including registration) and send to them. Thank you for your cooperation on this matter.

I hope that, combined with the paperwork sent out on Monday (Diary Dates etc), you have enough information for the time being. However, if you have any queries regarding anything at all, please do not hesitate to ask a member of staff, who will do their utmost to help.

Kind regards



Helen Ward