



FEDERATION NEWS Welcome back to school and I hope that you all had a lovely Easter break.

Tavy 13. Well done to all the children who took part in the final event during the Easter Holiday. I absolutely love the event and seeing so many of our children running in front of 100's of spectators really makes me proud.

Damage in the school over the Easter Holidays. Unfortunately, over the Easter holidays the school PE shed was broken into. Thankfully it appears that little was taken but the equipment was totally emptied from the equipment bags etc. Additionally, there was a small amount of damage to a bench. This is obviously upsetting, and time consuming for the school and should not happen. I know that the school facilities can seem very enticing for children who are out playing at the weekend or in the evening, but please could I ask you not to let your children play on the school grounds. If they are seen on the school site and damage or loss of property occurs, it is likely that your child would then be involved in any criminal investigation.

Attendance. Thank you to all children and parents who ensure that they attend school as often as they are able to. At times, a child has a bug and so there is no choice but to keep them off school. However, if your child has a cold, please don't feel that you need to keep them off school as cold bugs are constantly present in schools. If, as a school, we feel that a child is not well enough to be in school we will send them home. As it currently stands, attendance for all groups of children is looking great at St Peter's and so thank you for that. At St Rumon's attendance is not yet as good as it should be and is below the national average. Therefore, please could I urge you to consider carefully before keeping a child off school. As you know, if your child's attendance falls below 95% you are informed by the school and if your child's attendance falls below 90% they are termed by the government as being a persistent absentee. This means that the government believe that, unless there is an ongoing extenuating circumstance, they have missed more school than they should. I cannot state enough the impact that absence from school has on children's learning. If they are not in school then children are not receiving specific instruction from teachers and it often affects other children's learning too as, when the absent child returns, the teacher often has to focus on them so that they are able to catch up.

I have included this table in other newsletters, but below is a brief table that illustrates the cumulative impact of pupil absence.

Percentage of attendance	Amount of time missed from a week	Amount of time a child would miss over their primary years and impact on learning.
95%	Half day every two weeks	13.3 weeks over their primary school life or the equivalent of a whole Summer Term. - This is likely to have some impact on your child's learning.
90%	Half a day a week	26.6 weeks over their primary school life or the equivalent of a last week of the Autumn Term, the Spring Term and the Summer Term. - This is likely to have significant impact on your child's learning.
85%	1 and a half days per fortnight	39.9 weeks over their primary school life or the equivalent to more than a school year. - This is likely to have a very negative impact on your child's learning.
80%	1 day per week	53.2 week over their primary school life. This is equivalent to a whole year and a summer term. - This is likely to have a very negative impact on your child's learning.

There has been a slow increase in the number of children requesting holiday during term time. As a reminder, we do not authorise holiday in term time. Although we have no control over whether the Local Authority choose to fine or not I thought I would clarify the position if they do choose to fine. A fine may be triggered after five full days of holiday (either continuous or split) and will be applied per child and per adult, i.e. both parents will receive the fine.

Reported syringe (s) found in the Greenlands Area. We have had a report this morning (Thursday 19th April) that there has been a syringe needle seen in the lane that runs near the school grounds. There have been no needles found on the school grounds. All KS2 teachers have today spoken with their children about the potential dangers of touching needles and about the importance of telling a teacher or responsible adult. Please could I ask that you reiterate the message at home too. Last night I became aware that this topic was being discussed on Facebook. The school does not routinely monitor social media and so please can I ask parents who have questions, queries or important information to share that they contact the school directly.

Newsletters – Our newsletter will now no longer be issued in paper format. A copy of the newsletter will be e-mailed to all parents' e-mail addresses and a paper copy will be on display in the school office and on the school noticeboard.

PTA Meeting – The next meeting will be held on Tuesday, 24th April at Bedford Hotel at 8.00pm. Please do come along!

Carnival Entry – Following the success of our carnival entry last year which won Best in Procession, we will once again be entering Tavistock Carnival. We would be really grateful if any parents might be able to supply a flat bed truck for us to decorate as part of our entry. If you could help us, please contact Miss Charlesworth, Miss Evans or the School Office.

Tavy 13 Primary Challenge - Well done to all the children who completed the challenge at Tavistock Track last Sunday and received their t-shirt and medal - they are certainly very colourful this year! Those children who were unable to make the event will be able to complete their final mile at school next week and will be presented with their t-shirt and medal then.

Lost property - Please check all lost property items. Any remaining items will be donated to charity at the end of this half term.

Sports For Schools – On Thursday 3 May both schools will be taking part in this scheme which will bring a top athlete along to encourage children to take up (more) sport. The events will involve the children undertaking a fitness circuit with the athlete, followed by an assembly where the athlete will talk about their career and give the children a sporting demonstration, followed by an opportunity to ask questions.

All children have the option of raising sponsorship for taking part in the event, for which they will receive an award based on the amount of money they raise. The schools will also receive a percentage of the funds raised to be spent on PE equipment.

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:

- May 13
- June 10
- July 8

Messy Church @ St. Eustachius' Church Tavistock

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

Messy Church @ Tavistock Methodist Church Tavistock – 4.30-6.30pm . A fun time for families with crafts, songs, story, prayer and a meal. April 19th, May 10th, June 14th, July 12th.

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.

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.

ST PETER'S NEWS

School Photos - Please return your orders by Wednesday, 25th April. Many thanks.

Clubs - Clubs start next week. Pupils will have been sent home details of all the clubs that they have been allocated. For any clubs that have charges, please ensure that payment is made in advance in order to continue with the place in the club.

We still have a few places available in the following clubs:-

Monday – Dance – £22.50 /term

Tuesday – Cricket (District Sports) - £25/term

Tuesday – Football – only 1 space left - £25/ term

Thursday – Board Games - £20/ term – please note this club may not go ahead if insufficient spaces are booked

ST RUMON'S NEWS

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.

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

LETTERS SENT HOME THIS WEEK

- **New Dinner Menu**
- **Clubs Letter**

Spring Term 2018 Dates:

Wednesday 23rd April – Y6 Class Transition Visit by Tavistock College @ 9.30am at St Peters

Tue 24 April - Year 3/4 Tri-golf

Tue 24 April - Tri golf Festival, Year 3/4 team selection

Fri 27 April - Handball Festival, all of Year 5

Fri 27 April - Multi skills, all of Year 4

Fri 4 May - Quad Kids Athletics, Year 5/6 team selection

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

HALF TERM: 28 May – 1 June

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

Thursday 28 June – Devonport High School Familiarisation Day: 9am-3pm – Y6

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

Tues 24 July– End of Term Leavers Service @ 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 29 April – Wild Flowers