



# Ottery Primary School Newsletter



15<sup>th</sup> September 2017

## Welcome back!

First and foremost, welcome back to the new school year. It's been lovely to see the children back in school and throwing themselves into their new adventures with such enthusiasm. This will hopefully be an exciting term of change in the school as we work to introduce a wider curriculum enrichment programme across the school. The staff are putting plans in place to organise and deliver a wide range of activities and experiences to enhance learning even further for the children. Many of you will have noticed the skip filling up during the last week. We are clearing the decks of the old and the out of date in order to facilitate even more improvements for the children. We will be working on a major upgrade to our IT provision and more details of that will emerge in due course.

There have been a couple of changes in the school that will further help in our wider curriculum provision. I have moved my office and am now based in the old SEN room. I have to say, I am loving it too. I am in the heart of the school and can actually hear the children playing at breaktimes. There is no better sound than children enjoying themselves! Anna Vine will now be based in my old office which will enable her to work alongside parents and run courses more smoothly without large numbers of people having to walk through the school all the time. This will also be the base for our new SENCO, Pam Roberts, who will be joining us after half-term. Until then, I will be continuing in the role of acting SENCO. Anna's old room can therefore be used to enhance curriculum opportunities for the children (especially as it has ready-made cooking facilities).

Our newsletters will go out fortnightly on a Friday via email and the school website and will provide a key method of communication between the school and its families. If you have any suggestions for the content of the newsletters please pass them on through the office. We want the newsletters to be as useful for you as possible.

Many thanks

**Mark Gilronan**

## Curriculum and learning

We have updated the ways in which we will be celebrating and rewarding the children for their efforts this year. An outline of what this includes is given overleaf and will include specific celebration assemblies and class assemblies to which parents will be invited.

# Celebrating Learning @ Ottery

## Raffle Tickets = House Points

Each raffle ticket you earn worth one house point and increases your chance winning a unique, brass 'Explore, Challenge, Learn' badge. All winners' tickets will also be entered into the 'golden barrel' and a name will be drawn out at the end of the year to win a top prize!



## Classroom

## Rewards

## Gold Stars

You may win a gold star for excellent presentation and care about your work.



Your learning might be featured as 'Star Work' on our school website.



House certificates are given out in assembly when you earn lots of house points:

- Bronze (50 points)
- Silver (75 points)
- Gold (100 points)



## Exceptional Work or Progress



Mr Western or Miss Purcell might give you an Assistant Head Teacher's Award.

Mr Gilronan might celebrate your learning with a Head Teacher's award and a postcard home.



One person per class will be selected by their teacher for our half termly 'Celebration Assembly'. This pupil will have challenged themselves to meet our school vision statements and their adults will be invited to attend.

## Curriculum Progression

Staff have been updating and finalising key skills progression documents to highlight how skills are taught and developed in all subjects across the school. Once finalised, these will be available on the school website.

## Newsletters

We will be providing individual year group newsletters on a regular basis throughout the year. These will provide specific information for parents and children and will also highlight all the curriculum developments for that year. Keep an eye out for those and please liaise with your child's classteacher if you have any suggestions for content.

## NSPCC Online Safety Workshop

An NSPCC Online Safety Workshop for Parents and Carers is taking place on Wednesday 27<sup>th</sup> September 2.15-3.15. The internet is like a magician's hat. It's full of exciting things to explore and children love it. But whilst they seem to know what they're doing, sometimes it's hard for parents to keep track. The NSPCC will be visiting our school to host an hour-long workshop to help parents and carers understand their child's online world and build confidence to have those important conversations that can help keep children safe online.

If you need any support or guidance, please visit the NSPCC online safety website or call the O2 and NSPCC Online Safety Helpline on 0808 800 5002.

## Meet the Teacher Evening

We hope you found the 'Meet the Teacher' sessions informative.

We also have other Staff in School available to offer support to you and your child. Our School Nurse, Michelle Perryman is based at Ottery Hospital and works closely with School to support children with any medical needs. Our Pastoral Manager, Anna Vine is based in School and works Monday-Wednesday and Friday. Her role in school is to provide support, advice and information to the families within our school community. She can help you with any worries that you may have in relation to your child's education, behaviour and wellbeing. Please feel free to contact Anna via the school office to make an appointment; Anna is also usually available at the school gate in the mornings.

## First day of absence contact

As part of our safeguarding practice, we are in the process of amending our attendance policy in light of recommendations made following a serious case review to ensure:

- we hold at least three phone numbers for different adults
- a member of staff visits the family home when contact cannot be made by phone with the parent of an expectedly absent child and if there is no answer, we will contact the police.

This will enable schools to contact all named contacts of children who are absent and for whom no reason has been given to ascertain the reason for absence and ensure the safety of the child. This

contact will occur on the first day of absence; if it is not possible to establish contact by telephone, a member of staff will visit the family home and if there is no answer, the police will be contacted immediately to check the safety and wellbeing of the family.

If your child is absent from school for any reason, please ensure you report their absence promptly on the first day of absence to avoid unnecessary telephone contacts or visits to you to ascertain the reason for their absence.

We have written to all parents and carers of children for whom we only hold contact details for 2 adults to request additional contact details for a third person, if you have received a letter requesting this information, please ensure it is returned to the school office by Monday 25<sup>th</sup> September.

COMING UP	
Wednesday 27 <sup>th</sup> September	Online Safety Workshop for Parents and Carers in the Dance Studio - 2.15-3.15pm
	EYFS Meet the Teacher evening – 5.30pm
Thursday 28 <sup>th</sup> September	PTA Meeting and AGM – Staff Room 7.00pm
Friday 6 <sup>th</sup> October	INSET Day (school closed for children)
Friday 20 <sup>th</sup> October	Macmillan Coffee Morning in the Hub – 9.00am
	Last day of half-term
Monday 31 <sup>st</sup> October	Children return to school
Thursday 2 <sup>nd</sup> November	Bag2School Collection
Monday 4 <sup>th</sup> December	Year 1 and 2 Christmas Performance (afternoon - time tbc)
Tuesday 5 <sup>th</sup> December	EYFS Christmas Performance (morning - time tbc)
	Year 1 and 2 Christmas Performance (afternoon - time tbc)
Thursday 7 <sup>th</sup> December	EYFS Christmas Performance (afternoon - time tbc)
	Year 1 and 2 Christmas Performance (evening – time tbc)
Thursday 14 <sup>th</sup> December	School Christmas Lunch
Friday 15 <sup>th</sup> December	Year 3 and 4 Christmas Performance (afternoon – time tbc)
Wednesday 20 <sup>th</sup> December	Year 5 and 6 Christmas Performance – Ottery St Mary Parish Church (evening – time tbc)
Thursday 21 <sup>st</sup> December	Last day of term
Monday 8 <sup>th</sup> January	Children return to school