



# Ottery Primary School Newsletter



26<sup>th</sup> March 2018

## The point of no return...

Looking around the school today it was hard to ignore the huge changes underway in the IT suite. All of the existing machines have been unplugged, the chairs removed and the work benches dismantled. We are definitely past the point of no return as far as renovating the area is concerned.

Over the Easter holiday there will be a lot more work going on to re-floor the area and upgrade the school wifi system. We will be putting in new furniture over the coming weeks and, most importantly, taking delivery of 60 new laptops for the children to use.

We have been careful to create as little waste as possible in the process. Every one of the existing machines has been reallocated around the school as well as nearly all of the chairs. The work benches too will not be going to waste. We hope to be using them over the summer to replace some of the delaminated worktops in classrooms and around the school.

It has been a long journey to get here but, within a couple of weeks of returning, our new IT suite should be fully kitted out and ready to be put through its paces by the children.

I'd like to wish you all a lovely Easter break. Whatever you are doing, I hope you enjoy it!

**Mark Gilronan**

## Communications:

Thank you for your patience as we tried to resolve the school payments issues we suffered following the power cuts on the snow days. Hopefully we are all up and running smoothly again but, if you notice any issues in your account please get in touch to let us know.

**Celebration of Dance** – Please note that the previously advised date is having to be rearranged – we will notify you as soon as the new date is confirmed.

## Year 3 vacancy:

I'd like to officially welcome Katie Danneau to the staff at Ottery St Mary Primary School. Katie will be teaching in Year 3 alongside Kate Davenport in Class 8.

## Volunteering in school:

A huge thank you to those of you who have returned completed application forms and safeguarding training certificates. Don't forget that, after Easter, this paperwork needs to be completed before any volunteer will be able to come in to school. In addition, recent guidance received from Babcock, our Educational Advisers, is for all volunteers to read our 4 statutory safeguarding policies before coming in to school. These policies are available upon request from the office. Once you have read them, you will need to sign a register kept in the office to indicate that you have done so. Thank you for your patience as we implement these ever growing safeguarding procedures.

## Swimming:

It's that time of year again! Please keep an eye out for a letter about swimming after Easter once the timetable has been sorted. Don't forget though that your child will need a named swimming costume, towel and hat. Unfortunately they cannot go into the pool without a hat.

## Contact details:

Please remember to keep the school informed of any changes in contact details including mobile phone numbers so that we have an accurate record for your child and are able to contact you should an emergency arise.

## Headlice:

We are noticing an increase in number of cases of headlice across the school. Please be vigilant and check your child's hair regularly. Information leaflet is available from the office if required.

## Attendance

Our current attendance is 96.4%, our School attendance target is 97.3%.

## Holidays during term time

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. Please be advised that as a general rule holidays will not qualify as exceptional circumstances and will not be authorised.

## Absence

Parents and carers are reminded to contact the school by 9.30am if their child is going to be absent from school due to illness. Please contact the school absence line on 01404 815780 and leave a message or email [absence@ottery-primary.devon.sch.uk](mailto:absence@ottery-primary.devon.sch.uk). If your child has an appointment that you know about in advance, please ensure you have informed the office. Please do not rely on children to pass on messages, instead please write a short note to the office staff or let us know by phone or in person at Reception. The school has a duty of care to know the whereabouts of children and when we have not been informed of the reason for a child's absence the office staff have to spend time phoning various contact numbers to find out the reason for child's absence from school.

## Some upcoming diary dates:

Last day of autumn term	Thursday 29 <sup>th</sup> March
First day of summer term	Monday 16 <sup>th</sup> April
Festival of Music	Thursday 26 <sup>th</sup> April
Y5 Warren Barn Residential	w/c 30 <sup>th</sup> April
Early May Bank Holiday	Monday 7 <sup>th</sup> May
Bag2School Collection	Thursday 10 <sup>th</sup> May
PTA Curry/Quiz Night	Friday 11 <sup>th</sup> May
KS2 SATs	w/c 14 <sup>th</sup> May
Celebration of Dance	REVISED DATE TO BE ANNOUNCED
Wellbeing Week	w/c 21 <sup>st</sup> May
Half-term	w/c 28 <sup>th</sup> May
Y6 PGL Residential	22 <sup>nd</sup> -25 <sup>th</sup> June
KS1 Sports Day	Tuesday 3 <sup>rd</sup> July (am)
KS2 Sports Day	Thursday 5 <sup>th</sup> July (day)
PTA KS2 Disco	Thursday 5 <sup>th</sup> July
Y6 Project Week at Kings	w/c 9 <sup>th</sup> July
PTA Summer Fête	Saturday 14 <sup>th</sup> July
Last day of term	Friday 20 <sup>th</sup> July

## Solihull Approach Parenting Programme

### UNDERSTANDING YOUR CHILD



S O L I H U L L   A P P R O A C H

We are hoping to run the Solihull Approach Parenting Programme in the Summer Term; the programme will be facilitated by staff from Ottery St Mary Children's Centre and Ottery St Mary Primary School. The course runs over 10 weeks starting and is due to start week commencing 30<sup>th</sup> April. If you are interested in joining the group or would like more information, please contact Anna Vine on 01404 812977.

The course is aimed to help parents through a sensitive and reflective approach think about what is being communicated by their children through their behaviour and to support the parent/child relationship.

The Parenting group aims to:

Promote understanding of children's behaviour

Promote the development of parent/child relationships

Increase confidence and self-esteem in both parents and children

Give parents a strategy for a repair when things go wrong

Promote reflective, sensitive and effective parenting