



2017-2018

Number 19

An Lester Trumach - The Packet Ship

5 February 2018

Dear Parents

It is a sobering thought, but as we approach Spring Half Term next week, we also meet the year's half way point! There always seems more to do ahead of us than we have been able to do in since September, but routines and expectations are fully established in class and we only really need to tighten up on our approach to tasks to sharpen the things we achieve. I mentioned at the outset of the year the introduction of new exercise books (blue Exploring Maths, yellow Exploring Writing and red Exploring Reading) in which we have since seen some improvement in presentation in at least the first two. We know we have more to do in sharing and developing the home-learning link in the way that we use the red reading books. Our aim is that they become more of an exchange of the activities we do in school and the conversation children have at home about their learning, rather than a simple record of books read. For this to happen, we do need need the children to do two things:

- *make sure that they take the books home and bring them back in to school **every day***
- *take pride in, and care of, their Exploring Reading books*

*We would be extremely grateful if every parent could help us to help the children to take responsibility for their learning through these red books as we make the revision and development of our **Home Learning Policy** a focus for next half term.*

*Whole School Wednesday morning **Learning Conferences** have supported children's understanding of the way they learn and the things they need to do, in a learning cycle, to make sure that they acquire and strengthen skills. Chief among these has been **Reflection**, but this is dependent upon positive behaviour for learning and we have put this at the heart of the school this term. Whilst **Marlborough Manners** have been extremely effective in keeping children happy and safe over the years, and they are consistently recognised as a strength of the school in inspections, by visitors and in general practice, we are aware that as with any behaviour policy children do at times find ways to side step rules and push the boundaries. The staff feel that a little tighter application of the school manners code would be valuable and so where children regularly forget themselves we are correcting behaviour very promptly at present. On the whole, the vast majority of pupils will notice no difference – behaviour and manners in the school are exemplary – although we will plan with them a revision of the class Reward Boards to recognise properly the efforts of those children whose positive attitudes are consistent. We have spoken in assembly about the way that, with their input, this should develop so that a rejuvenated Marlborough Manners system is fully in place for Easter.*

Attendance

Last month we sent our school census return to county for the DfE's school attendance figures. These showed that Marlborough is currently in line with national 'scores' – a sustained improvement – but that there are a number of pupils with 'persistent' absence – that is of less than 90%. A few children's details show clear explanations, and the recent chickenpox outbreak is not insignificant, but some have come about through specific absence requests for personal reasons. These, along with term-time holidays, do have a detrimental effect on individual, and thus school, figures. Taken up to this point in the year we can track and see specific attendance coming back into line with norms so do watch those children's attendance closely. However, around 10% of pupils attendance is below the 90% threshold and some at 85% (the equivalent of missing approaching a day every week) and we will be monitoring this situation and contacting families where there is any potential cause for concern.

<http://marlborough.eschools.co.uk>



Pokemon and Trading Cards

The Infant Parliament have discussed the use of Trading Cards in school. Talking specifically about Pokemon cards there was a small majority of children eager to see their return for use as a play-time activity. As other cards come on line, others are sure to want to bring their collections into school. There is a valuable opportunity for children to learn some important life-skills, but there is also a chance that some will make mistakes, lose cards or get caught out in 'unfair' trades, etc.



The parliament identified their main concerns that:

- swaps between older and younger children were often not fair
- it was difficult to get swaps back if children made a mistake
- sometimes we argue over trading
- other children didn't always look after each other's cards – they get ripped and bent
- some cards go missing, sometimes lost but sometimes taken wrongly

We don't like 'banning' any legitimate play activity – the 'holiday' from bringing cards into school was taken because some children did get into difficulties and were upset at the trades made, cards being lost, etc. However, I do think it is important that children should enjoy as many aspects of their world's popular culture as positively and safely as they can, so we've gathered ideas for ways that we could help the card games to take place as fairly as possible. The children will be given the rules they agree, and parents informed, for trading to re-open straight after half term. There could well still be a number of issues, so children need to be aware that they are responsible for the cards they bring into school and teachers cannot spend time in class trying to resolve disagreements: in the end, it is their discussion with you, whether they bring cards into school and enjoy playing with them.



NSPCC

Number Day

What a fantastic time we had on Friday, celebrating Number Day 2018 in aid of the NSPCC. Children took part in a range of mathematical challenges and activities around the school, designed and run by y5. It was great to see so many smiling faces getting to grips with number, measures, shapes, sorting data, code breaking and problem solving! We also had some brilliant (and very creative) mathematical outfits and some amazing creations for our cake bake. A huge well done to y5 for all of their hard work and enthusiasm, and thank you to everyone who took part, donated, made cakes, sold cakes, entered competitions & gave up their time to help. All together, we raised a fantastic £204.19 for the NSPCC! Miss Draper.

Thank you!

Packet Points						
Last Week				Total		
1 st	Pelham	30	7	1 st	Swiftsure	26
2 nd	Swiftsure	25	5	2 nd	Walsingham	19
3 rd	Walsingham	24	4	3 rd	Chichester	12
4 th	Fox	23	3	4 th	Fox	11
	Freeling	23	3		Pelham	11
6 th	Chichester	21	1	6 th	Freeling	8

Wonderful Wednesday Request

Miss Finnegan is making junk instruments during her Wonderful Wednesday activities, so she needs lots of tin cans, cardboard tubes, smallish cardboard boxes, plastic tubs, bottle tops... anything really! If you can help out, please bring them along to class 1.

Another Wonderful Wednesday popular with children is the muffin cooking session... Here is the link to the recipe for you to have a go at home:

<http://www.childrensfoodtrust.org.uk/lets-get-cooking-at-home/recipes/breakfast-sizzler-muffins/>

<http://marlborough.eschools.co.uk>



Cornwall Music Education Hub

A 2 day Musical Theatre workshop
for young people aged 8 plus
11th & 12th February 2018, 10.00 - 15.00

Penryn College
Book online - <http://myedventure.co.uk/events/categories/creative>
£30 per child for both days

EDVENTURE
HOLIDAY ACTIVITIES

Explore the world through Drama, Dance and Singing
...with a travel and adventure theme

Falmouth School Half Term Netball Camp

Falmouth School PE Department's netball camp still has seven spaces for any interested y5, y6, y7 and y8 girls. Bridging the High Five and Seven-a-Side games, and incorporating some expert coaching as well as including matches during the afternoon the camp will run between 10:00 and 15:00 on half term Monday 12 February. It costs £10.00, and can be booked by sending this with a parental request form, available from our School office, to Falmouth School's main reception.

Falmouth: Dodgeball and Basketball

The Falmouth Schools PE Partnership is also running a collaborative fun Dodgeball event for the primary schools on alternate weeks (between the basketball fixtures). We had a great session last week, with some mix and match teams, playing alongside as well as against 'rival' schools. Our next league basketball game is on 21st February when we meet Falmouth Primary.

Falmouth and Trannack Cross Country

Well done to everyone who took part in Friday's X-country competition, especially Fynn and Lilia who came away with gold medals. Although they each came 3rd place in their races, they both led the teams from Falmouth schools and will go through to the next round with 7 other Marlborough qualifiers. The Coose Trannack event is coming up on 17th March – so, we'll see if there's enough interest for us to enter a school team.

MULTI SPORT ACTIVITY CAMP

FEBRUARY HALF TERM FUN FOR CHILDREN AGED 6 - 14 YEARS
Monday to Friday 0830 - 1730
HOT LUNCH INCLUDED

£25 per day

*Contact 01872 246050 or e-mail: sport@truroschool.com for bookings/enquiries
*Download an application form from www.sirbenainliesportscentre.com
*Also available from the Sports Centre Reception, Truro School, Trennick Lane, Truro, TR1 1TH
Tel: 01872 246050 www.sirbenainliesportscentre.com

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