



Ottery Primary School Newsletter



29th September 2017

Omelettes and eggs...

I'm sure many of you have noticed the continual filling of the skips over the last couple of weeks. We are now at the end of the clearing process and have removed a lot of clutter from the school that had filled up cupboards, nooks and crannies over the years. It has been a necessary, if disruptive process, as we push forward with our plans for delivering an enriched and enhanced curriculum offer for the children. All the staff have been dogged in their determination to complete this process as quickly as possible.

It's not just been the staff though. As ever, we have been fortunate enough to benefit from the kindness of many parents and the allotment area in particular looks incredible. It is now possible to actually see the raised beds.

The challenge now is to try our hardest to keep the school looking neat and tidy. With so many users, it's very easy for all the hard work to be gradually undone. This is where we're asking for your help. One simple thing that everyone can do very quickly is to make sure that all items of clothing, water bottles, lunchboxes and so on are clearly labelled with children's full names.

Our Lost Property boxes soon explode with abandoned jumpers and coats and lunch boxes and bottles soon get forgotten in the lunch hall or playgrounds. Before long these mount up to messy corners and areas around the school. Staff and children are very aware of the need to put these abandoned items into Lost Property so, from half-term onwards, I will be looking to implement a system of Lost Property Monitors. Their role will be to sort through the boxes each Friday. Named items in the boxes can be quickly and easily returned to their owners while everything else will be disposed of each week. This will not only help to avoid the build-up of clutter but will limit the nasty surprises of the abandoned lunchboxes that have sat forgotten all term. Believe me, they're not pretty once they're opened up!

We want everyone to feel proud of the school and its grounds, so your help will be very much appreciated with this. We have three weeks until half-term so plenty of time to get labelling things up but also to encourage children to check for themselves that they are not forgetting things.

Thank you so much

Mark Gilronan

Macmillan Coffee Morning on Friday 20th October

Anna Vine, myself and the kitchen team will be hosting a coffee morning in aid of Macmillan in the Hub after school drop-off on Friday 20th October. Please come along and join us for a chat and some delicious cake. We will also be previewing a potentially new addition to our Tuck Shop range. It may look like a slushy machine but it is pure fruit juice and water in disguise. Please do come along and see what you think. You will also be supporting a fantastic cause Please save the date in your diaries!

School Car Park

Those of you who use the top entrance to school may have noticed that we have been closing the staff car park gates at the beginning and the end of the day. This is for safety to ensure that pedestrians use the designated walkways and to prevent parents and carers driving into the car park. Please use the pedestrian pathway and zig zag when walking through the car park.

Internet Safety Workshop

This week we hosted an NSPCC Online Safety Workshop, the session gave helpful ideas for how to talk about online safety with our children and how to find out more about sites your children may like to access. Often our children know more than us about the online world but it was also helpful to reflect on how our children also learn 'how to be' online from the way they see us use social media.

If you were unable to attend, we have spare copies of the helpful online safety guides provided by the NSPCC so please pop into the office and pick one up.

For advice and support on parental controls, privacy settings, social networks and more – call the O2 and NSPCC online safety helpline on 0808 800 5002.

Friv – Online games website

If your children use this website, please be advised that some of the games have been found to contain radicalising messages and adult pornography. We have reported this to the O2 and NSPCC Online safety helpline. If you have an online safety concern, please talk with one of our School Designated Safeguarding Leads.

Attendance

We always strive for high attendance at Ottery St Mary and next week we will be working with our Education Welfare Officer to review our attendance so far this term. Our school attendance target is 97.2% and we aim for all children to achieve 95% attendance. Where attendance drops below this, we will monitor your child's attendance closely. Please be advised that 6 missed sessions per half term (3 days) would put your child in a persistent absence category (below 90%) and the EWO may become involved. We all want our children to get a great education, and the building blocks for a great education begin with children coming to school each and every day.

Holiday Requests

We cannot authorise holidays in term times unless these are exceptional circumstances. (e.g parents of forces children). Devon County Council are now tightening their rules on this issue and fines are again being issued for 5 or more days absence. Whilst we understand some of the circumstances on the request forms, we are rarely able to authorise absences during term time. Any time off school must be requested via the absence request form available from the office.

COMING UP	
Friday 6 th October	INSET Day (school closed for children)
Tuesday 10 th October	School Photographer – individuals and family groups
Friday 20 th October	Macmillan Coffee Morning in the Hub – 9.00am
	Last day of half-term
Monday 31 st October	Children return to school
Thursday 2 nd November	Bag2School Collection
Dates TBC	KS1 and KS1 Parent Consultations
Saturday 2 nd December	PTA Christmas Fayre
Monday 4 th December	Year 1 and 2 Christmas Performance (afternoon - time tbc)
Tuesday 5 th December	EYFS Christmas Performance (morning - time tbc)
	Year 1 and 2 Christmas Performance (afternoon - time tbc)
Thursday 7 th December	EYFS Christmas Performance (afternoon - time tbc)
	Year 1 and 2 Christmas Performance (evening – time tbc)
Tuesday 12 th December *	Year 5 and 6 Christmas Performance – Ottery St Mary Parish Church 7.00pm
Thursday 14 th December	School Christmas Lunch
Friday 15 th December	Year 3 and 4 Christmas Performance (afternoon – time tbc)
Tuesday 19 th December	KS1 Christmas Party
Thursday 21 st December	Last day of term
Monday 8 th January	Children return to school

*Please note the change of date from the one advertised in the previous newsletter.