

Autumn Term Newsletter No.1

Hello and Welcome Back! We hope you have had a fabulous summer holiday and enjoyed being with your family without having to do the daily school run! It is lovely to see all the children again and they have settled quickly into their new classes. There are always lots of new routines for the children to learn and lots of information for families—each year group will be inviting you to pop in to meet the teacher so you can find out a little more about your child's school day. We have welcomed some new members of staff too.



Mr Marchant joins us as an Assistant Headteacher and is teaching in Year 6.



Mr Robinson joins us as a Senior Leader and is teaching in Year 5.

Mrs Stamp-Vincent is now covering a maternity leave in Y1 and has had a fabulous first week with the children. Miss Truscott and Miss Eales have also joined us as teaching Assistants. If you are interested in joining our team please keep checking our website as we often have vacancies for different roles within the school.

This Week's Star Pupils:



Beech — Logan Clatworthy
Pine — Eva King
Apple— Grace McCarthy
Oak— Coby-Kian Mc Culloch
Birch— Karla Lacuesta-White
Rowan — Toby Gowers
Cherry— Riley Donnelly-McClean
Maple — Emma Roadnight
Holly— Tilly Watson
Willow — Bobby Peters
Hawthorn — Taylor Elsley-Rowland
Hazel — Isabella Kay

Diary Date Reminders:

Ash Class start school mornings only
Elm Class start school afternoon only

Monday—Rowan Class visit Torquay museum
Wednesday - Cherry Class visit Torquay museum
Thursday—Birch Class visit Torquay museum
Friday —Maple Class visit Torquay museum

Tuesday 13th September—Roald Dahl Day (£1 suggested donation)

Next week we will send home a full list of important dates for the year.



Don't forget to follow us on Twitter to see photographs and updates about school life.

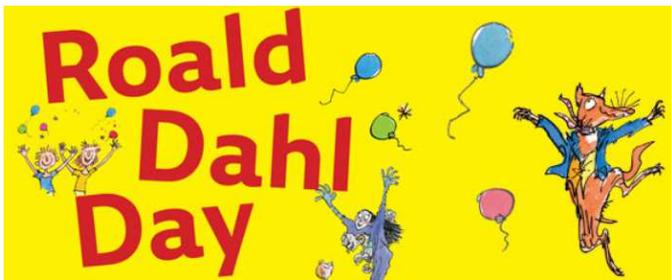
<https://twitter.com/StMargaretsTQ>

IMPORTANT INFORMATION FOR YEAR 6 PARENTS

It might seem incredibly early to be thinking about Secondary School choices in the first week your child enters Year 6 but it is important that you make your application on time. The application process is already open and you can do this online through Torbay Council website or complete a CAF1 paper application form. You will have received a copy of the TIPS booklet in the post during the summer holidays, notifying you of how to apply for your preferred schools. This also outlined the early registration process for parents who would like their child to sit an entrance exam for any of the grammar schools. (Please note, this process is already closed)

Late applications (after 31st October) are not considered until all applications submitted on time have been considered, which could result in your child not getting any of your preferred schools if they are already over subscribed, even if you live next door to the school!

There is nothing worse than children not knowing which school they are moving on to when all their friends are talking about their new schools on the 1st March. Please make sure you complete the forms by the deadlines. If you are in any doubt about what to do please ask—we want your child to have a successful transfer to Secondary School and are more than happy to help.



Tuesday 13th September

We are celebrating the birth of Roald Dahl 100 years ago with a day of Roald Dahl linked fun! The children can come dressed as one of the characters from his books.

We have suggested a £1 donation to join in the Dahlicious Dress Up as the money raised helps provide Roald Dahl nurses and family support to children in the UK living with serious, rare and undiagnosed conditions.

We will also be having a fun lunch—varying our menu slightly so we are having Mr Twit's Wormy Spaghetti, the BFG's Grobswichy Cake and there will be Snozzcumbers in the Salad Bar! There will also be a chance for the children to find a golden ticket!

Year 1 News

Y1 have launched their topic "All Dressed Up" with a fashion show where they could wear their favourite clothes. Confidence oozed as they strutted their stuff down the catwalk! We love their attitude!



RESPECT



CREATIVITY



INDEPENDENCE



INFORMATION PAGE

Clubs

There is a club booklet coming home with your children today. Please read the information and return the slip on the back with your expression of interest in the clubs. You will be notified if your child is NOT successful in securing a place. Clubs begin next week.

Mobile Phones

The school's policy is that children should not be bringing mobile phones, cameras or other technology that can access the internet to school. The only exception to this is for children in Year 6 whose parents may wish them to start walking home independently and would like the security of having contact with their child. If this is the case, you must read the policy and accept the conditions and return a signed form. The policies and forms have been sent home to parents of Y6 children only.

End of Day Routine

If you know that you are unable to collect your child at the end of the day please notify the class teacher in the morning rather than ringing it through to the office later in the day. We understand that sometimes circumstances change so if there is last minute change of plan you will need to notify the office in good time so they can take all the details of the person collecting on your behalf and let the teacher know.

Off Site Consent

We have sent home a Consent form for each child, seeking permission to take the children on short, local trips and visits during the school day. This will reduce administration time for you and the school. All trips will be risk assessed and will have the correct staffing ratios. This one-off consent builds more flexibility into our curriculum and allows us to make the most of our local area at short notice. We will always notify you by letter, email or text if we are going off site so you have the option of withdrawing your child should you not wish them to participate. Other trips that involve coach travel or finish after school hours will still have separate permission letters sent home.

Parking

We appreciate that it can be very busy outside school at the beginning and end of the day but please do not park on the zigzags as this blocks the children's view of the road when crossing and puts them in danger. For the same reason please do not park on the corners of the junctions, across the drop down kerbs or in front of the school gates where the children cross.

Dogs

Dogs are not allowed on the school site and should not be left unattended at the entrance gates to the school.

Smoke Free Zone

The schools grounds and entrances are also smoke free to ensure no children are walking through smoke on their way into school. Please do not smoke on or near the school grounds. This includes e-cigarettes

Hello!

I am Andrea Lewis, your family support worker at school. You will find me in school every Monday and Tuesday during term time and I am also available during school holidays, to offer continued support. I have worked with families since 2001, so I have a great deal of experience of supporting people.



I hold a coffee drop-in every Tuesday from 9-11 in the Woodland Den, everyone is welcome to attend. Please do give it a try! If groups are not for you, I am also very happy to meet with parents 1:1 in school or at home.

If you need support with daily parenting, such as bedtime and morning routines, or more complex issues, please just give me a call or text so we can arrange to meet. I can also help with form filling, advice on financial difficulties, accessing other services such as Anode, or if you don't have anyone to ask for advice, please don't sit and worry, just get in touch.

I also see children in school, so if you are worried about your child, please speak to Mrs Pike, so that I can arrange to meet with your child, to see how I can support them.

I look forward to meeting you all!

Andrea Lewis

07469925575



Hello my name is Mrs Tracey Brennan-Osment and I am the school's Welfare and Attendance Officer. I work closely with Mrs Pike and admin staff to identify families and pupils who may need support to achieve good attendance. I offer guidance to help raise attendance and I am able to offer confidential home visits to further support and problem solve.

If you see me at the school gates in the morning or around the school please say hello! My role is to support you and your child to achieve good attendance which in turn will help them achieve their potential.

I am delighted to say that the attendance figures for 2015-16 have increased to 95.44% which is fantastic news, well done! This has been achieved through excellent home/school co-operation and great communication.

Just a few attendance reminders for the start of term.....

FIRST DAY ABSENCE REPORTING:

We are now working to new guidance which means that we have to know the whereabouts of all children by the end of the school day. If we have not made contact with a family member during the school day to ascertain the well-being of a child we may have to inform the local authority safeguarding hub. We therefore request that parents/carers telephone the school before 9.30am if their child is absent due to illness or unforeseen circumstances. If no call is received the absence will be recorded as unauthorised – please do communicate with us!

UNAUTHORISED ABSENCE

If a child accrues 10 or more unauthorised absence in a six month period the school may refer them to the local authority who may issue them with a fine. An unauthorised absence is when a child does not attend school and no reason is given for the absence. **If a child is late after registration this is also marked as an unauthorised absence.**

MEDICAL EVIDENCE

The school requires medical evidence if a child is absent for more than five days, medical evidence can be a prescription, a text from the GP surgery or an appointment card from the surgery.

PUNCTUALITY

We will be focusing on punctuality and to help us with this we have a late gate system. The school gates are locked promptly at 9am and the only way to gain access is via the main school office. Parents/carers will need to come into reception with their child and explain the reason for the lateness.