



FEDERATION NEWS - Christmas is fast approaching and the schools are filled with the songs and hymns associated. The children have also all been busy creating their Christmas displays and so please do have a look at their work when you are around the school. Additionally, the Christmas Club have created some really quite exquisite decorations to their tree in the church and so please do pop in and have a look. Coming up we have, as always, a hectic schedule for the rest of this week including KS2 sportshall athletics tomorrow morning, choir to open the Christmas Tree Festival and sing at the Dickensian evening tomorrow and the Y5/6 boys are playing a football match at Horrbridge Primary after school. Next week, St Rumon's children will be visiting the Christmas Trees in St Eustachius, some children will be singing at the Stroke Club and it is the Foundation Stage Nativity. Phew! If any of you are in the process of buying stocking fillers and your child can not yet tell the time, I would love to recommend getting an inexpensive teaching watch. It is important that children who are not able to tell the time should be given an analogue and not digital watch to begin with. Telling the time is a life skill that schools find very difficult to cover because of the huge diversity of knowledge. It would be great if all children could practice time-telling at home. If you have an older child who can tell the time and uses a digital watch why not set it to 24hr time so that they get used to that.

Festive Tavy Tidy – Don't forget that the 1st Saturday of each month is Tavy Tidy and so it would be lovely to see as many children and their parents there as possible. I think that it is fantastic that many of our children take part in this monthly event, linking them closely with their community. If you have not been before and would like to start, why not pop along to Meadowlands Pool just before 10:00am on Saturday. This week you could wear your best Christmas hat that you have been dying to get on, and at the end of the tidy there will be mince pies. Everybody, including four legged friends, is welcome.

Attendance – It is a school's legal duty to ensure that it does all it can to encourage children to attend school. Our teachers work really hard to make lessons engaging and challenging so that all pupils can learn well. It can be very disruptive for a class and an individual pupil if they are off in the middle of a unit of work as the teacher needs to find time to teach something to an individual that the rest of the class already know and the child needs to find a way of catching up. If a child has a stomach bug then they definitely should be away from school for the full 48hrs but often, just as with an adult, if children have a cold, they feel worse in the mornings and at night but actually perk up during the school day. Therefore, it is often best to send them into school and most children just forget about their cold and get stuck into their lessons. Where a child is really not well, we would make the decision to send them home.

The minimum expected attendance set for all schools is 95% and the rate of persistent absence is set by the government at 90%. Unless there is an known ongoing medical issue, it is extremely unusual for a child to miss that much school. Here is a table as an illustration to show the impact of different % of attendance.

Attendance Percentage	Equivalent days of a week missed	Over their Primary School life
95%	Half day per fortnight	14 weeks (More than a whole term)
90%	Half day per week	28 weeks (Two complete terms)
85%	$\frac{3}{4}$ of a day a week	42 weeks (More than a school year)

The school meets with the Education Welfare Officer each half term and, at that point, letters are sent home to parents whose children's attendance has fallen below 93%. From the next meeting onwards the letters will be sent out to parents if a child's attendance is below 95%. Often, especially if it is at the beginning of the year, this might be a blip which naturally rectifies itself. In the case that the attendance falls even lower than 95% then other steps are taken. If you ever feel that you need support with your child's attendance please do not hesitate to get in touch.

Baby News – Congratulations to Mrs Avis-Riordan on the safe arrival of baby Lillie. She was born on 10 November weighing 6lbs 7oz.

Clubs – Please note that this week is the last week of after school activity clubs. They have now finished until after Christmas.

Christmas Tree Festival & Choir– our school Choir will again be performing at the opening of the Christmas Tree Festival tomorrow (Friday 1st December) at 2.30 pm at St Eustachius, which everyone is welcome to attend. Please also look out for our Federation's tree, that has been beautifully decorated by our children attending Christmas Tree Club. A big thank you to all the children and parents who came last night to help set up the tree and again thanks go to Mrs Collacott, Mrs Hudson, Mrs Biddiss and Mrs Tripp who have excelled themselves this year and helped the children to produce some lovely decorations. Please do make sure that you go and see it during the Christmas Tree Festival in put in a vote for our tree (No.21)! We are also really pleased to announce that our tree has been chosen to feature in the Christmas cards that will be on sale (£4 / pack of 5) during the Opening ceremony.



Choir at Dickensian Evening – After singing in the afternoon at



the Christmas Tree Festival, our Choir will also be singing at Dickensian Evening and so I would like to wish them good luck. If you would like to pop by and show your support to the Choir during Dickensian Evening then they will be singing at 6.30pm outside New Look (Choir members to meet Miss Harris at 6.15pm and then be collected after the performance at 7pm). Many thanks.

Choir at Carols for the Community– Sunday 3rd December – Tavistock Town Hall: 6-7pm. Our Choir will be singing at this charity event organised by the Salvation Army. Please come along and support them.

Toddler Group – Please note our last toddler group this term will be held on Monday 4 December.

PTA: Dates to note for you diary:

Thanks so much for all the donations thus far for the Christmas Fair! Please continue to bring items in that you wish to donate, even if the letter gave dates for certain things to be brought in. We don't need any more toilet roll tubes, thanks! We can finally announce the amount raised at the Summer Fair! We have been awaiting the results of our request for match funding, but unfortunately this was not successful, so the total was just over £1,000. Thanks again for everyone's hard work and support!

A special thanks to Taylor's Restaurant who not only donated a raffle prize for our Christmas Fair, but also gave a voucher to the pupil who wrote the letter to invite them along with a friend for a hot chocolate! We were really pleased about this and the positive feedback from the recipients of the other letters written by the pupils. Well done, Year 5s!!

- **Christmas Fair** – Friday, 8th of December at St Rumon's from **4-6pm**. Please bring in toilet & kitchen roll tubes for the craft stall. Next PTA meeting date to diarise - 8pm on Tuesday 28th November -please note that these are **now held at the Bedford Hotel**.
- **Nativity Refreshments** - The PTA usually serves refreshments at the Nativity performances, but volunteers are needed to serve these. Please let the school office know or e-mail Michelle at mmstead@btinternet.com if you are able to help. We need 2 volunteers per performance at St Rumon's and 4 per performance at the Town Hall. Thanks!

Church News:

Confirmation Opportunity open to Year 5 & 6 - Our Vicar, Chris Hardwick, together with Trudi Massey and members of the Catylist Youth Team based in Tavistock, is preparing to deliver a Confirmation course on a Wednesday afternoon after School (finish by 4.15 pm). It is an opportunity to explore the Christian faith and there will be an opportunity to be Confirmed next year at St. Eustachius' Church, Tavistock, at the end of June by the Bishop of Exeter. Please talk to your child(ren) and see if this is a journey you may like to take. The following sessions are planned: 24th and 31st January, and 7th February 2018 next term. If interested, or would like to know more, please get in touch with Mrs Lewis at School or Revd Chris on 617432.

Messy Church at Tavistock Methodist Church (TMC) – Held on the second Thursday of the month from 4.30pm-6.30pm:(Next session:14th Dec). A fun time for families with crafts, songs, story, prayer and a meal.

Messy Church at St Eustachius Church – Held on the 1st Wednesday of the month in term time, from 3.30pm to 5.30pm (Next session: 6th Dec). A fun time for families with crafts, songs, story, prayer and a meal.

ST PETER'S NEWS

Christmas Lunch – Our Christmas lunch will be held on **Wednesday 13th December**. The festive menu will be Roast Turkey or Vegetarian Roast with all the trimmings followed by a choice of Christmas Pudding and Ice cream; Chocolate Cracknel or Fresh Fruit Salad. Please can **all children at St Peters** complete the slip at the end of the newsletter to indicate whether they will be having a school Christmas lunch and if so, their preferred choice of lunch. Please can all slips be returned to the office by tomorrow - 1st December. Thank you

ST RUMON'S NEWS

Family Worship - Please note that Wednesday 6 December will be the last Family Worship at St Rumon's.

Help Needed! – We have parent who lives in the Monksmead area who, due to medical reasons, needs a bit of help getting their child to school. If you live near and feel this is something you could assist with please contact St Rumon's school office.

Y1 & Y2 Nativity Tickets – tickets will be sent out early next week, so please remember to check your child's book bag.

Front Door – please can we remind everyone entering and leaving St Rumon's to pull the front door shut behind them. Thank you.

Dogs – can we please remind everyone that dogs should not be brought onto school premises or left unattended, as some children are frightened of dogs.

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.

Fact of the Week Badge – The fact of the week next week will be Tavistock. Please discuss this with your children so that they can come in with some interesting facts about this. We look forward to hearing their ideas as they come into school each morning.

Breakfast Club – Please note that breakfast will stop being served at 8.25am. Thank you.

Lunchtime Awards – Congratulations to our lunchtime stars this week who were Briony Pote, Eli Hathaway and Riley-Jay Flynn. Well done also to Plym 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.

Christmas Lunch – Children will be having their Christmas lunch on Thursday 14 December, and orders are now being taken by class TAs. As we have a small number of children that do not like roast dinner, we have included a pick and mix option this year. The choice of menu is as follows:- Roast Turkey OR Veggie Roast OR Pic n Mix (Ham or Cheese sandwich); Jelly & Ice Cream OR Xmas Pud OR Chocolate Cracknell OR Fruit Salad

Letters Home

- Christmas Lunch
- Sportshall Athletics

Autumn Term 2017 Dates:

Monday 27th November, -Dance Club Show - 4pm
Friday 1 December – 9.00 am-1.30 pm - Y4/5/6 Sportshall Athletics @ Tavistock College (trials held in-school between 13-24 November to select the teams for this event)
Friday 1 December – Tinsel & Chocolate Day at both schools
Friday 1 December – Boys football match at Horrbridge (League & Friendly)
Friday 1 December – Choir to sing at Tavistock ST Eustachius Church Christmas Tree Festival – 2.30pm
Friday 1 December – Dickensian Evening – Choir singing at 6.30pm by New Look
Sunday 3 December – Carols For the Community – Choir to sing at Tavistock Town Hall – 6pm
Monday 4 December – Boys football match at Whitchurch (League)
Thu 7 December – Choir to visit Stroke Club
Thursday 7th December – Foundation Stage Nativity at St Rumon's – 2.30-3pm
Thursday 7th December – Girls football match at Horrbridge (League & Friendly)
Friday 8th December – Foundation Stage Nativity at St Rumon's – 9.30-10am
Friday 8 December -PTA Christmas Fair @ St Rumon's : **4 – 6pm**
Wednesday 13th December – Christmas Lunch & Party at St Peters
Wednesday 13th December – Yr 1 & 2 (KS1) Nativity @ Town Hall, 2.00pm and 6.00pm
Thursday 14th December - Christmas Lunch party at St Rumon's
Friday 15 December – 2.00 pm Advent Service @ St Eustachius
Friday 15th December – Last Day of Term

Tuesday 2 January – Spring Term Starts

Thursday 4 January – Girls football match at Tavistock Primary (League)
Tues 16 January 2018 – NSH Eye Tests for Foundation Stage children
6th-8th February : Y5 London Residential
22-23rd February: Y4 Residential – Pixies Holt
11th-15th June: Y6 Residential to Beam House

COMMUNITY NEWS

Burrator Discovery Centre Events

- Saturday 16 December – Drop in between 10am-4pm - Christmas Wreath Making at Burrator! Come and make your own wreath out of natural materials at Burrator Discovery Centre. £7 a wreath. Support, materials and hot drinks provided.
- Wednesday 20 December – Drop in between 10am-3pm - Family Activity Day at Burrator Discovery Centre. Will involve Christmas themed outdoor cooking, woodwork, art and trail. £2/child, £1/adult.

Volunteering Dates

- ❖ Mon 4 Dec – 10am-3pm
- ❖ Sun 10 Dec – 10.30am-3.30pm
- ❖ Tues 12 Dec – 10am-3pm
- ❖ Mon 18 Dec – 10am-3pm

PLEASE NOTE: Burrator Discovery Centre will be CLOSED for Christmas: Fri 22 Dec to Mon 8 Jan 2018

Clarinet for sale – Bousey & Hawkes Clarinet for sale – v good condition - £200 – please contact Andy on 01579 344186 if interested.

Rotary Young Photographers Competition – Theme: 'A Different Perspective'. Entries need to provide 3 photographs (max size A4) by Friday 5th January. Entry forms available from the school office.

SANTA SPRINT!

**3rd December 2017 at 3pm
Bedford Square, Tavistock**
A festive fun run in aid of CHICKS!

Register online at
chicks.org.uk/santa

Supported by:

CHICKS is a registered charity in England and Wales (1093063)

A fun way to start the festive season!

The festive fun run will follow a route of approximately 1.5 miles, starting at Bedford Square and finishing at the bandstand in the Meadows. It's suitable for all ages & abilities!

Sign up now!

Entry fee: £10 for adults, £5 for children (3-16yrs), £25 for a family of four! This includes your free Santa suit and a medal. And every extra penny you can raise in sponsorship will help CHICKS brighten the lives of disadvantaged children.

Find out more about raising sponsorship money by emailing kate@chicks.org.uk Everyone who raises over £50 will be entered into a draw to win a fantastic prize!

About CHICKS
CHICKS is a children's charity that provides free respite breaks to disadvantaged children living in the UK. The children we support come from a variety of backgrounds - they might be living in poverty, be young carers or have been bereaved. A week at CHICKS gives them the chance to enjoy new experiences and make new friends in a relaxed and supportive environment.

Enter online at chicks.org.uk/santa
If you have any questions, please call Kate: 01822 811020

Multi-Sports Camp
 Christmas Holidays

Monday 18 and Tuesday 19 December 2017

Two fun-filled days of Multi-Sports!
 A choice of Squash, Badminton, Football, Hockey, Cricket, Swimming, Basketball or Netball.

Coaches Gareth James and Tom Honey

Where Prep Sports Hall

Age 9 to 13 years old

Time 9:00 to 15:30

Cost £35 per day or £60 for both days

Kit Please bring trainers, a mouth guard, shin pads, your swimming kit and a change of clothes.

Food Bring a packed lunch, snacks and a water bottle

Book Please book your place on **01822 813164** or holidayactivities@mountkelly.com

Mount Kelly Mount Tavy Road Tavistock Devon PL19 9JL www.mountkelly.com

Christmas Lunch Reply Slip (St Peter's only)

My child.....Class.....

- My child will be bringing a packed lunch and will not require a school Christmas lunch
- My child would like a School Christmas lunch (£2.20) on **Wednesday 13th December.**

Please circle your main choice of main course and pudding:-

Main (served with Roast Potatoes, Sprouts, Carrots, Sweetcorn & Parsnips)	Roast Turkey, Stuffing. Pigs in Blankets	Vegetarian Roast & Veggie Sausages	
Pudding	Christmas Pud & Ice-cream	Chocolate Cracknel	Fresh Fruit Salad