



Autumn Term

Newsletter 7

20 October 2016

[www.tavistockcsf.org.uk](http://www.tavistockcsf.org.uk)

TCSFinfo 

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## FEDERATION NEWS

I can't believe that we are at the end of a half term already, it only seems like five minutes ago that we were welcoming children back after the summer break and now the chilly weather is drawing in and we are starting to think about Christmas! As always, the children have been great this half term and it has been lovely to see them working so hard.

**Appointments.** Over that last few weeks we have been very busy behind the scenes interviewing for staff. Our first appointment was for Emily Ramsden. Emily will be taking over in Year 4 to cover the rest of Miss Harris's maternity cover. She will be with us until the summer holidays. If you have a child in Cox Tor class please do feel free to go up and say hello. Emily has been in school for most of this week so that she is fully prepared to take over after half term. I would like to say a huge thank you to Mrs Prout and Mrs Semmence who have been teaching the children in that class this half term. Mrs Prout now returns to her Year 5 role and no doubt we will be seeing Mrs Semmence in her usual supply role. Additionally, over the last two days the staff, children, governors and I have been fully involved in interviewing for a new deputy head teacher to replace Sue when she retires at Christmas. We interviewed four very strong candidates and are very happy with our appointment. I need to allow the successful candidate's current school to inform parents first and then I will write out with more details.

**Parent Survey.** One of the things that the school signed up this year is a service called Perspective which mainly deals with internal school related things such as performance management systems. However, one of its key strengths is in the collation of data and so it is a very good way for us to send out surveys to parents, children and anybody else in the school community. Perspective have produced a survey all about how well your child has settled back into the new school year and I would love you to complete the survey so that we can use the results to inform our practices/ procedures etc. To access the survey you will need to click this link...

<http://perspective.angelsolutions.co.uk/diagnostics/Survey.aspx?link=ef784a7f-9595-459a-ac9c-932507a9426d>

The survey will stay live until 25th November 2016. If you would like to fill in the survey but do not have access to a computer then we will make the computer suite or laptop available during parents' evening.

**Improving maths** (my passion and so please forgive the lengthy piece)

**Maths Information Sessions.** In school we are working very hard to continually improve the mathematics outcomes for our children. There are many things associated with improving children's mathematics and it is definitely a subject where home and school need to work together. Over the next term or so we will be offering a range of support for parents to help you better understand how maths is taught, the strategies that children use and ways that you can help your child develop mathematically.

Anybody who knows me would tell you that I am passionate about mathematics and one of the things that drives me, is ensuring that our children grow up being positive about mathematics. One of the key ways in which children are helped to improve their mathematical understanding is through developing their confidence. This is done through feeling that it is ok to make mistakes, exploring and playing with numbers and strategies, not making things too difficult too early, realizing that there is often more than one way to solve a problem and also by talking positively about the subject. It is not uncommon for a parent to say that they are not surprised that their child is not very good at maths because they weren't. This is reflected across the country as a whole. I must admit that it saddens me a little when adults who would never dream of saying that they struggle to read very well will say that they can't do maths. I have rarely come across an adult who cannot work out change or sort out ingredient quantities or split a box of sweets out four ways for their children - which is mathematics. Often, what adults are referring to as not being very good at maths are the more abstract aspects of mathematics such as equations and not the sort of maths that children of primary school age encounter until right at the very end. Please could I urge

all parents and carers to talk positively about mathematics with their children, as I know that it makes a difference to how they view the subject.

A key message that we give the children is that we are all always learning and as well as the curriculum sessions for parents I would like to run a trial where we can offer sessions on maths skills for parents and carers of the children in the school. I have attached a slip to the newsletter and also created an online survey where you can write down any areas of primary mathematics that you feel you would like more help with. If there is interest we will run some sessions to help parents with their understanding. This can be accessed by computer or mobile and I will leave the survey open until 25th November.

[https://forms.office.com/Pages/ResponsePage.aspx?id=VMlk51CoRkafx0jYHChc69N7DFeAXpJKqW\\_Dj3x1Yk1UOTY2MDdXOUYyMIFNTVYOThXNUJGR0k0Vi4u](https://forms.office.com/Pages/ResponsePage.aspx?id=VMlk51CoRkafx0jYHChc69N7DFeAXpJKqW_Dj3x1Yk1UOTY2MDdXOUYyMIFNTVYOThXNUJGR0k0Vi4u)

Just to leave you with a little maths thought that I saw the other day: 'Maths – the only place where you can buy 64 watermelons and nobody asks why!'

**Be Safe Be Seen Badges** – All children will be bringing home with them today reflective badges which have been donated by Co-op Funeralcare designed to help keep children safe this time of year.

**Parents' Evenings.** Sign up sheets are available in the offices for parents' evenings as follows:-

**Monday 7<sup>th</sup> November** – St Rumon's Parents Evening: 3.20pm – 6pm @ St Rumon's school site

**Tuesday 8<sup>th</sup> November** – St Peter's Parents Evening : 4.30pm – 7pm@ St Peter's School site

**Wednesday 9<sup>th</sup> November** – St Rumon's Parents Evening: 3.20pm – 6pm @ St Rumon's school site

**Thursday 10<sup>th</sup> November** – St Peter's Parents Evening : 4.00pm – 7pm@ St Peter's School site

**Parents' evening for Year 5 and 6 children.** Our Year 5 and 6 children's Parents' evenings are going to be called family learning conferences and, as mentioned before the children will be taking a much larger role in it. In order for them to work well, parents of children in Year 5 and 6 will need to come in before their meeting time so that they have time to look at the classroom and in books with their children.

**Open morning for St Rumon's-** The date for this year's Open Morning for prospective parents is Wednesday 9<sup>th</sup> November from 9.45am-11.30am. We will produce a poster soon but in the meantime please do share the date with prospective parents.

**Love in a Box** – Last week, children came home with a Love in the Box leaflet. Mustard Seed Relief Mission is a charity providing relief aid to children in Eastern Europe. In keeping with our Christian values, we are encouraging children to pack a small shoe box with small Christmas gifts either on their own or with a friend. These boxes are then taken to Eastern Europe to be distributed to children at Christmas time. Last year we managed to collect **100 boxes** and it would be great to beat that target! We would love to see as many children taking part in this act of love & generosity. Boxes will need to be returned by Friday 11th November



**School Christmas Fair-** Christmas is round the corner again and we would like to begin planning our school Christmas Fair. A meeting will take place to begin making arrangements on Tuesday 1st November, 7:30pm at St Peter's. We would welcome any volunteers who are able to assist in planning the fair to attend the meeting. If you are unable to attend on 1st November but are able to volunteer to help on the evening of the fair or in the run up to the fair, please complete the slip at the bottom of the Newsletter and return it to either school office.

**Toddler Group** – Held on Mondays from 1.45pm – 2.45pm at St Rumon's CE School. All families are welcome and refreshments are available. Please come along for music, singing, crafts and to meet new friends.

## ST PETER'S NEWS

**Netball club cancelled tonight.** – As previously advised, there will be no netball club tonight due to Mrs Giles attending a training course

**Road safety awareness** – Please chat to your children about general road safety and the green cross code! We have had a couple of reports of children not paying attention when crossing the roads and nearly being involved in accidents. We need all of our children to remember to take care when crossing a road and dealing with traffic.

**Recorder & Netball Club cancellation** – These clubs will both be cancelled on Thursday 10<sup>th</sup> November due to Parents Evening. They will restart the following week.

**Cycling Proficiency Club-** Please note that the next cycling club will now be on Wednesday 2<sup>nd</sup> November (due to school being closed for Goose Fair and the instructor being unable to make the 19<sup>th</sup> November). There will be an additional session on Wednesday 7<sup>th</sup> December.

**Year 3/4 Tri-Golf** – Congratulations to our team (Edward Small; Lucas Sullivan; Sion Hathaway; Leo Easterbrook; Noah Adams; Macy Polhill; Celie Hopes; Hannah Willis; Izzy Gawman; Angel Holland ) who came 1<sup>st</sup> overall!! They played really well and will now progress to the next round of the competition.

**Year 5 & 6 Bikeability** – This cycling safety proficiency course takes place during the week after half term so all children in Year 5 and 6 will need to bring their bikes and helmets into school on the first day back! All being well the weather will be great, but please can all pupils also bring wet weather kit and a change of clothes just in case! All children have received a consent form which needs to be completed and returned if you haven't already done so. The course runs from Monday to Friday and the children will need their bikes in school every day that week. If your child does not have use of a suitable bike or helmet- please let the office know as the course is able to bring spare bikes and helmets for children to use. Bikes can be locked overnight inside the school for security if needed.

**Drum Lessons** – Jack Toy gave a demonstration of drum lessons in assembly on Tuesday – he is hoping to start offering drum lessons on Tuesday mornings at St Peters – Please let the school office know if you would be interested in lessons for your child.

**Secondary School Applications – September 2017** - Due to a technical hitch within the Admissions Team, rather than letters being sent to school for distribution to your Year 6 children, they were sent directly to the homes of the students instead. Each letter has a unique identifying number specific for each child and information for parents on how to apply for Secondary School for September 2017.

**The application process opens on 1<sup>st</sup> September and the closing date is 31<sup>st</sup> October 2016.**

If anyone has not received a letter for their Year 6 child – please let us know or contact Admissions team directly on 01392 383000 / [sandra.dunstan@devon.gov.uk](mailto:sandra.dunstan@devon.gov.uk)

## ST RUMON'S NEWS

**Pumpkin competition-** Thank you to all the entrants! The correct weight was 7.7 kg and the winner was Zachary Ross with the closest guess! Well done Zach – you win the pumpkin!!

**Fact of the Week** – The letter on Mrs Weatherhead's badge after half term break will be J. Please discuss this with your children so that they can come in with some interesting facts about this letter. We look forward to hearing their ideas as they come into school each morning.

**Lunchtime Awards** – Congratulations to our lunchtime stars this week who were Beau Bradford, Lola Shillabeer & Jemima Trewartha-Wyatt. Well done also to Tavy Class who won an extra day's play on the climbing frames and scooters.

**ERIC** - We would like Every Child Reading in Class. If you can spare half an hour every Friday at 2.30pm to come into St Rumon's school and listen to children read, please let your class teacher know. We would

appreciate as many adults as possible to share books with children. Thank you.

### **AUTUMN TERM 2016 – Diary Dates**

**Half Term – 24-29 October 2016**

**Last Day of Term – Friday 16<sup>th</sup> December 2016**

**Monday 31<sup>st</sup> October** – Bikeability Week– year 5& 6

**Tuesday 1<sup>st</sup> November**- Christmas Fair Planning Meeting - 7:30pm at St Peter's

**Wednesday 2<sup>nd</sup> November** – Schools Communion Service at St Eustachius – 9am

**Monday 7<sup>th</sup> November** – St Rumon's Parents Evening: 3.20pm – 6pm @ St Rumon's school site

**Tuesday 8<sup>th</sup> November** – St Peter's Parents Evening : 4.30pm – 7pm@ St Peter's School site

**Tuesday 8<sup>th</sup> November** - Year 3/4 Tag Rugby Festival at Tavistock Rugby Club. 1pm start

**Wednesday 9<sup>th</sup> November** – St Rumon's Parents Evening: 3.20pm – 6pm @ St Rumon's school site

**Wednesday 9<sup>th</sup> November** – St Rumon's open Morning 9.45am-11.30am

**Thursday 10<sup>th</sup> November** – St Peter's Parents Evening : 4.00pm – 7pm@ St Peter's School site

**Thursday 10<sup>th</sup> November** - Netball Tournament at Whitchurch Primary School

**Tuesday 15<sup>th</sup> November** - Cyclo X at Tuell Farm, Milton Abbot - 10am start.

**Friday 18<sup>th</sup> November** – Children in Need Day

**Friday 9<sup>th</sup> December** – Foundation Stage Nativity Play – 2pm

**Monday 12<sup>th</sup> December** – Foundation Stage Nativity Play – 9.30am

**Wednesday 14<sup>th</sup> December** – KS1 Nativity - Tavistock Town Hall - 2.30pm and 6pm

**Friday 16<sup>th</sup> December 2016** – Last Day of Term

**23-24 February 2017:** Year 4 Residential - Pixies Holt, Dartmoor Outdoor Adventure Centre.

**15-17 March 2017:** Year 5 Residential - London.

**15-19 May 2017:** Year 6 Residential - Wye Valley

### **COMMUNITY NEWS**

**Tavy 7 Fun Run – 23<sup>rd</sup> October** –The course will be 1.5 miles. The cost is £3 for each runner. The fun run leaves straight after the main race at 11.05 am. All participants would need to be on the main field by 10.50 am. All runners finishing will receive a medal. See [www.tavistockathletics.co.uk](http://www.tavistockathletics.co.uk) for details

**Tavistock Community Football Club (TCFC) Auction Night & Kit Aid –Saturday 26<sup>th</sup> November** -TCFC are asking people to donate pre-loved good quality adult and junior football kit (shorts/ shirts) and boots/ trainers to charity in conjunction with Kit Aid – Please bring any donations along to the football club between 9.30-2pm.

TCFC will also be hosting an auction in aid of the football club on Saturday night from 7pm – Star lots include Chelsea FC Hospitality tickets for 4.

**AUCTION NIGHT**

**@ THE RED & BLACK CLUB**

**SATURDAY 26<sup>TH</sup> NOVEMBER**

**DOORS OPEN : 7PM**

**AUCTION STARTS : 7.30PM**

**Come along for a drink and support TCFC !!**

**Loads of Great Prizes to bid for...**



# KIT AID

Patron – Graham Taylor OBE

**Affinity Water**  
Your local supply, on tap



KitAid is a registered charity which collects and sends no longer wanted football kit (shirts, shorts, boots, goalie gloves and shinpads in good condition) to children and adults who also love football but live in some of the poorest parts of the World.

If you'd like to bring smiles to children who are as passionate about football as you are, it's time to 'tackle' your own boot rooms, bedrooms, lofts and garages and deliver any clean unwanted kit in a plastic bag or bin bag to:

**KIT AID COLLECTION**

**@ TAVISTOCK COMMUNITY FOOTBALL CLUB, CROWDALE**  
**SATURDAY 26<sup>TH</sup> NOVEMBER - 9.30AM – 2PM**  
**BRING ALONG PRE-LOVED KIT (Shirts & Shorts)**  
**GOOD CONDITION, CLEANED FOOTBALL BOOTS/**  
**TRAINERS (tied in pairs please)**



We welcome donations of adult and children's kit.

*Thank you for your support!*

If you would like to know more about KitAid log on to [www.kitaid.net](http://www.kitaid.net) or [www.kitaid.blogspot.com](http://www.kitaid.blogspot.com)  
Registered Charity No. 113988  
 Affinity Water's home grown registered charity

**Tavistock Wheelers Go Ride Cyclo cross series**

- Saturday 22nd October - Lewtrenchard School- The event is for boys and girls from School years 3/4, 5/6 and 7/8/9. Registration is at 8.30am with races starting at 9am. Entry fee is £3.00 on the day and all races and prize presentations will be completed by 10.30am

- Saturday 22nd November Venue TBA  
 Novices are welcome, only requirement is bike in good working order with knobbly tyres and helmet. These races are always friendly and fun and we help those who are "having a go".

Races for year 3,4, 5 and 6, and a girls only race

All competitors receive prizes; Prizes for the series of 3 races; Prizes for any parent helpers (entered in a prize draw for cream teas each race): Details *Tavistock Wheelers Youth Cycling Facebook Group*

**Burrator Reservoir Family Activities**

**Tues 25 Oct – 10am-4pm** - Following on from the success of the Tuesday sessions in August we are holding a Family Half Term Holiday to take part in a range of fun outdoor wildlife themed activities. Please drop in between 10am-4pm. £1 per person

**Sun 30 Oct – 10.30am-12.30pm** – Family

Wildlife Watch Session. Wear outdoor clothes and footwear, meet at the Discovery Centre, £1 per person. Hot chocolate & biscuits provided.

**Mon 31 Oct** – Our annual Halloween 'Spooktacular' Event with lots of traditional Halloween games, night walk and spooky storytelling. Organised in partnership with Ranger Ralph team at DNPA. £1 per person. *Please get in touch for more details and to book a place – 01822 855700.*

**Maths Information sessions: Child:.....Class.....**

I would be interested in attending a parents maths awareness session Y / N

Topics I would like to get more information about are (please circle) :-

Fractions / Place Value / Current teaching methods / Calculation strategies/ Use of imagery / Assessment Levels

Other (please detail).....

Signed.....

**School Christmas Fair**

**I am unable to attend the planning meeting but would be interested in helping organize the Christmas Fair**

**Name.....Contact Tel No.....**

**Child.....Class.....**