



**FEDERATION NEWS** - Another week has whizzed by with loads of things going on. It was great to see the Y2's out on multi-skills festivals this week and I know that they enjoyed it immensely.

**Y5/6 parents.** Don't forget that, if you are a Y5/6 parent and want to keep on top of your child's homework and spellings then you can always log onto the Y5/6 Team blog. On this you be able to see what the homework is and also find a growing library of useful materials to help you at home with your child's learning. Click the link to take you to it <https://tcsfy56.edublogs.org> .

**Online resources.** Last week I wrote a piece about how we are working towards improving the children's ability to rapidly recall times tables and number facts and wrote about Rock Star Maths. I cannot recommend both Rock Star Maths and Hit The Button resources highly enough as a really easy way for children to improve their skills in this area. For ease I have put links to the websites and the apps on the 'Online Resources' page of the school website:

[http://strumons.tavistockcsf.org.uk/website/online\\_resources/310077](http://strumons.tavistockcsf.org.uk/website/online_resources/310077) . Also, as a reminder we have put a document called 'Just Know It' which states what children should be able to rapidly recall at different stages of their learning. This would be really useful for parents to use at home. The link for that resource is: [http://strumons.tavistockcsf.org.uk/website/progression\\_in\\_calculation\\_skills/295995](http://strumons.tavistockcsf.org.uk/website/progression_in_calculation_skills/295995) .

### **Sporting Events.**

In school, we have worked hard over the last two years to improve both the quantity and quality of the PE and competitive sport that the children have taken part in. In St Peter's we are proud of the fact that, thanks to the work of Miss Harris, Mrs Knapp, Mrs Walker and now Miss Ramsden we have increased the percentage of children who have had the opportunity to take part in competitive events from 46% to 58%. (That's an extra 20 children last year who were able to take part in events.) This year we are trying hard to ensure that there are more opportunities for our youngest learners too. In addition to this, last year, St Peter's achieved Sainsbury's Gold Mark for school sport which we are proud of and would like to retain it this year.

Recently, I have been asked about our approach to choosing people for events and so I thought that I would share with you how complex a task that is. First and foremost, we are committed to ensuring that as many people as possible have a chance to take part in sports and so, with each event, we always look to see whether we are able to bring onboard new children. Additionally, we always look to see that children in receipt of Pupil Premium are represented and being given opportunities. At the same time, consideration is always made of the fact that if nobody on a team has previous experience then they might suffer heavy losses and so become disheartened and turned off sport. Therefore, we always try to include a few children with experience. These children are often chosen because of work that they do in PE or in afterschool clubs.

Additionally, in some sports such as swimming, cross country and athletics we are beginning to develop a reputation locally as being strong and so, in these limited events, in order to continue that tradition, we do select the strongest children. In order to select these children for this we often run a trial.

Before events take place, teachers ask the children in the appropriate year groups if they are interested to take part or occasionally a complete class/ year group may be selected. Once a list is created the above complex criteria is applied.

As a parent myself, I know that it can be disappointing if your child, who has an interest or a skill in a particular sport is not selected for an event. I hope that all parents will be able to understand the difficulties involved with ensuring that as many children have an opportunity to take part in events as possible whilst also trying to ensure that in some key events the schools maintains a good reputation.

**After School Club** - Due to high demand could I please ask parents to cancel bookings at least 24 hours prior to the session. This will give us an opportunity to reallocate your space to families on the waiting list. Places not cancelled will be charged for.

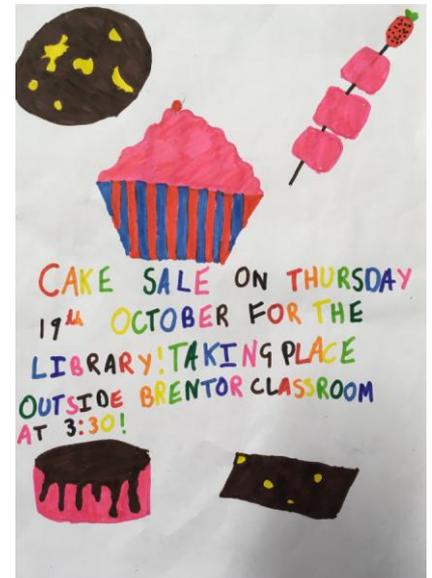
**Parent Questionnaires.** Thank you to all parents who have taken the time to complete and hand back parent surveys. If you are anything like me, I am sure that your lives are incredibly busy, and completing another survey is often the last thing that people want to do. I can say that these will provide a really useful feedback for the school and help us to continue to improve our provision for your children. Over the next week or two I will analyse the results and feedback to parents the overall trends. A little later in the term we will also ask children to fill in a questionnaire (not in the same format!) so we can see what they think too.

**Library Funding.** This year we have some fantastic Y6 children who are looking after the library and do some excellent work to keep it tidy. They have decided that they would love to raise some money in order to put a comfy seat into the library area so that children can sit and read. In order to do this, they are running a cake sale after school next Thursday (19<sup>th</sup> October).

If, by any chance, any parents know of a company(ies) that might be interested in helping the children to achieve their dream that would be amazing. If so, please could you let Mrs Charlesworth know.

I am sure that the cakes will be delicious and so make sure that you send your child in with some money for them next Thursday.

**School Photos**— please can all orders be returned to school offices with payment by Friday 20<sup>th</sup> October.



**PTA: Dates to note for you diary:**

- **Harvest Disco** – Friday, 13<sup>th</sup> of October at St Peter's Hall: Foundation & Key Stage 1 from 16:30 to 17:30; Key Stage 2 from 17:45 to 18:45. As these are 'glow' discos, the effects will be enhanced if your child(ren) wears fluorescent/white clothing to the event. We still need parents or carers to help at the discos, so please come along to help – Thank you to all those people who have already signed up. We will be collecting donations for the Food Bank, so please bring any excess non-perishables you have at home to the discos.
- **Christmas Fair** – Friday, 8<sup>th</sup> of December at St Rumon's. Please bring in toilet & kitchen roll tubes for the craft stall.

Future PTA meeting dates to diarise - all at 8pm on Tuesdays - 7<sup>th</sup> of November & 28<sup>th</sup> of November - please note that these are **now both going to be held at the Bedford Hotel**.

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

**Welcome to our governors' feedback**

We have no idea what happened to September- it just seemed to fly by. It must be autumn because yesterday was Goosey Fair; we hope you were able to enjoy this year's rather wet day of traditional goosey activities in the town!

**Parental use of phones on school grounds.** - As governors, we want to thank parents for their support on a difficult issue. Safeguarding is a very serious issue for all of us and as the leads for safeguarding we want to plead with parents not to be active on their phones in the playground at drop off and pick up. From a school point of view, it is never a nice feeling to be in a position of having to challenge parents on this and so please don't put staff and governors in that position. By not having phones out it also reinforces a really positive message that, after a hard day in school we are listening to our children, are interested in their day and value our conversations with them.

**Communication** - We hope that as many of you as possible have had a chance to speak to your children's teacher at parents' evenings last week. Our teachers are keen to share our children's progress so always feel able to ask how your child is getting on. Communication is such an important part of school life and yet so hard to find solutions that suit all parents. We encourage you all to take part in the parent/carer's survey that went home last week. If you haven't already, please take the time to fill it in, that way, the school team can continuously improve how we share your children's school journey with you. If you have any particular ideas that you feel will help the school communicate with parents and carers

please just pop it on the form and return it to either reception. Additionally, if you have any specific concerns or questions about aspects of school life please initially speak to the class teacher or make an appointment to speak to Mrs Arscott or Mr Conners if that feels more comfortable for you.

We hope to see you all on Friday - We'll have our glow sticks at the ready and as always please feel free to stop us or any of the governors to say hello and find out more about what we do.

### **Church News:**

**Messy Church** at Tavistock Methodist Church (TMC) – Held on the second Thursday of the month from 4.30pm-6.30pm: (upcoming sessions: 12<sup>th</sup> Oct; 9th Nov, and 14<sup>th</sup> 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 (Upcoming sessions: 1st Nov, and 6th Dec). A fun time for families with crafts, songs, story, prayer and a meal.

### **ST PETER'S NEWS**

**Greenlands Police Incident** – There have been two incidents involving police at the Greenlands Estate during the past week. We have received assurances that they involved only the individual residents of the properties and posed no risk/impact to anybody outside those premises involved.

**Bikeability** – All Y5 children have been enjoying the valuable bikeability sessions this week. Please can all bikes be picked up at the end of Friday. Many thanks.

**Year 6 Secondary School Applications** – All Y6 pupils should have received a letter inviting them to apply for their secondary school place and contains details of how to apply. Applications need to be submitted by **31 October 2017**.

### **ST RUMON'S NEWS**

**Lynher's Class Assembly** – we would like to invite all Year 2 parents to join us for class assembly on Wednesday 18 October.

**Foundation Stage Spare Underwear** – If you have any spare underwear or tights for girls we would greatly appreciate any donations. Thank you.

**Fact of the Week Badge** – The fact of the week next week will be the colour Orange. 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

**Lost Property** – Pearl Fogarty in Tavy Class has lost a named red cardigan. If found please give to class teacher or the office. Thank you.

**Visitor & Volunteer Badges** – if you come into school to volunteer could we ask that you check at home to see if you have any of our badges – if so, please return them to the school office. Thank you.

**Mobile Phones** – can we please remind all adults that mobile phones should not be used on school premises for Safeguarding reasons.

**Breakfast Club** – Please note that last orders for breakfast will be taken at 8.25 pm. Thank you.

**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 Home**

- Tag Rugby
- Parent survey

## **Autumn Term 2017 Dates:**

Friday 13<sup>th</sup> October – Tag Rugby Festival (Y3/4)

Tuesday 10<sup>th</sup> October – Y5 & Y6 Parents Meeting with Tavistock College Leaders - 4.30pm @ St Peters

Wednesday 8<sup>th</sup> November - Netball Festival – Y5 & 6

Friday 10<sup>th</sup> November – Cross country at Castle Drogo – Y5 & 6

Wednesday 15<sup>th</sup> November – Cyclo Cross in Tavistock Meadows

Thursday 7<sup>th</sup> December – Foundation Stage Nativity at St Rumon's – 2.30-3pm

Friday 8<sup>th</sup> December – Foundation Stage Nativity at St Rumon's – 9.30-10am

Wednesday 13<sup>th</sup> December – Christmas Lunch at St Peters

Wednesday 13<sup>th</sup> December – KS1 Nativity @ Town Hall, 2.00pm and 6.00pm

Thursday 14<sup>th</sup> December - Christmas Lunch at St Rumon's

6<sup>th</sup>-8<sup>th</sup> February : Y5 London Residential

22-23<sup>rd</sup> February: Y4 Residential – Pixies Holt

11<sup>th</sup>-15<sup>th</sup> June: Y6 Residential to Beam House

## **COMMUNITY NEWS**

**Wizard of Oz** -Tavistock Musical Theatre Company are proud to present The Wizard of Oz at The Wharf, Tavistock on Tues 31 October to Sat 4 November - 7.30 pm each evening and Saturday matinee at 2.30 pm. Tickets £13 per adult & £11 per child available from the Wharf Box Office tel: 01822 611166.

**SJS Dance Academy** – From 3yrs up – Ballet/ Jazz/ Tap/ RAD classes in Tavistock or Stoke Climsland – Contact Suzanne 01822 618952 / [suzanne@sjsdanceacademy.co.uk](mailto:suzanne@sjsdanceacademy.co.uk) for more details.

**Tavistock College Cardiff Christmas Shopping Trip** – Saturday 2<sup>nd</sup> December – Coach leaving at 6am and leaving Cardiff at 5pm – Cost £20/person – Contact Chantelle Cocker on 01822 614231/ [c.cocker@tavistockcollege.org](mailto:c.cocker@tavistockcollege.org)

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