

FOWEY PRIMARY SCHOOL

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Spring Newsletter 4

16 March 2018

Dear Parents

This term I have been so delighted and proud of the tremendous teaching of writing which takes place in our school. Every child created their own Cartonera book, which was displayed and reviewed by their peers and this week, five children from Year Six have spent two days working alongside other children from St Mewan and Lostwithiel schools at the Writer's Block in Pool. The children's ability to describe and paint such vivid pictures with their words continues to impress me every day.

We have today received the finalised version of our Ofsted Report and we are excited to share this with you. Copies will be sent home with children today, so please check book bags.

Have a lovely weekend and we look forward to seeing you all next week!

Kate

Kate Sicolo
Headteacher

Diary dates 2018



March

20th March - Lunch n Learn Year 5 (Polridmouth)
22nd March - Swimming Years 4 and 5
23rd March - Lunch n Learn Year 6 (Carne)
23rd March - Class Photos
26th March - Parents Evening
28th March - Parents Evening
29th March - Swimming Years 4 and 5
29th March - End of Spring Term
16th April - Summer Term Begins

Inset Days 2018-2019

Please find attached term dates for next year. We are following the Cornwall Council model for term dates so they should be the same as other schools locally, providing they are also following the Council's proposed dates.

Our Inset days will be:

4th and 5th September 2018
19th and 20th December 2018
28th June 2019

Playground Working Party

We are considering making a large application to the Big Lottery Reaching Communities Fund to re-landscape our outdoor areas, so that we have a more purposeful playground space which can accommodate all of our children and be used all year round.

Next term, we will be forming a working party of parents, children and staff to drive forward the potential design of this space and make suggestions for the application.

If you are interested in being a part of this exciting project, please do let the Office know.

Cartonera Festival

We were delighted to be joined by representatives of Fowey Town Council, Peninsula Learning Trust, Fowey Grammar School Trust and our school Governors for a special Cartonera awards ceremony last week. Estuary Cottages, Any Old Lights, The Design Space and Readymoney Beach Shop also sponsored prizes. Our Chair of Governors, Chris Williams, presented twenty awards ranging from funniest ending to best language, to some very deserving winners.

Congratulations to all the children who took part and enormous thanks to everyone who popped in over the fortnight to review their child's writing.

We plan on holding the event again next year so please do let your child's teacher know if you have any suggestions as to how we could make it bigger and better!

Attendance

Welcome to the weekly attendance awards. We have been set a target of more than 97% attendance. This week the following classes have reached their target:-

Polridmouth 97.78%

Carne 97.39%

Gribben 97.04%



The following classes missed out this week – good luck for next week:-

Readymoney 95.52%

Coombe 95.22%

Cannis 94%

Lantic 90%

Uniform Costs

We have noticed that the uniform costs we charge to parents haven't changed for a number of years, even though the costs the uniform supplier charges us have increased. This has meant that the school has been subsidising the cost of uniforms (for example, we have been charging parents £9 for a cardigan when the cost to the school has been £10.45). The school is not financially able to continue to do this.

We have increased the prices for uniform on ParentPay to be as follows:-

Sweatshirts - All Sizes - £9.00

Cardigans - All Sizes - £10.50

T Shirts - All Sizes - £4.50

Book Bags - £4.50

PE Bags - £3.50

Thank you for your support with this.

Raising Concerns with the School

Everyone at Fowey Primary does their very best to provide a brilliant education for all our wonderful children. We are proud of our school and proud of the amazing achievements of our children and our staff. Like any school, there are times when we make mistakes or when parents do not agree or understand why we have taken a particular course of action. When this happens, we would urge you to talk to us, as we do to you when we have concerns. By doing this, we are often able to quickly clarify and explain why we have done something or to apologise if we have something wrong.

The best way to resolve problems is to make an appointment to chat with your child's class teacher, in the first instance. You can do this on pick up or drop off, or via the Office. If you do not feel able to do this, please make an appointment with the Office to speak to me.

We want to work together to ensure the very best for our children.

Volunteers for Swimming, Wednesday Workshops and Trips

A huge thank you to all the parents who have volunteered to help this term with swimming and Wednesday Workshops. It wouldn't be possible for us to safely offer these activities without your help and I know that the children have really benefitted from chatting with you on the bus.



Earrings and PE

We are very sorry that we have caused some unintentional confusion around earrings and PE this week. The uniform policy at Fowey has been in place for a number of years and states that children will need to remove jewellery, including earrings and watches when asked by an adult. This includes for PE and PE based clubs. Some staff have always done this but some have been asking children to cover earrings with tape, which has caused confusion. This has meant that some families have, very understandably, been surprised when staff have asked children to remove their earrings as this has not been their previous experience.

We will review this policy next term with the PVG group, in order to make our expectations around this clearer for everyone. We will then send this policy out to everyone.

If you have any thoughts on this, we would encourage you to speak to your class PVG reps to ensure that your views are represented in our discussion.

For now, we will ask children to either remove their earrings or cover them with tape/plasters for PE. Some parents have told us that they are uncomfortable with staff helping children to do this so children will need to be able to do this themselves. If your child isn't able to do this, please consider sending them in without earrings on PE/ club days.

We do need to remind you that the reason we ask children to remove their earrings for PE is because it is safest for everyone if children have no jewellery while doing PE. Not only can earrings cause injuries to your child, if they catch them on something, but they can also cause scratches to other children.

Oceans, Breakfast Club and School Lunch Debts

Like many schools, Fowey Primary is managing a very challenging budget. There are some families who, often unintentionally, have very large amount owing on ParentPay. This is meaning that Oceans and school lunches are running at a significant loss, which the school cannot sustain. We would encourage all parents to ensure that any amounts owing are paid.

If you are experiencing financial difficulty, please do come and talk to us as we are happy to work out a payment plan for people, particularly if you find that you owe a larger amount than you were expecting.

In order to avoid this situation in the future, from Easter we will be setting a cap of £10, per family on ParentPay debts. If your family owes more than £10 we will be unable to accept any more bookings for Oceans or Breakfast Club until this has been cleared.