



PRIDE IN ALL WE DO

Contact Us

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£ All cheques made payable to D.C.C

Certificates

In our assembly this week certificates were awarded to:

Mia Surman-Jordan, Frank Gridley, Shaun MacBryde, Skye Blake, Amelia Dapling, Lexie Wilson, Jack Barrow, Juliet Mihai and Tom Nolan.

Well done to you all we are very proud of you.

Happy Birthday!

Anakin Martyn, Tristan Eve, Will Adams
and
Sapphire Childerley

Notices

RECEPTION PUPILS 2016: The school is getting full but we still have odd places available throughout most year groups and will definitely have spare places for any pupils who would like to join our Reception Class in September 2016. Please pass the word around that we have spaces, as we have been told by several families that they haven't applied to the school as they had heard we are full! If you know of any parents that would like to come and visit the School, please ask them to call us and organise a visit. It would be a pleasure to show them around.

29 January 2016

Newsletter: 18

A Message from Mrs Denham

What a busy week! We've had a wonderful dance and drama group join us from The Beaford Arts Group who performed a wonderful poem to Y5/6. The performers were from all over the world and had a big impact on the children. Y4 went to Tarka Tennis and enjoyed their time at the tennis festival.

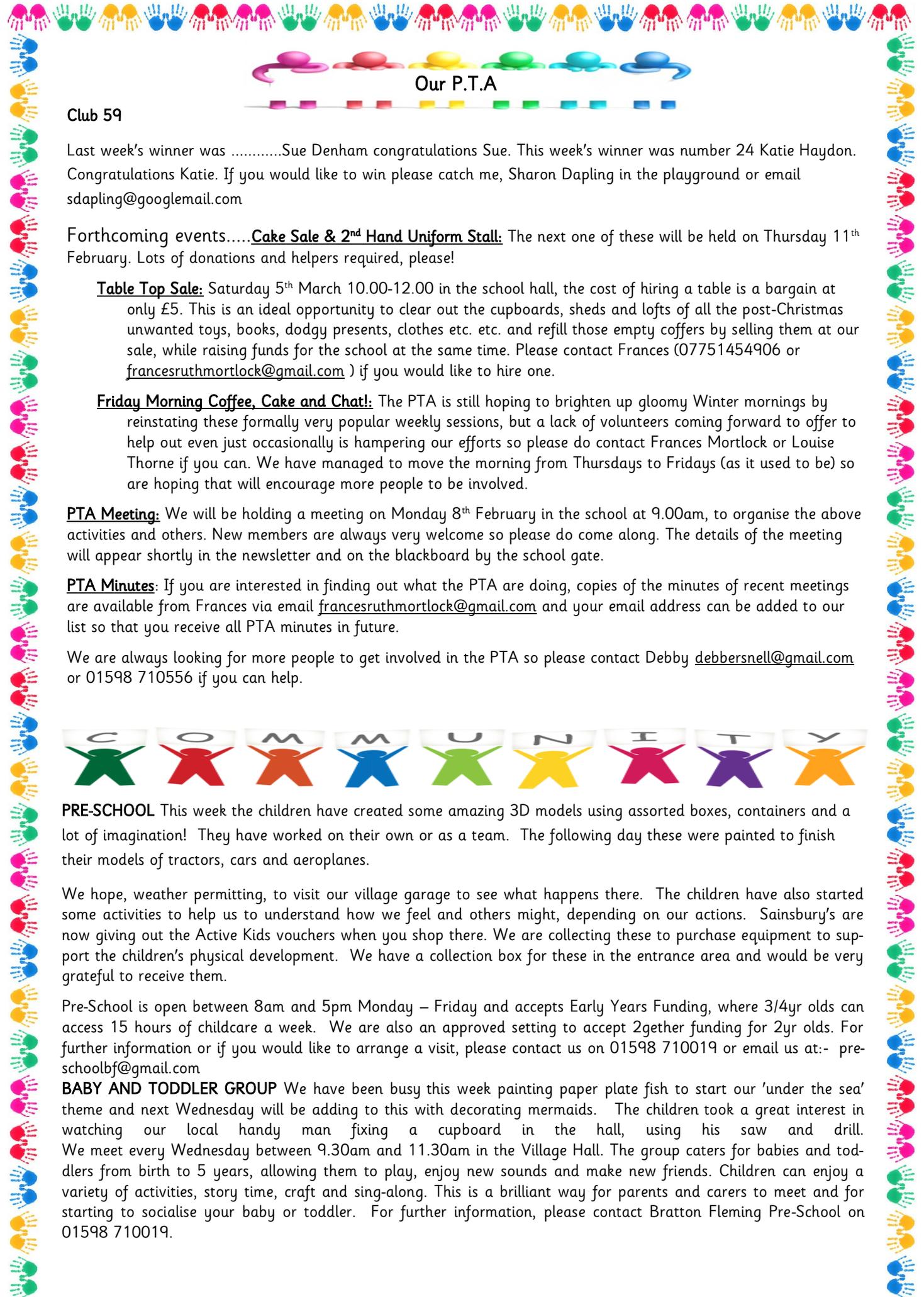
I have been on a 3 day fact finding course about schools converting to an academy and being part of a Multi Academy Trust. Academies are charitable companies and rather than being directly funded and accountable to the local authority, they are funded and accountable to the Secretary of State. It is a new way forward for schools and one we will have to start to consider. The Government are keen for schools to not work in isolation and so join together with other schools in a MAT.

You may have read in the local news that Pilton Community College, who have already converted to an academy, are consulting parents and the community about joining a MAT mainly based in the Tiverton area. Many schools in the local community and nationally will be considering converting to an academy in the next few months as by 2017 the Government want the majority of schools to have done so.

It was a pleasure to be able to visit 3 very successful MAT's in Swindon and Bristol and it certainly gave me lots of information to feed back to the governors, staff and community!

We are pleased that Mrs Gosling continues to make a good recovery from her operation – although she is finding it very hard to sit still and rest!

Mr Day is very keen for parents/ family members to come into school during an assembly to talk about their jobs and the roles and responsibilities that go with that career. We are trying to inspire our pupils to look at all sorts of career opportunities, so if you feel you could be brave enough to join us please contact Mr Day. We were thrilled that Mr Crockford, from Rock and Rapids Climbing Centre came in this week and told the children all about the very different aspects his job entails.



Our P.T.A

Club 59

Last week's winner wasSue Denham congratulations Sue. This week's winner was number 24 Katie Haydon. Congratulations Katie. If you would like to win please catch me, Sharon Dapling in the playground or email sdapling@googlemail.com

Forthcoming events.....**Cake Sale & 2nd Hand Uniform Stall.** The next one of these will be held on Thursday 11th February. Lots of donations and helpers required, please!

Table Top Sale: Saturday 5th March 10.00-12.00 in the school hall, the cost of hiring a table is a bargain at only £5. This is an ideal opportunity to clear out the cupboards, sheds and lofts of all the post-Christmas unwanted toys, books, dodgy presents, clothes etc. etc. and refill those empty coffers by selling them at our sale, while raising funds for the school at the same time. Please contact Frances (07751454906 or francesruthmortlock@gmail.com) if you would like to hire one.

Friday Morning Coffee, Cake and Chat!: The PTA is still hoping to brighten up gloomy Winter mornings by reinstating these formally very popular weekly sessions, but a lack of volunteers coming forward to offer to help out even just occasionally is hampering our efforts so please do contact Frances Mortlock or Louise Thorne if you can. We have managed to move the morning from Thursdays to Fridays (as it used to be) so are hoping that will encourage more people to be involved.

PTA Meeting: We will be holding a meeting on Monday 8th February in the school at 9.00am, to organise the above activities and others. New members are always very welcome so please do come along. The details of the meeting will appear shortly in the newsletter and on the blackboard by the school gate.

PTA Minutes: If you are interested in finding out what the PTA are doing, copies of the minutes of recent meetings are available from Frances via email francesruthmortlock@gmail.com and your email address can be added to our list so that you receive all PTA minutes in future.

We are always looking for more people to get involved in the PTA so please contact Debby debbersnell@gmail.com or 01598 710556 if you can help.



PRE-SCHOOL This week the children have created some amazing 3D models using assorted boxes, containers and a lot of imagination! They have worked on their own or as a team. The following day these were painted to finish their models of tractors, cars and aeroplanes.

We hope, weather permitting, to visit our village garage to see what happens there. The children have also started some activities to help us to understand how we feel and others might, depending on our actions. Sainsbury's are now giving out the Active Kids vouchers when you shop there. We are collecting these to purchase equipment to support the children's physical development. We have a collection box for these in the entrance area and would be very grateful to receive them.

Pre-School is open between 8am and 5pm Monday – Friday and accepts Early Years Funding, where 3/4yr olds can access 15 hours of childcare a week. We are also an approved setting to accept 2gether funding for 2yr olds. For further information or if you would like to arrange a visit, please contact us on 01598 710019 or email us at:- pre-schoolbf@gmail.com

BABY AND TODDLER GROUP We have been busy this week painting paper plate fish to start our 'under the sea' theme and next Wednesday will be adding to this with decorating mermaids. The children took a great interest in watching our local handy man fixing a cupboard in the hall, using his saw and drill. We meet every Wednesday between 9.30am and 11.30am in the Village Hall. The group caters for babies and toddlers from birth to 5 years, allowing them to play, enjoy new sounds and make new friends. Children can enjoy a variety of activities, story time, craft and sing-along. This is a brilliant way for parents and carers to meet and for starting to socialise your baby or toddler. For further information, please contact Bratton Fleming Pre-School on 01598 710019.



A message from Mrs Denham

PARKING OUTSIDE SCHOOL:

Several parents have come to see me this week still very, very concerned about the safety of pupils outside of school, especially in the mornings. One of the biggest problems is pulling in and out of the Village Hall car park and in the layby as children are walking past the cars. We have tried to think of all sorts of options so can we please suggest:

MORNINGS: If you want to wait with your child on the playground until the teachers come and collect them at 8.50am, please do not park along Station Road near the school building/ Village Hall/ churchyard wall. Please park away from the school and walk down the road into school. This way we will reduce congestion outside the school.

If you just want to drop off your child and leave without the adults getting out of the car, please pull into the (hopefully) empty layby and drop off and leave immediately. This way cars can freely move into a safe place and pull away safely.

AFTER SCHOOL: Most parents with cars park up and walk into the playground. Can we please ask you to NOT park along Station Road near the school building/ Village Hall/ churchyard wall. Please park away from the school and walk down the road into school. This way we will reduce congestion outside the school and hopefully stop the near misses we have had lately.

Thank you so much for your co operation with this issue. We want to get it right and safe before a child gets hurt. If you have any other ideas or suggestions please let me know. We welcome us all working together to get this right.

Notices

World Cancer Day

Adam Rashid and his mum Laura from Holywell School, will be taking part in the Cancer Research Relay for Life in July this year and are currently working closely with the North Devon Relay for Life Cancer research UK Committee to try and raise both awareness and money for a cause which touches so many families. Next **Thursday 4th February** it is World Cancer Day and all around the country people will be participating in 'Dress down day' with purple as a theme. We would like to support Adam and Laura by having a non-uniform day (with some purple!) on Thursday. If each child made a voluntary donation of 50p each, this would be fantastic. There are awareness wristbands (£2 each) in the office if you would like to make any further donations or would like to purchase one.

On **Friday 5th February**, Master Chris Faulkner from Matt Fiddes Martial Arts will be visiting us to run workshops for every class. Please ensure your child has their PE kit in school for this day.

Today we were lucky to have Dan James, who is a Para Olympian footballer come in to run our sponsored fitness circuit. The children did fantastically and loved hearing about how Dan got involved in the sport. Please could you ensure your child brings in their sponsorship form and money by next Friday 5th February, if they haven't already done so. Thank you.