



Ottery Primary School Newsletter



19th February 2018

Apologies...

I'd like to welcome everyone back to school and also apologise for the lack of a newsletter over the last few weeks. Fridays have proved to be rather busy recently so, moving forward I am aiming to send a newsletter out every Monday to kick off each week.

Thank you all for your patience and understanding over the delay to the IT suite refurbishment. We have sent out the revised tender document and are awaiting responses. We are still planning to rip out the existing suite at the end of this term. We were lucky enough to have some volunteers to help with this before Christmas and would gratefully accept any help at the end of this term as well. Please contact Sarah in the office if you can spare any time during the last week of term (beginning Monday 26th March).

I'd like to congratulate our Year 6 footballers who recently represented the school at the EFL Kids Cup run by Exeter City FC at Exeter University. Not only did they win the tournament but they did so by winning every game they played and without conceding a single goal. What a great effort. Well done all of you!

Mark Gilronan

Metacognition Research Project (ReflectED):

We have been selected as a 'treatment school' for the Education Endowment Foundation Metacognition research project. The project is called **ReflectED** and involves 140 schools across the country, running for 5 terms, and involves a whole school approach to develop strategies for the children to further reflect on their learning and how they learn.

It builds effectively on our three learning statements. Metacognition is already recognised as one of the highest impact/lowest cost strategies for improving pupil performance on the EEF Teacher Toolkit website (<https://educationendowmentfoundation.org.uk/evidence-summaries/teaching-learning-toolkit/>) so this represents an exciting opportunity to move forward as a school and further develop the reflective and self-regulation strategies in the children. It is a whole school approach that will perfectly compliment the work we currently do while also providing some interesting challenges for children in different year groups to develop their reflective skills.

Your children may well come home talking about chopsticks, juggling or compass reading among other things. On that note, if anyone does have some spare shoe laces that they could donate to the school, we'd be very grateful. Please drop them into myself or the office.

Staff changes:

As many of you may be aware, we have two upcoming staff changes at the end of this term. In Year 1 Mrs Hodson will be leaving us to have a baby. I'm sure you'd like to join me in wishing her all the very best.

In Year 3 Mrs Brealy has reluctantly decided to retire from teaching following her diagnosis of Multiple Sclerosis. A separate letter has already been sent out about this but we would, as a whole school community, like to give our thanks to Mrs Brealy for all the years she has dedicated to the school and the children.

We are currently advertising for both of these positions and will keep you informed of developments.

Vacancies:

We currently require two MTAs to help with our lunchtime service. Although the positions are full-time, we are able to explore part-time arrangements as well. Please contact Sarah in the office for further details.

Contact details in case of an absence:

Please may we take this opportunity to remind you of the importance of making contact with the school by 9.30am on the first morning of a child's absence. If you think your child will be off for more than 2 days, please let us know during this conversation and then we would ask you to contact us again on the 3rd day, should they not be well enough to return to school. If it is not possible to establish contact by telephone by 10am, 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. This is part of our safeguarding practice which we have introduced in response to the national recommendations made following a serious case review.

Please could you ensure that we hold at least three phone numbers for different adults whom we can contact and if your child is absent and please assist us by reporting their absence promptly on the first day to avoid unnecessary telephone contacts or visits to you to ascertain the reason for their absence.

Packed lunches and snacks:

Please ensure that packed lunches and snacks are nut free as we have a number of children in school with severe nut allergies. We are noticing Nutella sandwiches and other nut containing cereal bars in packed lunches. Thank you very much for your support with this.