



# Ottery Primary School Newsletter



30<sup>th</sup> April 2018

## Feeling refreshed after a draining week...

I'd like to thank everybody once again for their patience and understanding during the remarkable events of last week and for the overwhelmingly positive and supportive attitude that people showed.

As I mentioned in one of the statements on our website, closing the school is always a last resort and never a decision that is taken lightly. When we were advised that the closure could be for three days as a best case scenario, it was clear that we had to make efforts to accommodate as many of the children as we could. Without the generosity of The King's School and Ottery St Mary Scouts this could never have happened. I am particularly grateful to the staff at King's for finding ways to alter timetables and rooms to help us, especially when they are gearing up for GCSE exams.

I'd also like to thank every single member of our staff team who rallied and supported one another. The teaching teams from EYFS, Years 1, 3 and 4 all came in and supported the children either at King's or the scout hut even though their own classes were not able to come into school.

Thankfully the closure did not need to remain in place for three days and the whole episode just went to show what this town can achieve when it pulls together for the children. Over the weekend I received further offers of potential accommodation for the children should anything like this happen again. I truly hope I do not have to take these offers up!

I can understand the frustration that some parents felt at the inconvenience of the closure and then with the changing picture on Friday but I'd like to assure you all that, as soon as we received advice from the drain engineers, we acted upon it as quickly as we could.

The blocked and broken pipe has now been mended and the field has been reinstated. The work took place in the top corner of the field behind the new shed. At no point were any of the children at any risk from the blockage. We were simply unable to use the toilets or running water during the works. There will be further work that needs to be done but we have been assured that this can wait until the holidays. We are currently awaiting a full report from the drain engineers.

Here's hoping for a quieter week!

**Mark Gilronan**

## Gates

Please be advised that from **this week**, we will be locking the gates at following times: 9.00am Spring Gardens Gate and 9.05am KS1 Playground Gate in order to ensure the site is secure for safeguarding purposes.

## Phone-paid Services Authority

A little-known organisation is the Phone-paid Services Authority, the regulator for content, goods and services charged to a phone bill.

Phone-paid services are the goods and services that you can buy by charging the cost to your phone bill or pre-pay account. They include directory enquiries, voting on TV talent shows, donating to charity by text or downloading apps on your mobile phone. They are referred to as premium rate services in law.

One aspect of the authority's role is to educate consumers about these services, and protect them from harm.

Phone-paid service numbers are:

- 070 numbers
- 0870/0871/0872 and 0873 numbers
- 09 numbers
- 118 numbers; and
- they are sometimes used by apps as a way to pay for things

The Phone-paid Services Authority have a specific website, called Phone Brain, for young people to help them understand the costs and risks of paying for things by phone.

Phone Brain includes resources for young people themselves, parents, teachers and youth workers.

There's even a page for under-7s.

Website: <http://www.phonebrain.org.uk>

## PTA Curry/Quiz Night

Don't forget to send your ticket requests and menu choices in to the office by Friday 4<sup>th</sup> May. It's a great night, with our quizmaster extraordinaire Mr Kevin Pike overseeing proceedings. Delicious food will be served courtesy of Dave Goldthorpe, and we have a licensed bar. Come and compete to be the school quiz champions 2018, and try to avoid winning the wooden spoon!!

## Gary Gates CEOP Online Safety Consultant – Tuesday 8<sup>th</sup> May 9.00-10.00

Just a further reminder that, following the success of our workshops for KSs children earlier this year and parents/carers last year, we have invited Gary Gates to come into school again to deliver a new and updated workshop to Parents/Carers to support you in managing your child's online activity. These workshops were very well attended and received last year by parents so we look forward to seeing you all on Tuesday 8<sup>th</sup> May.

## Some upcoming diary dates:

Y5 Warren Barn Residential	w/c 30 <sup>th</sup> April
Festival of Music 2pm	Thursday 3 <sup>rd</sup> May – PLEASE NOTE NEW DATE
Early May Bank Holiday	Monday 7 <sup>th</sup> May
Internet Safety Workshop	Tuesday 8 <sup>th</sup> May 9-10am
Bag2School Collection	Thursday 10 <sup>th</sup> May
PTA Curry/Quiz Night	Friday 18 <sup>th</sup> May – PLEASE NOTE NEW DATE
KS2 SATs	w/c 14 <sup>th</sup> May
Wellbeing Week	w/c 21 <sup>st</sup> May
Celebration of Dance	Friday 25 <sup>th</sup> May – PLEASE NOTE NEW DATE
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) – PLEASE NOTE NEW DATE
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
Y6 Leavers Assembly & BBQ	Wednesday 18 <sup>th</sup> July
Last day of term	Friday 20 <sup>th</sup> July