



FEDERATION NEWS - Another super week. This week I want to say a huge well done to the children in Tavy Class for their wonderful class worship all about Isambard Kingdom Brunel. The children were clear and articulate and it was an assembly full of fascinating facts. I am looking forward to seeing Kings Tor's worship tomorrow. (Don't forget that normal awards assembly is not on tomorrow at St Peter's.)

I also want to say a huge thank you and well done to our brave cross country runners (and their parents!) who raced on Whitchurch Down yesterday. The conditions were tough but our runners really did themselves proud with their excellent attitude, determination and team spirit. Well done all of you. The final round of the series will be in 2 weeks on Yelverton Aerodrome – fingers crossed for a warmer spring day!

Book Fair – thank you for supporting our book fair – we think we have sold approximately £800 which is amazing as we will receive a commission for the school!

Sensory Meeting for Parents - on 27th March at 9am at St Peters or 2pm at St Rumons - We have noticed that we have been speaking to an increasing number of parents about their children experiencing sensory difficulties at home, at school or both. Sensory processing is the way we process information from our senses throughout the day. The obvious senses are the noise and visual business of our walk to school, the taste and smell of the meals we eat, the feel of our clothes against our skin etc. However there are additional senses that tell our brains where our bodies are positioned in space and about our bodies movement. Some children are unable to process all this information and this can affect their ability to carry out day-to-day tasks in a variety of ways. If you would like to find out more information about sensory processing and the variety of ways in which we can help children with this please join us on 27th March at 9am at St Peters or 2pm at St Rumons. Parents are welcome to attend either session regardless of which school their children go to. This will be an informal session and we will provide tea and coffee and hopefully some biscuits!

We will try to provide an explanation of what sensory processing is and how it can affect us, along with some ideas about things we can do to help children who find this difficult. The sessions will be run by Mrs Anning, Mrs O'Boyle and Mrs Sloley. This is an area that we are trying to increase our knowledge and expertise in, so please feel free to join us if you have a child with sensory processing issues as it would be great to hear from other parents.

Equally we would welcome parents who don't feel that this is an issue for their children but would like to join us for a cuppa and a chat. All we ask is that you try to let either office know that you are hoping to attend so that we can gauge the correct number of biscuits to buy.

Parents' Evenings – Unfortunately with poor weather and staff illness the parents' evenings were a little disjointed this term. I am a passionate believer in that educating our children works best when there is a strong link and bond between the school and home and parents' evenings are a big part of that. With that in mind, it is essential that all parents do make appointments to either see or speak on the phone with their child's teacher and so, if you have not had the opportunity to yet, please contact the class teacher or the office.

Bigo – we have been asked by Plymouth Local Authority to pass onto parents a warning about a website and app called Bigo. It has been found to be potentially unsafe for children and so if your child uses it or you know of a child who does the advice is that they should not.

Rock Star Maths – I have written many times about times tables and in particular two apps/ websites that are great to use when learning tables. The resource that, as a school, we buy into is Rock Star tables. The children have got log ins and can practice at home either on a computer or by downloading the app. Hit the Button is a free website that is also excellent for times tables as well as other areas of mental maths.

Last week, as part of our ongoing work to improve times tables across the school, in St Peter's, we started awarding a Rock Star Maths trophy to the class where the most children were using the program. Our winning class last week was Cox Tor. I wonder who it will be this week!?. Please can you encourage your children to practice their times tables by using these apps or any other way that you see fit. As a quick

reference, here is a list of the times tables and division facts that children should know and by when.

	YR	Y1	Y2	Y3	Y4	Y5	Y6
Times tables and division Facts (and related facts)			<u>Rapidly recall x and ÷ facts for 2,5,10.</u> <u>Recognise odds and evens (3s if ready) from any numbers</u> Count in fives in relation to a clock face	<u>Rapidly recall x and ÷ facts for 3,4,8.</u> Begin to link tables facts to larger numbers	<u>Rapidly recall x and ÷ facts for 12.</u> Use to mentally multiply and divide numbers by making connections i.e. $45 \times 20 = / 0.7 \times 0.4 =$	Recall prime numbers up to 19. Quickly recall prime factors, prime numbers, composite numbers (non-prime) – USE THE VOCABULARY OF THIS	

What is a x fact and a ÷ fact?

- A x fact is basically a times table such as 3 multiplied by four = 12
- A ÷ fact often uses inverse operation (the opposite) such as $12 \div 4 = 3$

Children should learn to be comfortable with showing one calculation in four ways e.g. $3 \times 4 = 12$, $4 \times 3 = 12$, $12 \div 3 = 4$ and $12 \div 4 = 3$. As they get older they should become comfortable with using small numbers to help with large numbers or even smaller numbers e.g. $3 \times 4 = 12$ so $3 \times 40 = 120$ or $3 \times 0.4 = 1.2$. You will see from the table above that children by Y4 should know all tables and division facts to 12×12 .

This information along with all the other mental maths skills that children should just know and be able to use are published in our document entitled 'Just Know It'. This can be found on our school website: http://strumons.tavistockcsf.org.uk/website/mathematics_pages/295015 on this page you will also find a PowerPoint that lists the mathematics objectives that children should know by when.

PTA News

- Pupil Discos: Friday 16th March at St Peter's; 'Wear a Hat' disco for Foundation and KS1 from 16h30 - 17h30; 'Neon Glow' disco for KS2 from 17h45 - 18h45. £2/ child to include a hot dog, drink and face paint!

Please drop off at either office any unwanted bottles of wine, bubbly or spirits left over from the Festive Season. We can use them for the Summer Fair 'Water or Wine' game.

Sports Relief – Friday 23 March – we will be joining in with this event, by holding a “Boogie Friday” in the afternoon. Children may come to school dressed in sportswear for a donation to the charity.

Nut Allergies – as we have children and staff with nut allergies, could we please remind you that nuts should not be brought into school by anyone.

Toddler Group – Please note our toddler group is held at St Rumon's on Mondays and has a new starting time of 1.30pm and will run until 2.45pm. All families are welcome and refreshments are available. Please come along for music, singing, crafts and to meet new friends.

GOVERNORS' CORNER

All our federation governors give their time voluntarily and are dedicated and work hard to ensure that we provide a Christian and safe environment for all of our children to flourish and grow into sensible, mature and confident young citizens. They also work closely with the Senior Leadership Team (SLT) to confirm that we keep up to date with all new initiatives and government expectations.

As a complete management team (Governors and SLT) we always aim high, trying to achieve the very best that we can for the future of every child in our care. Over the next few weeks, we will be introducing you to the members of our Governing Body so that you can put faces to the names when you see them around the school. If you have any queries or concerns, please do not hesitate to approach any of them.

Co-Chairs of Governors

Mrs Louise Barrett – Mum to Eva Year 4 - I qualified as a Speech and Language Therapist in 1997 and worked for the NHS in Cornwall for several years, working with children and adults across a variety of different settings before specialising in adult neurological disorders. Since 2006 I have worked as a Research Fellow for the Clinical Neurology Group at the Peninsula Schools of Medicine & Dentistry, Plymouth University. My role involves developing and testing clinical outcome measures so I've gained specialist skills in assessment data analysis over the years.



I have been a foundation governor for several years now and was vice-chair before taking on the role of co-chair for this year. I am also part of the Action Plan Monitoring Committee along with our vice-chair Jacquie Sleep.

In my spare time I love reading, trips to the theatre and ballet, and spending time with my family at the beach or walking across beautiful Dartmoor.

Mr Steve Tripp – Dad to Emily Year 6 - I have been a governor for 6 years having been first elected as a parent governor as I wanted to have an active role in supporting both schools in their aim of delivering positive outcomes for all pupils. I have been involved in health & safety and finance and more recently have been elected as Co Chair with Louise Barrett. I am also involved as Chair of the Resources Committee which is responsible for all aspects which are non teaching related. I feel that it is important to get involved and support the Head Teacher and staff so that as a team we can work together in making the school a fun place to be whilst maintaining the focus on learning.



CHURCH NEWS

The Vestry Group - This is a group for children that meets during the family service each Sunday at 9.45 in the school newsletter. It is run by a team of 3 and provides craft activities linking to the theme of the main service. Informal and fun. Please come along!

Child Focused Family Services - Please see dates for **additional** child focused family services at St Eustachius. These services will be a Family Worship service and held once a month for the next few months, with refreshments available from 11:15 am and the actual service beginning at 11:30 am in church. **The service will aim to last for no longer than 40 minutes.** The dates are as followed:

- April 8
- May 13
- June 10
- July 8

Messy Church @ St. Eustachius' Church Tavistock

- Wednesday 4 April – Easter

Drop in from 3.30pm to 5.30pm in the church. Come along for –Hospitality (hot meal); Crafts, activities and games (lots of messy fun); Friendship (for all the family); Fellowship (short Bible based celebration).

All the family welcome (children accompanied by an adult please). There is no charge for Messy Church, but donations are welcome. Contact Sarah on 07929911892 or sarah.pendle0@gmail.com

ST PETER'S NEWS

Swimming – Well done to our swimmers last Friday – our team came joint first with Tavistock Primary and St Andrews – We will have to share the cup.

Lego Club – Please could any parents who would be willing to run the Lego club after school next term on Wednesdays let the school office know, as Mrs Ross is hoping to restart the chess club and we need another parent helper to run this club with Mrs Higham.

Tavy 13 Primary Challenge - Sunday 18th March –All children taking part should have received their letters this week. See Mrs Walker on Friday if you have any questions otherwise, simply register at Tavistock College between 8.30-9.30 at Tavistock College on Sunday morning. Final mile run starts at 10.05

Brass Tuition - Tuesday afternoons: Pete Jones has recently had an operation and will not be able to resume his brass music lessons until after the Easter holidays.

School Lunches- School lunches need to be paid for in advance please. Cost of each lunch remains at

£2.20, £61.60 for this half term. If paying by cheque please make it payable to St Peter's Junior School. Thank you.

Y6 Leavers' Party – a meeting has been arranged for all Y6 parents/carers to discuss this on Monday 19 March at 6 pm at St Peter's. All welcome and we look forward to seeing you then.

ST RUMON'S NEWS

PTA Disco – Fri 16 March @ St Peter's – please note all Foundation stage children **MUST** be accompanied by an adult. Thank you.

Sports Relief – Fri 23 March – we will be joining in with this event, by holding a “Boogie Friday” in the afternoon. Children may come to school dressed in sportswear for a donation to the charity.

After School Sports Club – a reminder that if your child is attending one of these clubs, to please make your payment to the school office. Thank you.

Breakfast Club – Please note that breakfast is served between 7.45 am and 8.15 am. We will not be able to provide breakfast after this time. Thank you.

Mobile Phones – as part of our Safeguarding policy use of mobile phones on school premises is not permitted. Can we please therefore remind all adults of this and ask that you ensure you end any phone conversations before you enter the premises. Thank you.

Coats – could we please remind you that children should come to school in a waterproof hooded coat, especially at this time of the year when we are experiencing inclement weather. Thank you.

Fact of the Week Badge – The fact of the week after half term will be the word “bright”. Please discuss this with your children so that they can come in with some other variations on the word and interesting facts about this. 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 Ruby Kingwell, Marcus Appleby & Jack Beilby. Well done also to Tavy Class who won an extra day's play on the climbing frame 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.

LETTERS SENT HOME THIS WEEK

- Y6 swimming
- Easter Disco
- Y5/6 Cross Country

Spring Term 2018 Dates:

Sun 18 March - Tavy 13 Primary Challenge final mile

Friday 23 March - **Sports Relief** “Boogie Friday” in the afternoon. Children may come to school dressed in sportswear for a donation to the charity.

28 March - Cross Country 3of 3 - Yelverton

Thursday 30 Mar-Fri 13 Apr – Easter Holidays

Mon 16 April – Summer Term Starts

Thursday 19th April – Y6 Class Transition Visit – Tavistock College @ 9.30am

Weds 23 May – 9 am – Schools' Communion for Pentecost @ St Eustachius Church

11th-15th June: Y6 Residential to Beam House

Monday 9th & Wednesday 11th July - Tavistock College Taster Days – Y6

Tues 24 July– End of Term Service led by Y6 Leavers @ St Eustachius Church– 2 pm

COMMUNITY

Burrator Reservoir - Family Wildlife Watch Programme -10.30am-12.30pm

Come and take part in a range of wildlife and heritage themed activities followed by hot chocolate and biscuits. We will meet at Burrator Discovery Centre, unless alternative meeting point has been advertised. £3 per child, £2 per adult.

- Sunday 25 March – Minibeasts
- Sunday 29 April – Wild Flowers