



# NEWSLETTER



14/9/18

## Welcome

We have welcomed three new members of staff and over thirty children to the school over the last couple of weeks. Miss Melley and Mrs Maroney have joined us as teachers and Mr Pardew has joined as our new caretaker. They have settled in well, as have our new children in the Foundation Stage. Their part-time attendance in smaller groups has allowed them to get used to the environment and classroom routines so that when they all attend together on Monday it should be a smooth transition.

## Advertisements

We currently are advertising for new staff. We hope to appoint two new Teaching Assistants and two new Meal-Time Assistants. If you are interested, the application packages are available on the school website under the 'About Us' tab. Closing date for MTA applications is next Thursday and the following Monday for the TA posts.

## PGL

Most of the year 6 children have enjoyed a fantastic week at the PGL centre, Beam House, in North Devon. They have experienced a whole range of adventurous activities and had to organise themselves and their equipment without a helping hand from their parents. It has been a great success with many children enjoying that exhilarating feeling of having achieved something which they were scared of the look of initially.

## After School Clubs

For this half term we are arranging our after school clubs a little differently. Our investment in the table tennis tables has proved to be very popular but many children don't pay too much notice of the table and even less to the rules when playing. It is great fun to whack the ball as hard as you can when it comes near you but that is not why we spent so much of our Sports Premium grant on the tables! To enable children to be able to master the basics of table tennis and to gain an understanding of the rules we are inviting groups of children to have an intensive course of table tennis induction. This means that a group of children will be invited to stay after school each evening for a week so that they can build up their skills quickly. The following week a different group of children will be invited.

## Deacon James

We are lucky that for the first time we have the support of a chaplain from the Cathedral Parish. Deacon James visited the school on Wednesday to meet the staff and some of the children. He will become a regular feature of school life. If any parents would like to meet with him to discuss any matters he would be more than happy to spend time with you.

## Attendance

Last year our attendance figure was well below our target of 96%. Nationally most children have less than five days of absence in a whole year. This is the same for Foundation Stage children as all others. For the last two years our Foundation Stage class attendance figures have been much lower than other classes. Once registered at school the attendance expectations of children is the same regardless of age. Please ensure your child is in school whenever he or she is well enough. If you are unsure whether your child is well enough please send them in as children often perk up once they are in school.

## Term Dates 2018-19

Please find below the dates for this school year. Please plan any holidays around these dates.

Tues Sep 4 <sup>th</sup> -Thurs Oct 18 <sup>th</sup>	Mon Jan 7 <sup>th</sup> - Thurs Feb 14 <sup>th</sup>	Tues Apr 23 <sup>rd</sup> - Fri May 24 <sup>th</sup>
Mon Oct 29 <sup>th</sup> -Fri Dec 21 <sup>st</sup>	Mon Feb 25 <sup>th</sup> - Fri Apr 5 <sup>th</sup>	Mon June 3 <sup>rd</sup> - Fri July 19 <sup>th</sup>

\* May 6<sup>th</sup> is a Bank Holiday ( Year 6 SATs wb 13/5/19)