



Ottery Primary School Newsletter



20th October 2017

One down, five to go...

So, half-term is already upon us! Was it really only seven weeks ago that all the children came back to school?

As ever, it's been a really busy time in school with lots to look back on. It's been wonderful holding our Celebration Assemblies for Key Stage 1 and Key Stage 2 over the past couple of weeks. I hope that those parents who have been invited to attend to see their children receive their certificates have enjoyed being a part of the celebrations. It was really good to see just how many children have been receiving raffle tickets for their learning behaviours and all the effort they have been putting in since September.

Some of our younger children have been out on trips around the local area including Year 2's traditional trip to the fire station to set fire to their model houses! We have also seen lots of sporting participation across the school through our work alongside King's. There's a bit more on that below.

Thank you to those parents who have been in to check the lost property boxes. We will be disposing of unclaimed items more regularly after half-term and there are further details on this in my last newsletter.

I hope you all have a lovely week off and that the weather doesn't ruin the Carnival this weekend. We look forward to seeing you all back again on Monday 30th October.

Thank you so much for your continued support of the school.

Mark Gilronan

School Car Parking

We are aware from conversations with our neighbours of some safety issues with regard to parking at school drop-off and pick-up times. We are seeing cars parked dangerously on corners and mounted on pavements or blocking driveways around the school. This does present a real danger to pedestrians who are having to step into the road, often with buggies and small children in tow, to get past. Similarly local residents are being blocked in or out of their properties.

We as a school and myself as Headteacher have no powers of enforcement on public roads but we would respectfully ask that, if you are driving to school, you are considerate in where and how you park your vehicle. Everybody's safety has to be the first priority.

On a related note we will be having the markings in the staff car-park updated and enhanced over the half term break. We want to ensure that this area of the school is as safe and accessible as possible so hopefully, with everyone's support, we should see some real differences when we get back.

Play equipment in playground

Please can we remind parents and carers that children are not allowed to play on the equipment in the KS1 and KS2 playground before or after school. Teachers have spoken with children about this in class but we would also appreciate your support in reminding children about this whilst you are waiting with them on the playground

Macmillan Coffee Morning on Friday 20th October

It was lovely to see many of you at the coffee morning in school. I think it's fair to say the cakes went down very well as did the slushy drinks which were being trialled and demonstrated by The Big Zero (www.thebigzero.co.uk). All the proceeds from the morning go to a very worthy cause so thank you all for your support.

PE and Sporting achievement

Ottery St Mary Primary School has had a successful sporting start to the year. This half term we have participated in many sporting events, both during and after school.

All of Year 5 took part in a Netball festival with one of our teams winning a silver medal. Year 3 participated in a Multi Skills festival and developed a range of skills. After school, children competed in a Year 3/4 and Year 5/6 Cross Country event. All children did the school proud with both Ewan Plain and Chloe Pawley finishing 3rd in their respective races. The Year 3/4 boys team won their category and the school came 2nd overall. We have also been competing in the Year 5/6 Football League and I am pleased to say that we were crowned champions. All players showed respect, fair play and we finished the league unbeaten!

In partnership with Kings, we have provided after school clubs which have seen girls getting active and Years 4-6 enjoying hockey.

We also have a new, dedicated PE page on our website which will provide information about sport in the school.

PS - We have some exciting new after-school and lunchtime clubs starting shortly ...

... including lego, yoga and reading – more details soon!

The O6



“As some of you will have no doubt heard about me from your children I thought I would take this opportunity to introduce myself to you and what I am doing at Ottery St Mary Primary School through the newsletter.

I am Graham Harry and I am TheO6 Youth Pastor for the Ottery St Mary area. One of my primary roles is to support young people in the area, providing a listening ear and being around to help wherever I can. I work with all the schools in the area. My role at Ottery St Mary Primary is to support the children on the playground during lunchtimes three days a week by being someone they can engage with and be a listening ear to them. Just in the few days I have been in so far I have learnt an awful lot from the children – how to make a mechanical fidget spinner, the varied basketball skills on offer and what great dancers the children are. Part of my work involves working with Kings School, so hopefully that will help with Year 6 transition later in the school year.

If you see me around school please say hi and if you have any questions please do not hesitate to speak to me about them or contact the school office.”

NSPCC information and resources

Following on from the sessions delivered for children and parents by Colette Hudson from the NSPCC , we are pleased to share the wealth of information and resources available for you to access to support you in promoting positive relationships and keeping your child safe.

Share Aware – helping you to keep your child safe online

This online safety campaign is a great resource to help parents keep their children safe on social networks, apps and games.

Visit nspcc.org.uk/shareaware

Net Aware – your guide to the social networks your children use

An online tool that informs parents about the social networks, apps and games that children might be using. This provides information about the frequency of inappropriate content, how robust and easy to find the privacy settings are and why children like using the sites.

Visit net-aware.org.uk

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

Talk PANTS to keep children safe

The Underwear Rule and Pantosaurus is here to help parents and children talk PANTS and stay safe.

Watch his roar-some film at nspcc.org.uk/pants



E-safety

Further to the letter sent home last week relating to a recent incident involving Instagram, we will be arranging for Gary Gates (CEOP Trained E safety Practitioner) to come into school to deliver workshops to children in KS2. These sessions are likely to take place in December and will focus on helping children to identify inappropriate behaviour online and report to a trusted adult, it will also cover 'keeping yourself safe' online strategies so children know not to share personal information with unknown people. Please talk with your children about this at home and encourage them to talk with you about their online activity so you are aware and can support them to stay safe. If you have any concerns about online safety, please report these concerns to Safeguarding Leads in Schools.

Attendance and holiday requests

Our current attendance is 97.47% and our school target is 97.3%. It's great to see that we are currently above our target and it would be wonderful to continue this excellent start to the year.

Following a visit from our Education Welfare Officer and have some updates and clarifications following the recent 'Isle of Wight' High Court Case. Please be advised that Devon County Council are now issuing penalty notices for unauthorised absences and therefore parents and carers will be required to pay fines for unauthorised absences during term time. It's important to be aware that as a general rule holidays will not qualify as exceptional circumstances and will not be authorised (please see information below for further details of legislation regarding absences during term time).

For a child to reach their full educational achievement a high level of school attendance is essential. We will consistently work towards a goal of 100% attendance for all children. Every opportunity will be used to convey to pupils and their parents or carers the importance of regular and punctual attendance.

We will continue to inform you by letter if your child's attendance is a concern and regularly monitor all children whose attendance is below 95% (at this stage within the academic year, this amounts to a child being absent for 2 days since the start of school term). If your child is absent for more than 10 days during the course of the academic year, we are likely to require you to obtain medical evidence for any further absences. If your child is absent for 5 or more consecutive days, due to illness, we

may require evidence that medical advice was sought in order to authorise the absence, without medical evidence we may be required to record the absence as unauthorised.

We will also notify you if your child is late arriving on more than 4 occasions within a school term. If children are arriving late, please can we request that a parent/carer accompanies the child to the school office to sign in to ensure their safe arrival at school.

Legislation regarding absences during term time.

Attendance Regulations September 2013: There were changes to the law which governs attendance in schools and holidays during term time. Amendments were made to the 2006 regulations in the Education (Pupil Registration) (England) (Amendment) Regulations 2013. These amendments came into force on the 1st September 2013.

Term Time Holidays: "The Education (Pupil Registration) (England) Regulations 2006 used to allow headteachers to grant leave of absence for the purpose of a family holiday during term time for 'special circumstances' of up to ten days leave per school year. Headteachers were also able to grant extended leave of more than 10 days in 'exceptional circumstances'." Amendments to the 2006 regulations removed reference to the family holiday and extended leave as well as the statutory threshold of 10 school days.

The amendments make it clear that Headteachers may not grant any leave of absence during term time unless there are 'exceptional circumstances'. Headteachers should determine the number of school days a child can be away from school if the leave is granted.

What this means is that we no longer authorise holidays taken during term time. If there are 'exceptional circumstances', each case will be considered on an individual basis. All other non-medical absences will be treated as unauthorised. These legislation changes have been made by the Department of Education in order to improve attendance and emphasise the importance of ensuring that no valuable school time is lost. School is absolutely essential for pupils' future life chances.

Please work with us to ensure we make the most of every minute of your child's valuable time in school by getting them here every day, on time and ready to learn.

Penalty Notices: Penalty notices will require the parent of a child of compulsory school age, whose attendance has been unsatisfactory, to pay a fine, currently £60.00 if paid within 21 days or £120.00 if paid within 28 days. In Devon, penalty notices will be issued by the Legal Proceedings Officer employed by the Council and based within the Education Welfare Office. The Legal Proceedings Officer will ensure that the issuing of penalty notices is closely monitored and that recipients pay the relevant fine. In any case where the penalty is not paid within the appropriate period, the Local Authority will instigate action through the courts as required by legislation. A penalty notice will only be issued to a parent(s) if the pupil has at least ten, half-day unauthorised absences recorded against their name within the previous six months.

PTO for latest calendar dates for next half-term

COMING UP

Monday 30 th October	Children return to school
Thursday 2 nd November	PTA Bag2School
Wednesday 8 th November	Y5 to Coldharbour Mill
w/c Monday 13 th November	Y5 Bikeability
w/c Monday 13 th November	Parent Consultations – all classes
Thursday 30 th November	PTA Secret Shopping – mufti day
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 (pm)
Thursday 21 st December	Last day of term
Monday 8 th January	Children return to school