



Ottery Primary School Newsletter



14th May 2018

Opportunity knocks...

It is with a mixture of feelings that I'm able to inform you all that Miss Purcell will be leaving us in July to take up the post of Headteacher at Ide Primary School in Exeter.

Miss Purcell joined the school in September 2016 as Assistant Headteacher with a focus on English. During her time with us she has, alongside Mr Western, played a significant role in helping to move the school back to its 'Good' status. Together they have developed and implemented systems and procedures to maximise the teaching and learning across the school. She has taken an active role in all areas of school life and has been a constant friendly face around the school.

The appointment to Headteacher represents an exciting opportunity for Miss Purcell and I have no doubts she will rise to the challenge. She will though be incredibly missed here at Ottery and she will leave a big pair of shoes to fill.

Needless to say, we all wish her well in this exciting new chapter for her.

Mark Gilronan

School Census Day

Census day takes place on Thursday 17th May. On this day, we will operate a change of menu – Friday's menu of fish fingers will run on the Thursday, with change of pudding – selection of iced, ring and jam doughnuts. Thursday's menu will then operate on the Friday 18th.

There are three Census Days during the school year. One in October, one in January and one in May. These are important days for the school as they are used as the basis for different funding streams. As a result, the more children that we have on roll on these days and the more children who have a school meal, the more potential funding the school attracts. In these financially challenging times schools must try to make every effort to maximise their funding. By putting one of our most popular menus on this day, we hope that as many children as possible will take up a school meal and greatly support the school in funding terms moving forward.

Speaking of meals...

This is a reminder to get meal choices for Celebration of Dance menu into the office by Wednesday 16th in the morning at the latest, as Kimberley will be placing the order with her suppliers at lunchtime on the 16th. A letter was emailed out, or hard copies are always available from the office, for full details. Meals must be ordered in advance by this date – they cannot be ordered on the day. Thank you for your help with this.

Communications with parents

Our texting/emailing service has been upgraded, and we are now able to email attachments! We will therefore start to move over to emailing letters rather than sending hard copies home in book bags, in an effort to be that little bit more green and also to save money on paper and printing costs, so please keep a daily eye on your email account, and don't forget to update us of any change of contact details. As always, paper copies are always available from the office upon request.

Online Safety

Do you allow your children to go into the kitchen?

Gary Gates delivered an thought provoking and informative online safety workshop for parents and carers this morning, he used the analogy that we allow our children into the kitchen where sharp knives are kept and teach our children about the risks they pose if not used safely, the same is true of the internet, it poses risk but we need to teach our children about how to manage these risks safely.

New update to Net Aware to keep children safe online

The NSPCC and O2's Net Aware site and app have been updated with all-new reviews from parents and young people. Yubo, Sarahah, Discord and Grand Theft Auto: San Andreas are amongst the 14 new sites, apps and games that now feature on the site and app. Net Aware provides online safety information and advice on privacy settings and other features, as well as recommended age guidance and risk ratings for inappropriate content. Net Aware is a vital tool for parents or anyone working with children, who want to better understand what young people are doing online.

Holiday Requests

We cannot authorise holidays in term times unless these are exceptional circumstances. (e.g parents of forces children). Devon County Council are now tightening their rules on this issue and fines are again being issued for 5 or more days absence. Whilst we understand some of the circumstances on the request forms, we are rarely able to authorise absences during term time. Any time off school must be requested via the absence request form available from the office.

Some upcoming diary dates:

Wellbeing Week	w/c 21 st May
Celebration of Dance	Friday 25 th May (am, followed by family picnic on the field)
Half-term	w/c 28 th May
Y6 PGL Residential	22 nd -25 th June
KS1 Sports Day	Tuesday 3 rd July (am)
KS2 Sports Day	Thursday 5 th July (day)
PTA KS2 Disco	Thursday 5 th July
Y6 Project Week at Kings	w/c 9 th July
PTA Summer Fête	Saturday 14 th July
Y6 Leavers Assembly & BBQ	Wednesday 18 th July
Last day of term	Friday 20 th July